

IRHA Rules

WE ARE COMMITTED to the principle that the welfare and safety of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all owners, service providers, organizations, events and activities.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the dignity, humane care, health, safety and welfare of horses in all our activities and care. These are our highest priorities. We are the stewards of our horses and must be firm in the standards and practices that guide us. The welfare, safety and stewardship of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all segments of the horse community.

WE ARE COMMITTED to promoting responsible breeding practices and to producing better horses, not just more horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to responsible training techniques. All training should be done with the maturation and ability of the horse considered. Horses should be prepared for competition with proper training and conditioning methods. Excessive disciplining methods, whether in stables, training areas or during competition, will not be tolerated.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating owners, trainers, veterinarians, competitors, exhibitors and recreational riders to ensure that they know and respect their horse's abilities and limits, and their own, so as to not push the horse or themselves beyond their ability level.

WE ARE COMMITTED to making all competitions fair and ensuring all competitors an equal opportunity to succeed. Performance-enhancing drugs, practices or equipment have no place in competitions or exhibitions. Effective drug testing by accredited laboratories is essential to the safety and welfare of our horses and the public support of competitions, with appropriate penalties levied for violations. The welfare of the horse must take precedence over the demands or expectations of owners, breeders, trainers, sellers, buyers, organizers,

sponsors, officials, or spectators.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the welfare of the horse as paramount during competition. The horse community should invest in the infrastructure, environment, and facilities to provide a safe environment for all horses in all activities, whether breeding, competing, or simply riding. Any facilities that house horses should be committed to the appropriate care and treatment of all horses while in their facility and should be designed with the environment and the intended use of the horse in mind.

WE ARE COMMITTED to minimizing injuries to horses during training, competition, use, or work. Whenever possible injury data should be collected, documented and reported to the governing body of the competition or any other injury database for analysis in order to ensure a safer environment.

WE ARE COMMITTED to the continual review, evaluation and improvement of all rules, regulations, policies and practices in all equine activities, based on science (where indicated). When warranted, they should be refined or changed. This includes existing practices to ensure they are not being perceived as acceptable, particularly if new research has called them into question.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing continuing education on all activities involving horses and eliminate inhumane practices as well as strengthening sanctions for non-compliance.

WE ARE COMMITTED to educating all people who own or work with horses to ensure they are knowledgeable in the proper husbandry, care, and handling of horses. Each horse should be observed frequently to ensure that they are healthy. In consultation with a veterinarian, all such individuals should develop a sound health care program, appropriate to the facilities, environment and needs of the horses.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing an environment in which anyone aware of equine cruelty or neglect is willing to report it to the proper local, state or federal authorities. Should an incident occur at an event it should be reported to judges, stewards, responsible authorities or the sanctioning organization.

WE ARE COMMITTED to improving the health and welfare of horses through scientific research, collaboration, advocacy and the development of appropriate rules. The community should continue to support and work with the many individuals, universities, veterinarians and foundations doing and funding equine health and welfare research in order to reduce injuries and improve health.

WE ARE COMMITTED to horse owners and caretakers ensuring horses in their care are current on vaccinations and following best practices to minimize infection and disease. When a disease outbreak occurs horse owners and events must act quickly and responsibly, monitor the horses, report the outbreak to, and cooperate with, veterinarians, authorities, facility management and all stakeholders to bring a rapid resolution to the outbreak.

WE ARE COMMITTED to ensuring that our horses will have an opportunity to transition to additional careers, uses or activities as the need arises. When necessary, owners and veterinarians may have to consider end-of-life decisions. The welfare, safety and dignity of the horse must continue to be the guiding principle in deciding how and when to provide a humane death.

WE ARE COMMITTED to being transparent about our activities in order to ensure the public, the media, federal, state and local officials and the various segments of the horse community understand what we do, why we do it, and support it. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted animal husbandry standard and equine care, training

and exhibition procedures would determine to be neither cruel, abusive nor inhumane. Based on their principles, the association has developed and enforces strict rules to ensure ethical completion and humane treatment of horses. The Association supports the development of procedures that assure equity, fairness, safety, health and welfare for all participants. Because the association is strongly opposed to animal abuse, any member convicted in a court of law of cruelty to animals may be suspended from the IRHA when certified evidence is presented to the Board of Directors. See Rule GR-060.F., GR-066.A.1., GR-070.A. & D., SC-075 and SC-160.N. IRHA Disclaimer of Responsibility For Safety IRHA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants at the shows or other events it sanctions. Safety is a concern of everyone, but IRHA does not assume responsibility for it. IRHA'S limited purpose for sanctioning or approving a show is to promote fair competition. Show management is responsible for participant safety.

Western Tack and Equipment

A. ENTRY NUMBERS. Entry numbers must be assigned to horses, not exhibitors, and the exhibitor must display the correct number assigned for the horse being exhibited in APHA approved shows. If exhibitor elects to display number on saddle pad in performance events, it must be correct on both sides. Failure by exhibitor to display the correct number and in a visible manner while being judged shall result in disqualification from the class. Exception: In timed events, all cattle events, ranch horse classes and reining, one correct number displayed on the saddle pad is acceptable.

B. EARPLUGS. Earplugs made of a soft and flexible material shall be permissible, provided they are used humanely.

C. SADDLE. In western classes, horses shall be shown with a western stock saddle (leather or synthetic). A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of a horn, a high cantle and large skirts, pommel, fenders and western stirrups. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.

D. BRIDLES. Bridles may be either a standard plain or silver mounted headstall with browband, shaped ear or split ear.

E. REINS. Except in classes where noted, reins will be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance. One hand to be around reins when romal type reins are used. When using a shank bit with split reins or a snaffle bit with one hand, only one finger permitted between the reins.

1. In all ranch classes, excess rein(s) may be straightened or disentangled anytime during the class, provided the exhibitor's free hand used to straighten or disentangle remains behind the rein hand.
2. When Riding Two Handed. Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore with one or both hands on both reins. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins.
3. Closed reins (example mecate) may be used with a snaffle bit in all classes. Exhibitor's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than four (4) inches (10.16cm) out on either side of the saddle horn with very limited movement
4. Horses of all ages can be shown two handed in a snaffle or hackamore.
5. ROMAL. Whenever this handbook refers to "Romal" it means an extension of braided material or smooth leather attached to closed reins. 1. This extension is to be allowed to be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch (40.64cm) spacing between the reining hand and free hand holding the Romal. 2. The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge. 3. When using romal reins, the exhibitor's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top of the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may be used to adjust the length of rein while working.
6. HACKAMORE/BOSAL. Junior horses competing in ranch classes being shown in a hackamore/bosal may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. (Any horse of any age may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit or hackamore.) All hackamores/bosals will be made of flexible braided rawhide, braided leather, or rope, and will be a maximum of .3/4 inch

(1.9cm) diameter at the cheek. Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a nonmetal flexible core. The noseband of the hackamore must measure at least 5 ½” inches of smooth rawhide or leather before any braided buttons and be at least ½” in diameter. The core may be of rawhide or flexible cable. 2. There must be a minimum of one finger space (approximately ¾ inch, 1.9cm), between the bosal and the nose. Absolutely no metal or rigid material is allowed under the jaw or on the noseband or anywhere on the bridle regardless of how padded or covered it is. Hackamore/Bosals shall be soft and flexible. The hackamore/bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse’s size and conformation. 3. A hackamore/bosal must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. This rule does not refer to mechanical hackamores. 4. Horse hair hackamore/bosals are prohibited. 5. Horses, of all ages, may be shown in a hackamore/bosal in all Ranch Classes.

7. SNAFFLE BIT. Junior horses being shown in a snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. A snaffle bit in ranch classes, is a conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (5.08cm), no larger than 4 inches (10.16cm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage.
8. Bars. Bars of mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal no less than 5/16 inch (7.9mm) in diameter measured one inch in from cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. May be inlaid, but smooth, or rubber latex wrapped. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces.
 2. Three-Piece Mouthpiece. If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1¼ inches (3.17cm) in diameter, or a connecting flat bar must be no longer than 2 inches (5.08cm) and 3/8 inch (9.5mm) to ¾ inch (1.9cm), measured top-to-bottom, and must lie flat in horse’s mouth. A three-piece mouthpiece may be used in three-year-old classes.
9. Horses, of all ages, may be shown in a snaffle bit in all Ranch Classes, with one or two hands on the reins.
10. Optional. A loose curb, leather only, attached below the reins at least one half inch (1/2) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Prohibited. Twisted wire snaffle bits.

11. BITS. In ranch spades are standard; rollers, covers and spring-loaded bits are permitted, but port must not be higher than 3½ inches (8.89cm). 5. Split reins or romal reins must be used on a curb bit except in speed events, team penning, ranch sorting, roping and cowboy mounted shooting where they are optional. 6. Prohibited. Slip or gag bits, donut or flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. 7. Spade Bit. Spade bits have an unbroken bar mouthpiece with one inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port. There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single for multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit. It is legal to have a barrel, made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece. The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable. The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. Optional tongue release shall not exceed three inches in width.
12. CHIN STRAPS. Legal chin straps for curb bits may be leather, nylon or light chain, must be at least ½ inch (1.27cm) in width and lay flat against the jaw. A double chain that is welded together and acts as one chain is legal. The judge will have the right to disqualify any chin chains or leather straps he/she feels are too severe. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required. Acceptable chin straps. classes only.
13. The judge may prohibit the use of bits and equipment they may consider too severe. a. Bits Physically or Mechanically Changed. A bit cannot be physically or mechanically changed to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the discretion of the judge. b. Bloody Mouth. Disqualification for abuse is at the discretion of the judge. A horse that has a cut, abrasion or injury showing clear evidence of fresh blood on (including but not limited to) the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area shall be inspected by the judge for consideration of how the injury occurred and may be considered abuse.
14. A judge's decision is not protestable.
15. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged. 2. No hoof polish or hoof black. 3. No braided or banded manes and no artificial hair extensions, including tail weights. 4. Trimming inside ears is discouraged. 5. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks and/excessive (long) facial hair is allowed. 6. Equipment with excessive silver should not count over a good

working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. 7. Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any Ranch Horse class. 8. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time. 9. It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch. 10. Romal reins are allowed in all Ranch Horse classes. When riding with a romal, a get down rope may be used. 151 11. Get Down Rope. A get down rope will be allowed in all Ranch Horse classes. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the rider or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. The get-down rope may also be run through a bosalito, as long as the bosalito is not tight enough to function as a cavesson. If a bosalito is used, it must allow approximately 2 fingers (1 inch) to pass freely between the nose and the bosalito. The bosalito must be constructed of a flexible braided rawhide, leather or rope, the core of which must be flexible. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. 12. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws. Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales. 13. All equipment for Ranch Horse classes applies. Q. TWO REIN EQUIPMENT. Two rein equipment will be allowed in all Ranch Horse classes. 1. When using a two rein, bosalita and bosal may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal, flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used. 2. The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted. 3. Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.

16. All rules for two rein will follow hackamore and bridle requirements for the respective class. 5. The hackamore/bosalita shall be round in shape. No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal. No rigid material of any kind may be used, regardless of how padded or covered, in conjunction with the bosal. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. Tape is not allowed on the noseband of the hackamore. Smooth, flat, wrapped tape is allowed on the hackamore between the headstall and the mecate reins. Maximum amount of tape allowed is 2 inches on each side of the hackamore.

Classes:

A. Ranch Riding For horses three years of age and older, this class may be offered in Open(Junior, Senior), Non-Pro, Youth divisions. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

B. CLASS REQUIREMENTS: 1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers. 2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back. 3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform. 4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge. 5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Ranch Horse Class Gaits with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness. 6. No time limit. 7. One of the suggested fifteen (15) patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included.

C. SCORING: Scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent). Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.

The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score: 246

1. One (1) point penalties
 - a. Too slow/per gait
 - b. Over-Bridled (per maneuver)
 - c. Out of Frame (per maneuver)
 - d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
 - e. Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less
2. Three (3) point penalties
 - a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
 - b. Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
 - c. Wrong lead or out of lead for more than 2 strides
 - d. Draped reins (per maneuver)
 - e. Severe disturbance of any obstacle
 - f. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads, trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.
 - g. Trotting three or more strides in a lope departure from a stop or walk, or when exiting a rollback into a lope.
3. Five (5) point penalties
 - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 - b. Each refusal
4. (OP) Off Pattern. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers
 - a. Eliminates or adds maneuver
 - b. Incomplete maneuver
 - c. Breaking pattern
 - d. Repeated blatant disobedience
 - e. Use of two hands except with snaffle or hackamore; more than one finger between slip reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in two rein).
5. Zero (0) score
 - a. Illegal equipment (including hoof black, braided or banded manes or tail extensions)
 - b. Willful abuse
 - c. Lameness

Ranch Riding Pattern #1 (We will need drawings of patterns from rulebook)

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extend the trot ,at the top of the arena, stop

4. 360 turn to the left
5. Left lead ½ circle, lope to the center
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Right lead ½ circle
8. Extended lope up the long side of the arena (right lead)
9. Collect back to a lope around the top of the arena and back to center
10. Break down to an extended trot
11. Walk over poles
12. Stop and back Start Finish (minimum of 26" space between logs)

Ranch Riding Pattern #2 Start Finish (26" to 30" space between poles/logs)

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended trot
4. Left lead lope
5. Stop, 1½ turn right
6. Extended lope
7. Collect to working lope (right lead)
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Walk
10. Walk over logs 1
11. Trot
12. Extend trot
13. Stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern #3 Start Finish (3' to 3'3" spacing between logs)

1. Walk
2. Trot serpentine
3. Lope left lead around the end of the arena and then diagonally across the arena
4. Change leads (simple or flying) and
5. Lope on the right lead around end of the arena
6. Extend lope on the straight away and around corner to the center of the arena
7. Extend trot around corner of the arena
8. Collect to a trot
9. Trot over poles
10. Stop, do 360 turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
11. Walk, stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern #4 Start Finish (26" to 30" space between poles/logs)
(36" space for the side pass)

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended lope-right lead
4. Lope-right lead
5. Change leads (simple or flying)
6. Lope left lead
7. Extended trot
8. Stop, side pass left, side pass right, 1/2 way
9. Walk over logs
10. Walk
11. Trot square
12. Stop, 360° turn left, back

Ranch Riding Pattern #5 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start X 26"-30" space
between logs

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Trot
4. Lope right lead
5. Extended trot
6. Trot
7. Lope left lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Extended lope (right lead)
10. Collect Lope
11. Trot
12. Walk
13. Stop and back
14. 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)

Ranch Riding Pattern #6 Start 26"-30" space between logs

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Lope right lead
4. Extended lope (right lead)
5. Trot
6. Stop, 1 1/2 turns right
7. Walk
8. Trot

9. Extended trot
10. Lope left lead 1
11. Stop and Back
12. Side pass right

Ranch Riding Pattern #7 OPTIONAL or CATTLE Start X 26"-30" space between logs

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended trot
4. Stop and back
5. Side pass over log right
6. 1/4 turn right, walk over logs
7. Walk
8. Lope left lead
9. Extended lope (left lead)
10. Collect lope, change leads (simple or flying)
11. Lope right lead
12. Trot
13. Stop, one 360 degree turn either direction

Ranch Riding Pattern #8 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start 26"-30" space between logs

1. Walk
2. Side pass left across first log, side pass 1/2 way to right
3. Walk across logs
4. Extended trot
5. Trot
6. Stop, 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
7. Lope right lead
8. Extended lope (right lead)
9. Collect lope, change leads (simple or flying)
10. Walk
11. Lope left lead 1
12. Extended trot
13. Trot
14. Stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern #9 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start 36"- 42" space between logs 36"- 42" space between logs

1. Trot

2. Trot two sets of logs
3. Trot circle, stop and side pass log left
4. Walk
5. Lope right lead
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Lope left lead
8. Extended lope (left lead)
9. Extended trot
10. Trot 1
11. Walk
12. Stop and back
13. 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)

Ranch Riding Pattern #10 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start X

1. Walk
2. Extended trot
3. Walk
4. Stop, side pass log left
5. Trot
6. Lope right lead
7. Extended Lope (right lead)
8. Collect lope and change leads (simple or flying)
9. Lope left lead
10. Stop and back
11. 180 turn to right
12. Trot

Ranch Riding Pattern #11 CATTLE in PEN Start X 6'4" - 6'10" space
between logs

1. Walk
2. Trot serpentine
3. Walk
4. Extended trot
5. Trot
6. Lope left lead
7. Lope over logs
8. Extended lope (left lead)
9. Collect lope, change leads (simple or flying)
10. Lope right lead
11. Lope circle
12. Stop and back

13. Side pass to gate, left hand push into pen 1
14. Walk through cattle, right hand push out

Ranch Riding Pattern #12 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start 36"- 40" space between logs

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Trot logs
4. Side pass right
5. 1 1/2 turns right
6. Extended lope (right lead)
7. Lope right lead
8. Extended trot
9. Lope left lead
10. Walk
11. Trot
12. Stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern #13 Start X 26"-30" space between logs

1. Walk
2. Walk over logs
3. Trot
4. Extended trot serpentine
5. Lope right lead
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Extended lope (left lead), collect lope
8. Stop, 1 1/2 turn, either direction
9. Trot
10. Walk to gate
11. Right hand push gate
12. Walk, lope left lead
13. Stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern #14 OPTIONAL CATTLE Start X 26"-30" space between logs

1. Trot
2. Extended trot
3. Lope left lead
4. Extended trot
5. Walk
6. Lope right lead

7. Trot
8. Extended lope (left lead)
9. Collect lope, change leads (simple or flying), extended lope (right lead), collect lope
10. Trot
11. Left hand push gate into pen
12. Walk over logs
13. Right hand push gate out of pen
14. Walk
15. Stop, 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
16. Back

Ranch Riding Pattern #15 OPTIONAL CATTLE 36"-42" space between logs

1. Extended trot
2. Stop, rollback right
3. Lope right lead
4. Extended lope (right lead)
5. Trot
6. Walk
7. Walk over logs
8. Walk
9. Trot
10. Stop, 360 left 1
11. Lope left lead
12. Stop and back

RANCH RAIL PLEASURE

A. For horses three years of age and older, this class may be offered in Open(Junior, Senior), Non-Pro, and Youth divisions.

B. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized, and in fact, riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required.

C. The ranch rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in

the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. All horses will be judged at the walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope, extended lope, and back as well as on all transitions. Extended gaits must be asked for at least one direction.

D. Class Procedure. All horses will be judged at the walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope, extended lope, and back as well as on all transitions. Extended gaits must be asked for at least one direction. Horses are to be reversed to the inside away from the rail. Horse must reverse at a walk or a trot at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope, extended trot or extended lope.

E. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot, not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation.

F. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control.

G. Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

1. Too slow/per gait.
2. Over-bridled.
3. Out of frame.
4. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less.
5. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides.
6. Break of gait at lope.
7. Wrong lead or out of lead.

8. Draped reins.
9. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides.
10. Trotting more than three strides when taking lead.
11. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.).
12. Major disobedience or schooling.
13. Spurring in front of cinch.
14. Use of either hand to instill fear/ praise.
15. Reversing to the outside into the rail.

H. For shows conducted in international countries, the exhibitor has the option of using the traditional attire of the country.

I. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits

Ranch Trail

Ranch Trail Classes may be offered in Open Jr./Sr., Non-Pro, and Youth, and Youth divisions.

A. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found, during the course of, everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.

B. The ranch trail course will include no less than six (6) and no more than nine (9) obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must be at least 35 feet and score with approaching obstacle

C. Lope must be lead specific, at least 50 feet and score with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

D. When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each singleperformance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select

a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.

E. Judges must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class.

F. The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Any and all obstacles requiring mount and or dismount, will require management to provide stool/mounting block.

G. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable

H. PROHIBITED OBSTACLES: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.

I. Mandatory obstacles and/or maneuvers:

1. Ride over obstacles on the ground – usually logs or poles.

Walk, trot, or lope may be used, but only one gait is required.

Natural logs are recommended.

a. Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 26-30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

b. Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36 to 42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

c. Lope-overs: Lope over no more than three logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

2. Opening, passing through, and closing gate: Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing.

3. Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long

4. Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30-inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.

5. Side pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.

6. Rope drag: For Regular Registry, Solid Paint-Breed Open and Amateur classes, ONLY. A rope drag is not to be used in Novice Amateur or 267 Youth Classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (a full dally or half dally) for the duration of the drag. A full dally is bringing the rope one and a half times around the horn, from the front of the horn around the back, not from behind. A half dally is bringing the rope $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the horn, from the front of the horn around the back, not from behind.

J.OPTIONAL OBSTACLES: Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include but are not limited to:

- A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 25 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.
- Only live or stuffed animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse.
- Carry object from one part of the arena to another.
- Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
- Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.
- Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.
- Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head.
- Step in and out of obstacle.
- Put on slicker or coat.
- Stand to mount with mounting block. Stool/Mounting block will be provided.
- Walk through water obstacle.
- Open gate on foot. Stool/Mounting block will be provided.
- Pick up feet.
- Walk through brush.
- Ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed) Stool/Mounting block will be provided.

- Lead at the trot.

K. At show management option the competition trail course may be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for exhibitors are helpful and encouraged.

L. CREDITS AND PENALTIES: All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however this will result in being “off pattern” (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.

M. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle.

N. SCORING: Each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent). Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

- **One (1) Point Penalties:** Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle, incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for
- **Two (2) strides or less;** both front or hind feet in a singlestride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance; Wrong lead or out of lead for less than 2 strides.
- **Three (3) Point Penalties:** Wrong lead or out of lead for more than 2 strides; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; Three to four steps on mount/ dismount or not on ground tie; Trotting three or more strides in a lope departure from a stop or walk, or when exiting a rollback into a lope; Knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle; Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with one foot;

Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle that is part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

- **Four (4) Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than one foot; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate, Five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie; Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle that is part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.

- **Off-Pattern (OP):** Breaking pattern; Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore); more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein); 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied. Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

- **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, Leaving working area before pattern is complete; improper western attire; Fall of horse/ rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class.