

RANCH HORSE DIVISION

The purpose of the Ranch Horse Division is to showcase the versatility, attitude and movement of a western working horse. Open to horses three years and older.

Appointments

Required

1. ASTM/SEI Helmet when mounted.
2. Shirt or jacket with long sleeves or other Western attire in accordance with breed standards is allowed. Neat and clean working type attire.
3. Western style pants or jeans that are clean, neat and in good repair.
4. Western boots preferred, appropriate heeled riding boots are acceptable.

Optional

1. Vest or jacket of western working design
2. Spurs with straps, blunt rowels or no rowels. Bluntness is at the discretion of the judge. No slide on western spurs allowed
3. Chaps or chinks
4. Gloves
5. Standard sliding, rundown or skid boots on the rear fetlocks; splint boots and bell boots on the front legs or soft wraps on either are optional appointments in Ranch Riding. They are prohibited in all other Ranch classes.
6. Any protective safety equipment for the rider (protective vest, other)

Tack/Equipment

1. Horses are to be shown in a western stock saddle and a standard western bridle. Silver equipment is discouraged and shall not count over good working equipment. Tapaderos and Australian stock saddles are prohibited.
2. Tie downs, cavessons, mechanical hackamores and running martingales are prohibited.
3. Hoof polish, black is discouraged.
4. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
5. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
6. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
7. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal, in accordance with traditional western split or romal rein positions. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle, except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.
8. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

RANCH HORSE PLEASURE

This class is intended as a rail class, but individuals riding off the rail will not be penalized. The ranch horse 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. 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.

Class Routine

To be shown at the walk, trot, extended trot and lope both ways of the ring. Horses must stand quietly and back readily. All horses may be asked to extend the walk and lope. Other optional maneuvers are stop, reverse at the trot, 180-degree reverse.

Judging/Scoring

The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Part of the evaluation of this class is on the smoothness of both upward and downward transitions. 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. Areas of penalty include: too slow/per gait, over-bridled, out of frame, breaks of gait, wrong leads, blatant disobediences, excessive trotting when taking lead.

Disqualifications: See #14 under general rules.

RANCH RIDING

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. 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, responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. This is a pattern class.

Judging/Scoring

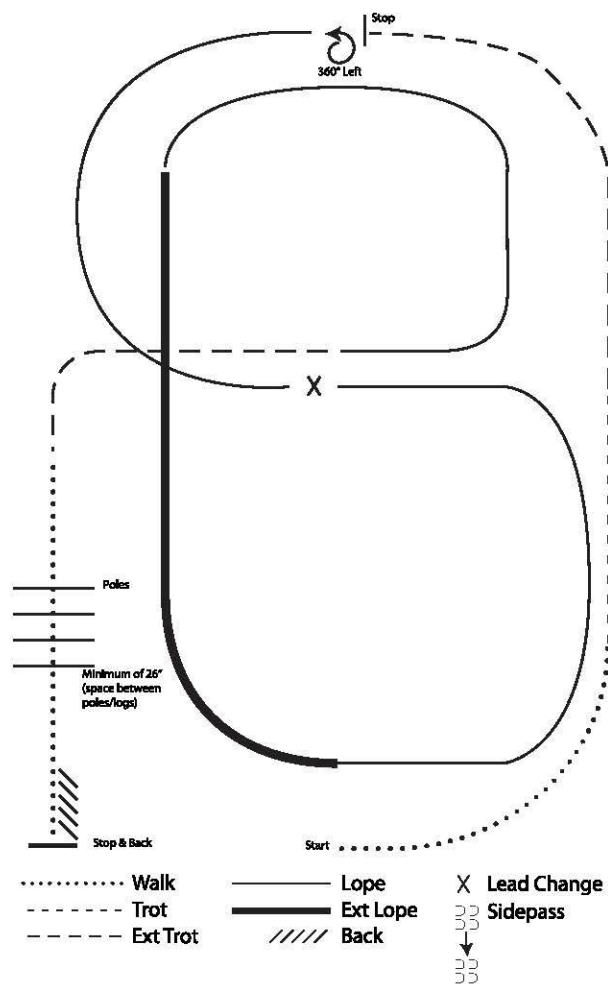
1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot and lope in both directions, the extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction, stops and backs.
3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass; turns of 360-degrees or more; a change of lead (simple or flying); walk, trot, or lope over a pole or poles; or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
4. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
5. No time limit.
6. One of the suggested 4 patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers are included plus 3 or more optional maneuvers are included.
7. Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.

The judge will assess each maneuver with the following scale:

- +1 ½ = Excellent
- +1 = Very Good
- +1/2 = Good
- 0 = Correct
- ½ = Poor
- 1 = Very Poor
- 1 ½ = Extremely Poor

Penalties

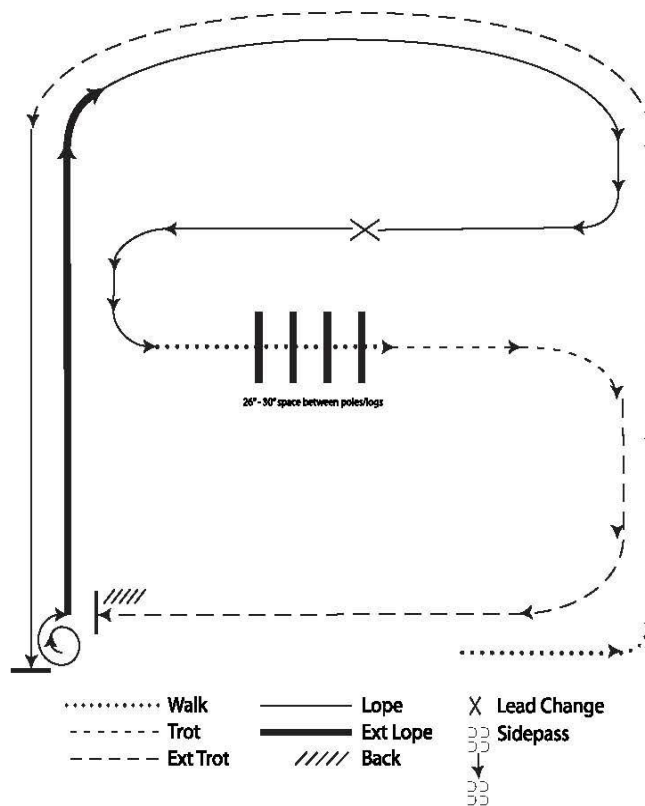
1. One (1) point penalties
 - a. Too slow/per gait
 - b. Over-bridled
 - c. Out of frame
 - d. Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
 - e. Split log at lope
2. Three (3) point penalties
 - a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
 - b. Break of gait at lope
 - c. Wrong lead or out of lead
 - d. Draped reins
 - e. Out of lead or cross cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads
 - f. Trotting more than 3 strides when making simple lead change
 - g. Severe disturbance of any obstacle
3. Five (5) point penalties
 - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
 - b. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
4. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers (OP)
 - a. Eliminates maneuver
 - b. Incomplete maneuver
5. Zero (0) score
 - a. Illegal equipment (including braided or branded manes or tail extensions)
 - b. Willful abuse
 - c. Major disobedience or schooling
6. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/ hits on logs but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.
7. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.



RANCH HORSE RIDING PATTERN 1

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extend the trot, at the top of the arena, stop
4. 360 degree 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

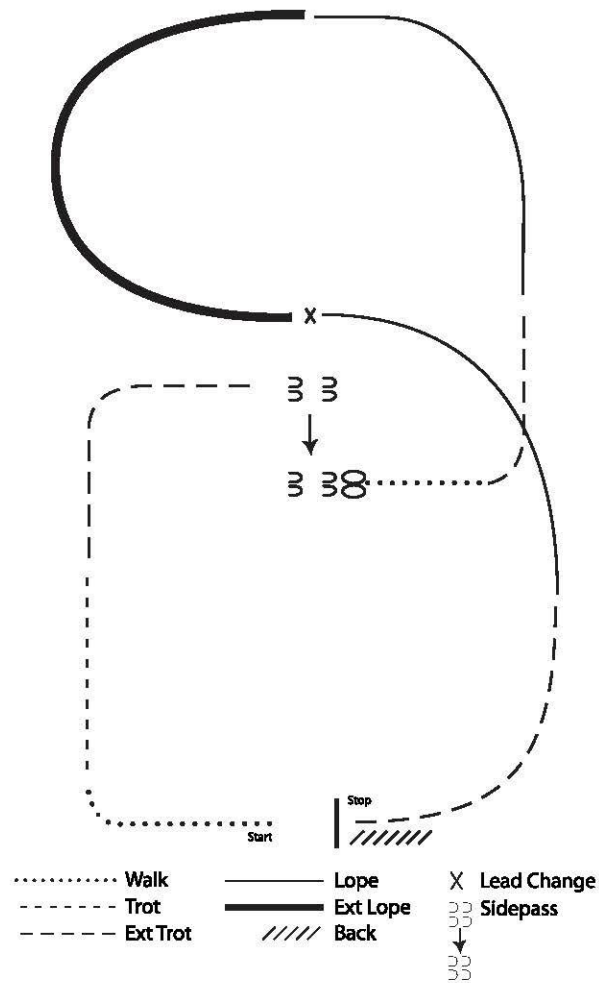
Pattern adapted from the Appaloosa Horse Club Ranch Riding Patterns.



RANCH HORSE RIDING PATTERN 2

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended trot
4. Left lead lope
5. Stop, 1 ½ turn right
6. Extended lope
7. Collect to working lope-right lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Walk
10. Walk over logs
11. Trot
12. Extended trot
13. Stop and back

Pattern adapted from the Appaloosa Horse Club Ranch Riding Patterns.



RANCH HORSE RIDING PATTERN 3

1. Walk to the left around corner of the arena
2. Trot
3. Extend alongside of the arena and around the corner to center
4. Stop, side pass right
5. 360 degree turn each direction (either way 1st)
6. Walk
7. Trot
8. Lope left lead
9. Extend the lope
10. Change leads (simple or flying)
11. Collect to the lope
12. Stop and back

Pattern adapted from the Appaloosa Horse Club Ranch Riding Patterns.

RANCH HORSE RIDING PATTERN 4

RANCH TRAIL

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 navigate and negotiate the course.

Sample Obstacles:

1. Distances for logs: Walk-overs (26-30 in.), Trot-overs (36-42 in.), Lope-overs (6 to 7 feet) no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. 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. Rope gates are acceptable.
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 34 inches. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, straight or similarly shaped.
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. Carry object from one part of the arena to another.
7. Remove and replace materials from mailbox.
8. Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.
9. Step in and out of obstacle.
10. Put on slicker or coat.
11. Stand to mount with or without a mounting block.
12. Pick up feet.
13. Walk through brush.
14. Ground tie.

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