A person wearing a white cowboy hat and a light blue shirt is riding a brown horse in an arena. The horse has a white saddle pad with the number 102 on it. The background shows a wooden fence and trees.

NAVARO

RULE 2022 BOOK

4TH EDITION

ABOUT US

SHOW MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE STAFF

- Amanda Driewer - Owner/Founder
- Amanda Vincent - Co-Founder/Director of Operations and Marketing
- Lonna Holland - Director of Show Administration
- Amanda Baxter – Operations Coordinator

OUR MISSION

NavaRio strives to provide competitors a relaxed environment to:

1. Acquire horsemanship and horse-training knowledge;
2. Create lasting relationships within their local equine community; and
3. Enjoy their time while enhancing their current skill set.

FOREWORD

NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions was established in 2017 as a solution to create community centered events within the Brazos Valley. What started out as a live practice for local 4-H horse judges, grew into what NavaRio is today. Collectively known as the “Amanda’s”, Amanda Driewer and Amanda Vincent developed NavaRio as a way to share their passion with fellow equestrians. With the modern-day equestrian in mind, NavaRio is dedicated to enhancing the equine industry one event at time through innovative ways that serve its clients and community.

REFERENCES USED

- AQHA Official Handbook 2020
- Stock Horse of Texas 2020 Rule Book
- Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules

THIS RULEBOOK SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS. The rules printed herein are effective February 15, 2022. This handbook establishes uniform regulations and procedures for qualifying and participating in NavaRio events. These rules shall govern all events that make up NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions. This rule book is to be revised annually, or as necessary, by the NavaRio management team. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to read and know these rules in their entirety. 2017-2022 © NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions. All Rights Reserved.



ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

It is expected that NavaRio competitors choose the division that best suits their abilities. NavaRio is not responsible for riders entered in a division above the rider/horse performance ability.

DIVISIONS

NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions offers the following divisions which exhibitors may choose from at any event (and of all classes, EXCLUDING Halter, Jackpot, and Oddball classes). Competitor divisions are as follows.

WALK/TROT YOUTH LIMITED (LEVEL 1)¹

Riders aged 13 & under as of January 1st, 2022; intended for riders with up to two years of judged western competition experience who have not loped before.

WALK/TROT YOUTH (LEVEL 2)

Riders aged 18 & under as of January 1st, 2022; intended for riders with up to two years of judged western competition experience who have not loped before OR have accumulated 25+ career points in the NavaRio Walk/Trot Youth Limited (Level 1) division.

WALK/TROT/LOPE YOUTH LIMITED (LEVEL 1)

Riders aged 13 & under as of January 1st, 2022; intended for riders that have loped with up to two years of judged western competition experience OR accumulated 25+ career points in the NavaRio Walk/Trot Youth (Level 2) division.

WALK/TROT/LOPE YOUTH (LEVEL 2)

Riders aged 18 & under as of January 1st, 2022; intended for riders that have loped OR accumulated 25+ career points in the NavaRio Walk/Trot/Lope Youth (Level 1) division.

GREEN HORSE

Intended for horses with limited riding experience of any age in their first year of showing; intended for trainers and professionals².

¹ Horse/rider pairs competing in walk/trot divisions cannot cross compete in non-walk/trot divisions, with the exception of Walk/Trot Open with management approval

² Professional is defined as a competitor whose primary source of income is made from equine training or coaching clients

WALK/TROT ADULT

Intended for beginner adult riders with up to two years of judged western competition. Rider can NOT have competed in loping divisions.

WALK/TROT OPEN

Intended for Walk/Trot Adult riders with cumulative 25+ career points in the NavaRio Walk/Trot Adult division or have loped before. Management can make exceptions for medical related injuries.

ROOKIE

Intended for riders with up to two years of judged western competition experience OR have earned a cumulative of 25+ career points in the NavaRio Walk/Trot Adult division.

NOVICE

Intended for riders with more than two years of judged western competition experience or have earned a cumulative of 25+ career points in the NavaRio Rookie Division.

AMATEUR

Intended for non-professional riders with more than two years of judged western competition experience or have earned a cumulative of 25+ career points in the NavaRio Novice division.

OPEN

Intended for riders of any level including professionals OR have earned a cumulative of 25+ career points in the NavaRio Amateur division.

COLLEGIATE OPTION

Team coach can choose up to 4 riders from their team to compete for points at each show that will go towards End of Series. The coach will need to register the designated riders prior to each show. Riders can change by show.

Note: All points are awarded based on horse/rider pair. If a horse/rider pair earns the division overall high point in a NavaRio show series, then at the next NavaRio show series the same horse/rider pair competes in, they are required to advance into the next division.

SAFETY POLICY

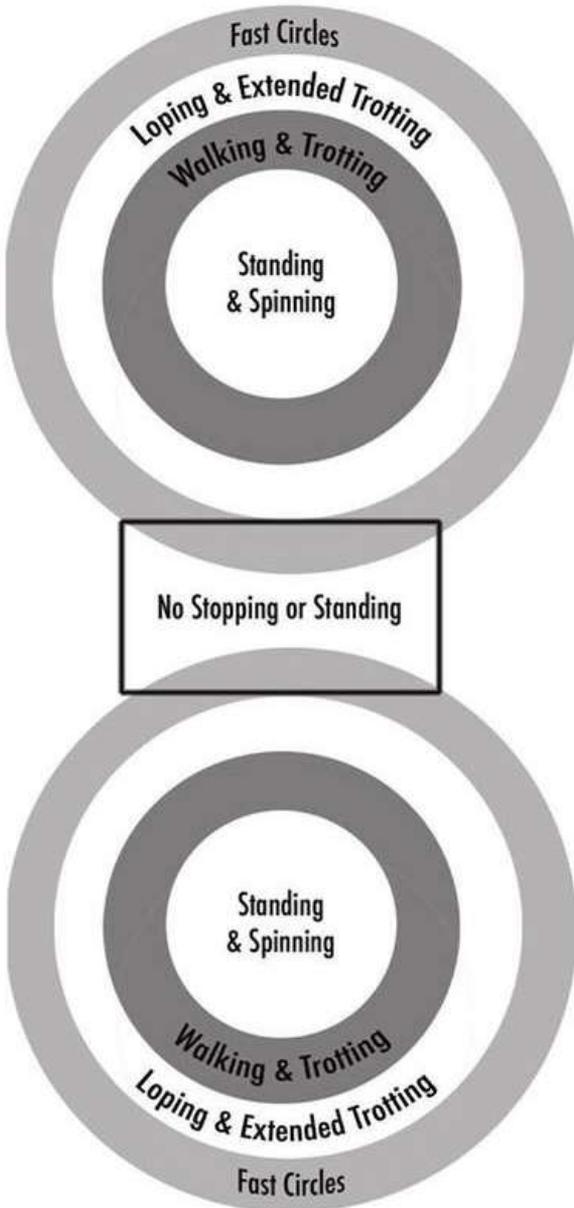
NavaRio Ranch is committed to the humane treatment of horses and cattle. Inhumane or abusive treatment may result in disqualification, at the discretion of the show management, members of the horse show management team, and/or judges. Decisions are non-negotiable and final.

- Unsoundness may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. This decision is NOT subject to protest.
- The use of any stimulants or depressants is strictly prohibited. Any surgical procedure or drug that could affect a horse's performance or alter its natural conformation is prohibited. Only NSAIDs prescribed by a licensed veterinarian are allowed (Ex: Phenylbutazone is legal).
- Any time a horse's mouth is tied or fastened in a performance class the horse shall be disqualified.
- Any open, raw sores or bleeding body parts that come in contact with a hackamore, bit, spur, or related equipment may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

Warning

Under Texas Law (Chapter 87, Civil Practice and Remedies Code), an Equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities. NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions and all affiliates or representatives of NavaRio Ranch Horse Productions does not assume responsibility for safety of participants at sanctioned events.

WARM UP ARENA ETIQUETTE



ALWAYS look behind you before you stop or drastically slow down! Let's work together to keep the warm up pen safe and enjoyable for all.

SHOW RULES

The following rules and regulations will apply at all levels of competition and take precedence over any and all other rules.

1. Each contestant may enter one or more horses in each qualifying division; however, a horse CANNOT be entered or shown in an individual class more than once by the same rider/handler. In each of the qualifying and open divisions, all points will be awarded by a one horse/rider pair.
2. Competitors may be allowed to change horses between Series Shows, provided all horses involved meet division requirements, at the discretion of show management. Points are awarded based on a horse/rider pair; therefore, points will not transfer by rider or horse.
3. Exhibitors will be judged from the time they enter the arena until their performance is completed.
4. Stallions may NOT be shown at the series shows unless approved by NavaRio management.
5. Horses are NOT required to show in halter division in order to be eligible to show in performance events.
6. Reruns will only be given after show management review and at the discretion of the show management and/or the judge.
7. Show management decides whether exhibitors run from and/or to an open or closed gate, based on local arena conditions.
8. An exhibitor may NOT be assisted by any other person in the show ring, except in lead line classes. No exhibitor may be tied, buckled, or fastened in the saddle in any manner or by any means.³
9. When an exhibitor, exhibitor's parent, or person representing an exhibitor exhibits poor sportsmanship or horsemanship, rude, or unruly behavior, the show management, judge, or class superintendent may suspend such exhibitor's rights to participate in the class, future classes, and/or shows for such a period as deemed appropriate.
10. A contestant may be disqualified from a class, at the judge's discretion, for receiving excessive verbal instructions from outside the ring while said exhibitor is performing.
11. A show official (show manager, judge, or class superintendent) may disqualify any horse or exhibitor from the competition for bad, unruly, and/or dangerous behavior.
12. The judge's decision shall be final and is NOT subject to protest.
13. A disqualified horse shall NOT be placed in a class (although it will be counted as an entry) in which the disqualification or "no score" occurred. The horse shall NOT receive points for disqualification in a class.

³ Special accommodations can be arranged within reason upon approval from show management.

14. Scores are NOT official until verified with judges' cards and posted.
15. Exhibitors and/or exhibitors' guardians are responsible for keeping track of working orders and for being in line or in the makeup arena when their run time arrives. Exhibitors who miss their run will forfeit their run in that class unless they notify the class superintendent of an unpreventable emergency before their time to work has passed and show management and the judge approves the request.
16. Questions regarding the conduct of the show will be referred immediately to the show managers. The show managers will confer with the show officials, judge, or class superintendent. If necessary, the show manager will give an on-the-spot decision that shall be accepted as final.
17. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be aware that patterns have been posted.
18. If an exhibitor dismounts for any reason other than a class requirement, they will receive a disqualification.
19. The fall of a horse or rider being judged shall be cause for disqualification in the class. This is applicable to all classes. A horse is considered having fallen when he or she is on their side and all four feet are extended in the same direction. A rider is considered to have fallen when he or she is not astride.
20. Any awards won during special events, classes or contests will not influence or contribute to placings for end of day or end of series awards unless otherwise specified. ⁴

⁴ Examples of these events include "fun" classes or jackpots during a regularly scheduled show.

SHOW POINT SYSTEM AND AWARDS

SHOW POINT SYSTEM

Points will be awarded to each horse/rider pair in each class based on the point system in Figure 1. Points earned in the halter and performance divisions by each horse/rider pair will be used to calculate End of Day and End of Series placings.

Figure 1: Points Awarded for Placing in Class

Contestants in Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
1-3	1														
4-7	2	1													
8-11	3	2	1												
12-15	4	3	2	1											
16-19	5	4	3	2	1										
20-24	6	5	4	3	2	1									
25-29	7	6	5	4	3	2	1								
30-34	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1							
35-39	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
40-44	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1					
45-49	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
50-54	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
55-59	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
60-64	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
65+	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

TIEBREAKER GUIDELINES

CLASS

Tiebreakers to be used in individual classes will be decided upon by judge's discretion.

END OF DAY

Ranch Riding placings of each horse/rider pair will be used in the event of ties for End of Day awards.

END OF SERIES

Should there be any ties when calculating End of Series placings, End of Day placings from the final show of the series will be used.

AWARDS

Additional awards from what is described below may be given, as available, and may vary each year.

END OF SERIES

NavaRio Ranch Horse Show High-Point awards will be awarded to each division horse/rider pair

INDIVIDUAL SHOWS

Ribbons will be awarded for each class. High point ribbons are awarded at each show. Show management reserves the right to combine divisions when there are 5 or fewer exhibitors entered in a class. Classes in which divisions are combined will receive 1st-6th placing ribbons.

ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

ATTIRE

The use of properly fitted protective headgear by exhibitors is optional and encouraged. Riders are asked to wear a western hat, long-sleeve shirts, and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. Any boot other than a leather sole boot is strongly discouraged. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

EQUIPMENT

For halter and showmanship classes, use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. The halter should fit well on the horse's head, to maximize response to subtle cues. Silver halters shall not count over a nice, clean, well-fitted halter. Leather, flat nylon, and rope halters are acceptable and should be clean, neat and adjusted and well-fitted to the individual horse.

Horses shall be shown in a stock saddle that fits the rider. Silver equipment will not count over good, clean, working equipment. Horses may be ridden with a snaffle, curb, spade, or half breed bit. When using split reins and/or a non-snaffle bit, it is strongly encouraged that only one hand is used however two hands are permitted. No more than one finger is allowed between the reins when using split reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands, and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during the pattern. In all other classes, including the reined portion of working cow horse, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein. Riders will be considered Off Pattern when

switching hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.

Curb bits must have a curb chain or strap, and it must be at least ½ inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited. Bosals or nosebands are not permitted with a bit. Tie downs, martingales, and draw reins are prohibited.

Protective boots and leg wraps are not allowed in halter, showmanship at halter, or ranch showmanship.

HALTER DIVISION

RANCH HALTER

A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation. The purpose of the class is to select individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and muscling.

The ideal halter horse has eye appeal that is the result of a harmonious blending of 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, and well-defined and muscular stifle, gaskin, forearm, and chest. These characteristics should be coupled with straight and structurally correct legs. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout.

Conformation is defined as the physical appearance due to the arrangement of muscle, bone, and other body tissues. One of the most important criteria in selecting a horse is conformation, or its physical appearance. While it could be assumed that most horses with several years of seasoning and past performance have acceptable conformation, the goal in selection should always be to find the best conformed horse possible.

Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the most important and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. Once they reach the judge they will begin trotting. It is at the judge's discretion whether horses will trot straight or turn left and continue trotting. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail

for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front, and rear. The judge should line the horses to be placed in a head-to-tail order according to preference.

RANCH SHOWMANSHIP

Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. Emphasis will be on proper fitting of the horse and the ability to present a well-groomed, well-trained horse to the judge through a series of practical and basic maneuvers from the ground. The class should always be judged with this in mind, giving credit to the exhibitor who can correctly perform each maneuver of the total pattern or run. Judges should refrain from conducting the class routine in any manner that attempts to trick, confuse, or mislead exhibitors. In Ranch Showmanship, conformation of the horse is not judged.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Exhibitors will individually enter the arena and work a pattern designed by show management. When the pattern is complete, exhibitors will line up on the rail (away from the pattern) under guidance of a ring steward and wait to be placed. If an exhibitor is showing more than one horse in a division, a designated handler may hold a horse for the participant on the rail. Maneuvers shall consist of basic handling and obstacles found in everyday ranch work. Some examples include but are not limited to: lead horse at a walk, jog or back; stop; a pivot; walking or jogging over logs; lead through a gate; moving around markers such as cones or other suitable obstacles; and ground tying. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

SCORING

Exhibitors will be scored from 0 to infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge or show management, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to -3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added/subtracted from 70. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of horse to result in the following scores: +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor. Exhibitors overall form and effectiveness

should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

PRESENTATION & POSITION OF EXHIBITOR

Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous, and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse.

The horse is always led from the left side positioned with the exhibitor's shoulder about even with the horse's throat latch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull. Speed of travel is somewhat related to straightness of travel, and the slower a horse moves, the greater chance for deviation from a straight line of movement. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor, and breed standards. The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand.

PRESENTATION OF HORSE

Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. The halter should fit well on the horse's head, to maximize response to subtle halter cues. Plain leather halters, flat nylon halters or rope halters are acceptable and should be clean, neat and adjusted and well-fitted to the individual horse.

The horse should be clean and well-groomed. Manner of fitting for mane and tail may vary according to recognized practices for a ranch type horse. Emphasis should be on proper fitting and grooming acceptable for ranch horses. Hair coat should be clean, shiny and should show evidence of frequent grooming. Underweight or thin horses will be penalized. Horses' feet should be clean, neat, and well-trimmed or shod. Hoof black should not be used. A well-groomed horse that is clean, properly trimmed, and conditioned does have a justified advantage in showmanship at halter.

PATTERN PERFORMANCE

- When leading to or from a judge or ringmaster, stops and turns are very important. The exhibitor should always allow plenty of space between the horse and the judge. Stops should be executed squarely and without hesitation, as the stop is an important maneuver preceding a correct turn or reverse of direction.
- Turns of more than 90 degrees should always be executed to the right. Pushing the horse away, rather than pulling the horse around, will allow

more distance between the horse's and the exhibitor's feet. In addition, turning to the right allows the horse to use the right hind foot as a pivot point. The horse can then cross the left front foot over the right front to execute a very uniform and smooth turn. This results in the horse remaining in essentially the same tracks after the turn is completed and provides the judge a good view as the horse is walked or trotted away.

- For inspection, set the horse up standing square. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.
- Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. The Quarter Method is to be used when presenting the horse.
- The exhibitor should always be in the quadrant adjacent to the judge to be able to see the judge at all times. You should cross the line to the appropriate quadrant once the judge crosses the line.
- For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.
- Staring at the judge keeps an exhibitor from continually observing the horse and keeping the horse set properly. Exhibitors should maintain eye contact with the horse. It is acceptable to glance at the judge from time to time, but an exhibitor should NOT do this continuously.
- Inhibiting another rider's performance purposefully or accidentally is not permitting. Exhibitors should keep their proper position in line when on the rail and allow reasonable space (at least 5 feet) between horses on either side. Keep horses from making contact with a competitor or encroaching on space rightfully belonging to another exhibitor.
- When ground tying, it is acceptable to either drape the lead line over the horse's neck or drop the lead line to the ground.

RANCH SHOWMANSHIP PENALTIES

Exhibitors should be penalized in the pattern independent of maneuver scores and deducted from the final score as follows:

ONE (1) POINT:

- Ticking or hitting an obstacle including cones, logs and plants

THREE (3) POINTS:

- Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
- 2-3 steps during a ground-tie
- Severely disturbing an obstacle

FIVE (5) POINTS:

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet of designated location
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- 4 or more steps during a ground-tie
- Splitting the cone (cone between horse and exhibitor)
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or set-up after presentation
- Letting go of or dropping gate

TEN (10) POINTS:

- Exhibitor is severely and continuously out of position during inspection
- Excessive touching the horse or kicking or pointing at the horse's feet during setup
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Complete loss of lead shank, unless executing ground tie maneuver
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, rearing, or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor

DISQUALIFICATIONS (SHOULD NOT BE PLACED):

- Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses, or judge
- Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
- Willful abuse
- Excessive schooling or training
- Use of artificial aids
- Illegal equipment

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY):

- Knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker
- Breaking pattern (adding or eliminating maneuvers)
- Never performing designated gait
- Over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS

RANCH HORSE GAITS

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

WALK

The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

EXTENDED WALK

The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture

TROT

The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

EXTENDED TROT

The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

LOPE

The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

EXTENDED LOPE

The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed under control of the rider. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

STOP

From both the lope and the trot, the horse should be in the correct stopping position (i.e., both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters). All four feet stop moving before the next maneuver is attempted.

REVERSE

The horse turns briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot.

LEAD CHANGES

Simple lead changes are permitted however will not be credit earning nor should be scored above a flying lead. If a competitor does not perform the correct type of lead change as described by the pattern, they are subject to a break of gait penalty for each infraction.

SCORING SYSTEM

The scoring system is designed to be positive, straightforward, and always encourage growth and improvement in both horse and rider. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done. Each horse/rider is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points (denoting average).

For performance classes (excluding Ranch Rail) horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver on a -1½ to +1½ scale:

- -1½ - Extremely Poor
- -1 - Very Poor
- ½ - Poor
- 0 - Correct
- +½ - Good
- +1 - Very Good
- +1½ - Excellent.

Plusses and minuses reflect the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers. Penalties may be accrued for incorrect maneuver execution. For more detail on credits and penalties, please refer to each class definition in this rulebook.

RANCH RAIL

The ranch rail pleasure class is a foundation class measuring 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 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. The 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 horses shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The horse's overall manners, responsiveness, correctness, and quality of movement are the primary considerations for this class.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Horses are shown at a walk, jog, and lope with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. Horses must be worked both ways of the ring, at all three gaits (excluding walk/trot divisions), to demonstrate their ability with different leads and transitions. Riders may be asked to extend the jog or lope (only in large arenas with adequate space) at the judge's discretion. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). Posting at the extended trot is acceptable. Horses should back easily and stand quietly when/if called for.

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.

The class will be judged on the performance and condition of the horse at the discretion of the judge. Entries shall be penalized (but not necessarily disqualified) each time the following occur:

- Too slow/per gait
- Over-bridled
- Out of frame
- Break of gait at any gait
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Draped reins
- Trotting more than three strides when taking lead
- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
- Major disobedience or schooling
- Spurring in front of cinch
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

The following shall be cause for disqualification:

- Major disobedience or schooling
- Willful abuse
- Switching/changing hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.

STOCK HORSE PLEASURE

The purpose of the stock horse pleasure 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 stock horse pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Horses shall be shown individually, and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. Order of maneuvers may be varied per Judge's discretion, but the Stop should not follow the Extended Lope. Judges are encouraged to walk the course prior to judging.

STOCK HORSE PLEASURE PENALTIES AND CREDITS

The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Ranch Horse Gaits above, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Part of the evaluation of this class focuses on smoothness and responsiveness of transitions, which should be performed where designated. A horse may be collected a bit from the extended trot or walk as the horse moves into the lope. During the transition from the extended lope down to the trot, walk or extended walk 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 the specified gait will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discreetly and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation.

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

ONE (1) POINT

- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Too slow
- Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less

THREE (3) POINTS

- Wrong lead
- Draped reins
- Break of gait at lope
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides

FIVE (5) POINTS

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY)

- Breaking Pattern
- Repeated disobedience
- Switching/changing hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein)
- Three or more refusals to complete a maneuver

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- 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)

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 with consideration of 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.

CLASS PROCEDURE

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 so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show management 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.

Judges must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not 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 it cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws for that class. If an exhibitor has a question about the course and/or obstacles, it is encouraged to ask the judge or show management, but before judging begins for the class.

Obstacles chosen will be those that can be found in everyday ranch work. Obstacles can include, but not be limited to:

- Ride over obstacles on the around – usually logs or poles. Walk, trot, or lope may be used, but only one gait is required
- Opening, passing through, and closing gate
- Ride over wooden bridge
- Backing obstacle – Back through L, V, U, straight or similarly shaped course
- Side pass obstacle
- Rope drag – (Not to be used in Youth) Drag may be a complete figure eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag
- A jump obstacle. Holding saddle horn is permissible
- Others can include, but not be limited to: carry object from one part of arena to another, remove and replace materials from mailbox, trot through cones, cross natural ditch or ride up embankment, swing rope or

throw rope at dummy steer head, step in and out of obstacle, put on slicker or coat, stand to mount with mounting block, walk through water obstacle, open gate on foot, pick up feet, walk through brush, ground tie, lead at the trot, load into a horse trailer and back out of

RANCH TRAIL PENALTIES AND CREDITS

All runs begin upon entering the pen; 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” and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly and in its entirety. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.

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 pick through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to riders’ cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Penalties are assessed as follows:

ONE (1) POINT

- 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 single-stride 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 dismount/remount or ground tie except shifting to balance
- Over-bridled (per maneuver)

THREE (3) POINTS

- Wrong lead
- Draped reins
- Break of gait at lope (except for simple lead change)
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- Three or four steps on dismount/remount or ground tie

FIVE (5) POINTS

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

- Knocking over, stepping out of, or falling off of an obstacle
- Dropping an object required to be carried
- 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal
- Letting go of gate
- Five or more steps in dismount/remount or ground tie

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY)

- Breaking Pattern
- Repeated disobedience
- Switching/changing hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein)
- Three or more refusals to complete a maneuver

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- 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)

RANCH REINING

Ranch reining measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner. The ideal ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the AQHA/SHTX ranch reining patterns approved by show management and judge. Each pattern is a combination of maneuvers which include:

- **Stops** - Stops are the act of slowing the horse from a lope to a stop position. The horse enters the stop position by rounding its back, bringing the hind legs further under the body while maintaining forward motion and ground contact and cadence with front legs. Throughout the stop, the horse continues in a straight line while maintaining ground contact with the hind feet.
- **Spins** - Spins are cadenced 360-degree turns executed with the inside hind quarter (pivot) remaining stationary. Spins shall be smooth and efficient. The location of the hind quarters shall be fixed at the start of the spin. The horse shall stop the spin exactly as dictated by the pattern

description. The right and left spins shall have a similar speed and balance.

- **Rollbacks** - Rollbacks are the 180-degree reversal of forward motion completed by running to a stop, rolling (turning) the shoulders back to the opposite direction over the hocks and departing in one continuous motion. There should be no hesitation; however, a slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation. The horse should not step ahead or backup prior to rolling back.
- **Circles** - Circles are maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide, and degree of difficulty in speed and speed variations. Circles must at all times be run in the geographical area of the arena specified in the pattern description. There must be a clearly defined difference in the speed and size of a small, slow circle and a large, fast circle. Symmetry is credit-earning (i.e., speeds and shapes to the left and right should be consistent)
- **Backups** - A backup is a maneuver requiring the horse to be moved in a reverse motion in a straight line over a required distance of at least ten feet or as the pattern designates.
- **Hesitate** - To hesitate is the act of demonstrating the horse's ability to stand in a relaxed manner at a designated time in a pattern. In a hesitation, the horse is required to remain motionless and relaxed. Reining patterns require a hesitation at the end of the pattern to demonstrate completion.
- **Lead Changes** - Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description. Credit-earning lead changes will be change in front and rear leads taking place within the same stride.
- **Simple Lead Changes** - A simple lead change (allowed without penalty for Youth, Green, and Rookie Divisions without penalty) is a lead change made through a transition down to the jog or walk and then back to the lope on the other lead. There should only be one to three strides at the jog or walk before picking up the lope again.
- **Run Downs** - Run downs are runs through the middle of the arena, along the side, or ends of the arena. Run downs demonstrate control and gradual increase in speed to the stop.

RANCH REINING PENALTIES AND CREDITS

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension

or length of the reins from bridle to the rein hand is to be considered the use of two hands and will be off pattern. 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. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of, control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse/rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

ONE-HALF (½) POINT

- Starting a circle or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to two strides (Except walk/trot classes)
- Delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description
- Failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback
- Over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn

ONE (1) POINT

- Out of lead in the circles, figure eights, or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead)
- Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- Slipping rein
- Over-bridled

TWO (2) POINTS

- Break of gait at lope (except for a simple lead change)
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides (in walk/trot classes)
- Freeze up in spins or rollbacks
- Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns
- Failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns
- Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position
- When starting a circle/run-down/exiting a rollback, trotting beyond two strides but less than ½ circle or length of arena

- When starting a circle/run-down/exiting a rollback, trotting beyond two strides but less than ½ circle or ½ length of arena

FIVE (5) POINTS

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY)

- Breaking Pattern
- Repeated disobedience
- Trotting in excess of ½ circle or ½ length of the arena (except in walk/trot classes)
- Switching/changing hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver
- Three or more refusals to complete a maneuver

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- 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)

RANCH RIDING

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 head carriage at each gait.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Maneuvers for this class will include but not be limited to: the walk, trot, and lope (excluding walk/trot classes) both directions; the extended trot and/or extended lope at least one direction; stops; backs; side pass; turns of 360 or more; lead changes (simple or flying); walk, trot, or lope over log/pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

The use of natural logs is encouraged in this class. Posting at the extended trot and touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

RANCH RIDING PENALTIES AND CREDITS

The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Ranch Horse Gaits above, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated in the pattern, with smoothness and responsiveness. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

ONE (1) POINT

- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Too slow
- Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less

THREE (3) POINTS

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- Break of gait at lope (except for simple lead change)
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Draped reins
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle
- Out of lead or cross cantering more than two strides when changing leads, trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

FIVE (5) POINTS

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY)

- Breaking Pattern (adding/eliminating maneuver)

- Repeated disobedience
- Switching/changing hands once their run has started, including switching from one to two hands or vice versa.
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein)
- Three or more refusals to complete a maneuver

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- 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)

*No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over/under spins, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

RANCH HANDLING

Ranch handling is intended to evaluate the handler’s ability to communicate with the horse from the ground by judging a series of maneuvers that could be performed in everyday ranch work. Exhibitor movements should be skillful and efficient, and the horse should be responsive and cooperative. Evaluating safe and effective ground handling will take priority to the quality of attire or tack.

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

Bridles, plain leather halters, bronc halters, flat nylon halters or rope halters are acceptable and should be clean, neat, and adjusted and well-fitted. The halter should fit well on the horse’s head, to maximize response to subtle cues. Silver trim halters or bridles shall not count over a nice, clean, well-fitted halter or bridle. Horses should be led on a lead rope or reins in good repair and acceptable for tying to a solid object (maximum length 10 ft). Horses may be saddled or unsaddled, unless specified by the pattern. Prohibited equipment includes chains, whips, crops, lunge lines, carrot sticks, and bats.

Riders should wear a western hat, long-sleeve shirts, and western boots (NavaRio hats and shirts are allowed as well). Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. Any boot other than a leather sole boot is strongly discouraged. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

CLASS PROCEDURE

Exhibitors will individually enter the arena and work a pattern/course designed by show management. When the pattern is complete, follow instructions from your ring steward. Courses must be constructed with safety being of the utmost importance. Maneuvers shall consist of basic handling and obstacles which can be found in everyday ranch work. Exhibitors may be asked to work from both the left and right side of the horse during any of the listed maneuvers (switching hands on the lead is permitted). The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand. Obstacles may be performed in a working ranch halter or bridle. Examples of obstacles used in this class include, but are not limited to:

- Leading horse at a walk, jog, or back
- Stop
- Moving the hindquarters (turn on forehand)
- Stepping away from the horse to the end of the lead while horse remains still
- Demonstrate a side pass
- Cross bridge or water hazard
- Pass in or around natural obstacles such as a rock campsite, etc.
- Back the horse while handler remains stationary
- Walking or jogging over logs
- Lead through/send horse through a gate
- Moving (or backing) around markers
- Load and unload in horse trailer
- Pick up front feet and/or hind feet
- Tying and standing quietly for designated amount of time
- Ground tying (only to be used in an enclosed arena/area)
- Send horse in a circle (either direction), around a marker, or over a pole
- Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be found in everyday ranch work

SCORING

Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Judges will assess each maneuver on a scale from -1½ to +1½ with ½ point increments. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties.

PENALTIES AND CREDITS

Credit shall be given to horses that can proceed through the course efficiently and promptly with minimal handler influence and still be correct; a willing attitude; trust in and responsive to their handler and free and natural gaits. Handlers should be rewarded for a relaxed, natural way of handling their horse and moving throughout the course. Exhibitors should be precise and work in unison throughout the pattern at a reasonable speed. Credit will be given for smooth and quickness, however, correctness of maneuver should not be sacrificed for speed. Credit will be given to those working on a loose and relaxed lead.

ONE (1) POINT

- Touching horse other than when allowed. It is acceptable to touch the horse to sidepass and move the hindquarters
- Horse tied obviously too loosely or tightly
- Break of gait (walk or trot) up to 2 strides
- Stiff or unnatural way of moving by handler
- Tripping over or touching an obstacle (horse or rider)

TWO (2) POINTS

- Freeze up: complete loss of forwarded, backward, or lateral movement within a maneuver
- Break of gait (walk or jog) for more than 2 strides
- Use of hand on halter or headstall/bit in any manner
- 2-3 steps during a ground tie
- Severely disturbing an obstacle (horse or rider)

FIVE (5) POINTS

- Blatant disobedience including but not limited to balking, continued spooking, kicking, biting, rearing, striking
- Touching horse with end of lead (each offense)
- 4 or more steps during ground tie

OFF PATTERN (CANNOT BE PLACED ABOVE OTHERS THAT COMPLETED THE PATTEN CORRECTLY)

- Breaking pattern (adding or eliminating maneuvers)
- Wrong side of cone/marker
- Never performing designated gait
- Over/under turning more than ¼ turn

DISQUALIFICATIONS (WILL NOT BE PLACED)

- Loss of control of horse

- Horse becomes separated from exhibitor (except for when specified by pattern)
- Abuse, including excessive jerking on reins when showing in a bridle
- Excessive schooling/training
- Illegal equipment
- Lameness

INDEX

SHOW MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE STAFF.....	1
OUR MISSION.....	1
FOREWORD.....	1
REFERENCES USED.....	1
ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS.....	2
DIVISIONS.....	2
SAFETY POLICY.....	4
WARM UP ARENA ETIQUETTE.....	5
SHOW RULES.....	6
SHOW POINT SYSTEM AND AWARDS.....	8
SHOW POINT SYSTEM.....	8
TIEBREAKER GUIDELINES.....	8
Class.....	8
End of Day.....	8
End of Series.....	8
AWARDS.....	9
End of Series.....	9
Individual Shows.....	9
ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT.....	9
ATTIRE.....	9
EQUIPMENT.....	9
HALTER DIVISION.....	10
RANCH HALTER.....	10
Class Procedure.....	10
RANCH SHOWMANSHIP.....	11
Class Procedure.....	11
Scoring.....	11
Presentation & Position of Exhibitor.....	12

Presentation of Horse	12
Pattern Performance	12
Ranch Showmanship Penalties	13
PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS	15
RANCH HORSE GAITS	15
SCORING SYSTEM	16
RANCH RAIL	16
Class Procedure	17
STOCK HORSE PLEASURE	18
Class Procedure	18
Stock Horse Pleasure Penalties and Credits	18
RANCH TRAIL	20
Class Procedure	20
Ranch Trail Penalties and Credits	21
RANCH REINING	22
Ranch Reining Penalties and Credits	23
RANCH RIDING	25
Class Procedure	26
Ranch Riding Penalties and Credits	26
RANCH HANDLING	27
Equipment and Attire	27
Class Procedure	28
Scoring	28
Penalties and Credits	29

