

RANCH HORSE DIVISION

This is a new division added to our shows this year. Our rules for this division are a result of looking at Ranch Horse rules for other associations and modifying them to fit the way our arenas are run as well as our group of exhibitors.

No horse may cross enter, a western pleasure and ranch horse pleasure class at the same show with the exception of LTD, Rusty Spur or Masters Western Pleasure.

ATTIRE

In all performance events and conformation classes, it is expected that all exhibitors wear traditional western attire that reflects the true ranch lifestyle. Appropriate western attire includes a long sleeve shirt with collar and cuff (buttons or snaps are preferred), a western hat and boots with heels. Chaps or Chinks are allowed but not required. The main focus is on the performance and ability of the horse and rider. Clothing with excessive crystals, glitter or sequins is strongly discouraged and in no circumstance will this have advantage over other exhibitors with well fitted western attire. The addition of any protective outerwear is acceptable as dictated by weather conditions.

EQUIPMENT/GROOMING:

- A)** In conformation classes, horses are to be shown in good working halter; rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. No silver will be allowed on halters with the exception of the mandatory buckles only. Keepers and tips on open buckles are allowed.
- B)** In performance classes, equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged but not disallowed.
- C)** Lip chains, splint boots, leg wraps or bandages are prohibited in any conformation class. In the event of injury the judge may permit a protective bandage.
- D)** Hair dyes or fresh hoof black or hoof polish is not allowed and will result in the horse being disqualified from the class.
- E)** Clipping ears, bridle path, roached manes, muzzle, and legs is left to the discretion of the exhibitor and has no bearing on the horse's conformation and/or performance.
- F)** The horse should be clean and brushed. It is recommended that a horse should be shown as naturally as possible.
- G)** Banded or braided manes, braided tails, tie-in tails and/or extensions are not allowed.
- H)** No entries are allowed to enter the arena once the class has been called and the judging has started.

312. RANCH HORSE HALTER

- A)** The horse will be judged on type, conformation correctness, and athletic ability.
- B)** Ranch Horse Conformation is defined as the physical attributes necessary to perform under saddle. The ideal standard in evaluating horses in conformation should include but not be limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the "appearance of" agility.
- C)** The horse should possess eye appeal with an attractive head; refined throat-latch; well-proportioned trim neck; long sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup. The horse should show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch.
- D)** Horses are not penalized for scars or brands.
- E)** All stallions two years and older shall have two visible testicles. Crypt orchids will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.
- F)** Only mares and stallions will be examined for parrot mouth and those found to exhibit same will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.
- G)** All lame horses will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.
- H)** Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following five traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, with emphasis on correct manner of travel, degree of muscling, and agility. Of the five, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

335. RANCH HORSE PLEASURE

A horse will be shown at three gaits - the walk, jog and lope. He will also be asked to reverse away from the rail, to stop and to back. The judge may ask for an extended walk or jog. Extended jog may be ridden by sitting in the saddle, posting or standing in the stirrups. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility. Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment. Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

445. RANCH HORSE TRAIL

The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered in everyday riding. The horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday 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.

The ranch trail course will include no less than six and no more than nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course.

MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND/OR MANUEVERS.

- Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs or poles).
- Opening, passing through and closing gate
- Ride over wooden bridge
- Backing obstacles
- Side-pass obstacle:

OPTIONAL OBSTACLES:

Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work.

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

CREDITS AND PENALTIES:

1 Point Penalties: Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two (2) strides or less; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; and one step on dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.

3 Point Penalties: Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; and break of gait at walk or jog for more than two (2) strides

5 Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein); knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate.

Off-Pattern: Breaking pattern; leaving working area before pattern is complete; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience; fall of horse/rider (run ends and credit will be given for work done). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

Disqualification: Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; or improper western attire.

446. RANCH HORSE PATTERN

The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins

Class requirements:

Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees 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. It is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

1 One (1) point penalties: Too slow/per gait; Over-bridled; Out of frame; Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less

2 Three (3) point penalties: Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides; Break of gait at lope; Wrong lead or out of lead; Draped reins; Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change; Severe disturbance of any obstacle

3 Five (5) point penalties: Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

4 Placed below horses performing all maneuvers: Eliminates maneuver; Incomplete maneuver

5 Zero (0) score: Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions; Willfull abuse; Major disobedience or schooling; No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score; No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.