



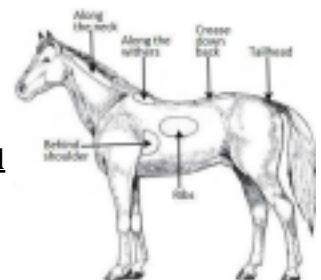
# **RULES & REGULATIONS**

## **2025**

**2025 Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships**  
Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter  
Perry, GA  
July 30-August 3, 2025

## 4-H SRHC GENERAL RULES

1. These rules and regulations contained herein take precedence over any other rules concerning conduct of the show and participation therein. (1) Extenuating circumstances or concern for safety may require modification of the show rules or operating procedures by the executive committee. (2) It is the responsibility of the exhibitor's parent or guardian to determine if he/she is able to participate/compete safely. (3) Show management reserves the right to alter or modify any contest procedures, obstacles, patterns, or rules in this book for safety concerns, show facility restrictions or other mitigating circumstances. (4) Show management reserves the right to refuse an exhibitor entry into any class or event if they deem that entry unsafe for the exhibitor and/or exhibitors or animals. With the exhibitor's safety in mind, any activity or situation deemed unsafe can, and will, be stopped by show management and may result in disqualification from that class, contest, or Southern Regional competition.
2. Each state may send seventy (70) horses/equids to the show, plus two (2) judging teams, two (2) public speakers, two (2) team presentations, two (2) individual presentations, two (2) hippology teams, and two (2) horse bowl teams for the contest at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships.
3. Criteria for eligibility of contestants are determined by the state from which contestants come. However, all contestants must be bona fide 4-H Club members.
4. Stallions are not allowed to be shown at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships.
5. All entries must be submitted to the state 4-H leader or Extension horse specialist for certification and forwarded to the Southern Regional Championship Show Manager.
6. The Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships have a no refund policy. Refunds may be allowed for extenuating circumstances as petitioned by the specialists at the meeting held prior to the start of the show. Requests must be made to the State Horse Specialist, who then submits the request along with documentation to the present Southern Regional Show Manager and committee.
7. Two or more riders may compete on the same horse. However, in no situation may a contestant or a horse be entered in the same class more than once.
8. One horse/exhibitor combination may enter only one Conformation class and one Ground Handling/Showmanship class. A horse may not enter both trotting and non-trotting classes. Horse/exhibitor combinations may not enter both Western Pleasure and Ranch Rail. Horse/exhibitor combinations may enter both Trail classes (Western and Ranch), and any combination of Dressage classes (Western, Training and First Level).
9. **When an exhibitor or exhibitor's parent, guardian, leader or agent is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or misbehavior during the course of the event in or out of the area, the show management may suspend such exhibitor's right to participate in future classes and/or events as deemed appropriate. The show management's and/or judge's decision shall be final and may not be protested.**



10. Research has shown that health complications, such as heat stress, stress of traveling, and showing can be exacerbated at low body condition scores. Due to concerns for animal welfare and the objective of 4-H to educate and promote quality animal husbandry; horses, ponies and/or mules shall not be shown at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Show with a body condition score of less than 4 based on the Henneke scale (ribs easily discernible, tops of spinous process easily discernible, tailhead prominent with hook bones easily discernible, withers accentuated, and neck obviously thin). If you have questions about the body condition score of your horse, or if you are not sure your horse will pass inspection, please contact your State Horse Specialist before the regional show. Three people from the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship Welfare Committee will assess animals in question. If there is a thin horse, the committee will make a final decision whether or not to disqualify the animal.

Horse Body Condition Scores and Descriptions <i>(Adapted from Henneke et al., 1983)</i>	
Score Condition Description	
1 - Poor	Animal extremely emaciated. Spinal vertebrae, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks project prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.
2 - Very Thin	Animal emaciated. Slight fat covering over the base of spinal vertebrae; transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, and point of hip and point of buttocks prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structures faintly discernible.
3 - Thin	Fat built up about halfway on the spinal vertebrae; transverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernible; tailhead prominent, but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; point of buttocks appear rounded but easily discernible; point of hip not distinguishable; withers, shoulders, and neck accentuated.
4 - Moderately Thin	Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernible; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, but fat can be felt around it; point of hip not discernible; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.
5 - Moderate	Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinal vertebrae; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.
6 - Moderate to Fleshy	May be slight crease down back; fat over ribs spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along the side of withers, behind shoulders, and along the sides of neck.
7 - Fleshy	May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but there is noticeable fat between ribs; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.
8 - Fat	Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.

9 - Extremely Fat	Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing over ribs; bulging fat around tailhead, along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck; fat along inner thighs may cause them to rub together; flank filled with fat.
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11. Abuse or Abusive Equipment Rules: The judge or designated show officials have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/their opinion is unsafe, tends to give unfair advantage or is deemed inhumane. Inhumane treatment of a horse identified by show personnel or the SR4HHC Welfare Committee at any time during the Southern Regional Championships on any location on the show grounds may result in disqualification, dismissal and suspension from further participation in Southern Regional classes subject to approval of Southern Regional Horse Specialist Executive Committee. Any horse receiving inhumane treatment while exhibiting may be dismissed upon the discretion of the judge or show official appointed by Southern Regional Specialist Committee. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which the show management committee rules a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive or inhumane in accordance with AQHA and USEF.
12. No rerun will be given to any contestant if handicapped by failure of personal equipment or accident to horse or rider. Failure of timer or similar other equipment will void any first run and another run will be given, regardless of circumstances of first run, at the discretion of the management.
13. In the event of a tie in a timed class, the contestant declared the winner in a runoff must run the pattern in not more than two seconds over his original time or the runoff must be held again. Ties for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in judged events will be worked off. Ties below 3rd place will be broken at the discretion of the judge and show committee. Any points involved on ties will be evenly split between the tied contestants.
14. All horses must have health certificates meeting the requirements of the state in which the show is held.
15. Chemical stimulants, depressants and caustic agents are prohibited and will result in disqualification. All horses are subject to testing.
16. The judge shall examine and check for lameness all horses brought into any class. This is essential regardless of whether or not the competition indicates it is necessary. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification at the discretion of the judge.
17. An official of the show may check the appointments of each horse and exhibitor. However, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to be aware of all rules and enter the arena with the proper tack and attire. An official may request removal or alteration of any equipment deemed inappropriate prior to the judging of the class. Participants exhibiting with illegal appointments shall be disqualified at the discretion of the judge.
18. The management of this show reserves the right to determine the number of horses that will be brought back to any semifinals, finals or workout unless that number has been previously determined.
19. In all classes (with the exception of Hunter Showmanship, Western Showmanship, and Western Horsemanship), scored or timed, where there is a second run or pattern, final placings will be based on cumulative scores or times. In Hunter Showmanship, Western Showmanship, and Western Horsemanship, exhibitors will have a clean slate in the finals and the scores will not be

cumulative.

20. With everyone's safety in mind, all timed events will run to a closed gate. However, no assistance will be allowed past the arena gate in the Barrel Race, Pole Bending, Stake Race and Goat Tying.
21. For any Showmanship, Ground Handling, Horsemanship and Equitation class with a preliminary and finals pattern, scores for each competitor will be announced or displayed after completion of their preliminary pattern. Scores for the finals pattern will not be announced or displayed. For all other scored classes, score sheets will be posted at the conclusion of the class. For Speed Event classes, times will be announced or displayed. All announced or displayed scores or times are unofficial and only those scores on the judges' cards and show books are official.
22. Protests: All problems, complaints or protests from individuals should be taken to the state specialist, who will present the problem to the Executive Committee or entire specialist group as needed. The judge's decision shall be final and may not be protested. Protests must be filed by the 4-H member, parent, or legal guardian. A formal protest form must be filled out at the office and must be accompanied by \$100 in cash prior to the beginning of the next class.
23. All heats and all working orders will be drawn at random. Working order will be in the official show program or posted ahead of the class. In classes with drawn working orders, horses will work in that order or forfeit their right to compete in that class. The show management reserves the right to change the working orders or class schedules if extenuating circumstances warrant. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to alert show management of any conflicts with the working orders.
24. With the exhibitors' safety in mind, horse show managers and the Executive Committee shall decide on policies of entering and leaving the arena in timed events.
25. In Western Horsemanship, Gaited Equitation, and Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat (finals only), individual patterns will be completed prior to rail work. Scoring will be based on a numerical scale. Judging emphasis will be on precision and execution of pattern work, and demonstrated horsemanship/equitation. Ties are to be broken on rail work. Additional pattern work may be requested in finals or semifinals. When more than one pattern is utilized, all scores are cumulative.
26. In Showmanship additional pattern work may be requested in finals or semifinals. Finals are a clean slate finals.
27. For any judged class in which a pattern or course is utilized (preliminaries and/or finals), the judge or show management shall post any pattern(s) to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class. If pattern books are distributed to contestants, the responsibility of posting patterns has been met. However, patterns should still be posted to alert exhibitors of changes or to confirm there are no changes. If the judge requires additional work of exhibitors for consideration of final placing, the pattern will not be posted.
28. Exhibitors may wear safety attire in any class without judging discrimination. The Southern Regional 4-H Horse Program encourages the use of safety vests in all classes. Each state may require and enforce more stringent safety attire during the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships.
29. **All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fastened American Standard for Testing Materials (ASTM) / Safety Equipment Institutes (SEI) approved protective headgear when mounted on a horse. Helmet use is required when mounted AT ALL TIMES on the show grounds, including all performance classes and divisions. Additionally, this policy is in effect in**

**the show pen as well as ALL warm-up/practice pens and on the show grounds when mounted. Violation of this policy may result in disqualification from the show and/or removal from show grounds.**

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the exhibitor, to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrians' use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Southern Regional Show Committee and officials are not responsible for checking appropriateness of headgear worn.

\*The Southern Regional Show Committee and officials make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear because all equestrian sports involve inherently dangerous risks and no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.

30. In all classes, failure to wear the correct exhibitor number (either on the back only OR on both sides of the saddle pad only) will result in a disqualification in that specific class.
31. Only exhibitors of 4-H age may mount and ride horses being shown during the course of the horse show, which starts when the horse is checked in by the stable management crew. If a parent, coach, leader, or other non-4-H age individual mounts the horse on the show grounds for any length of time, the exhibitor, the rider and horse will be disqualified from further participation in the horse show.
32. It is not allowable for exhibitors to wear electronic devices, including but not limited to, GoPro Camera, earpieces, cell phones, etc., during competition, with the exception of medical devices.

## HORSE SHOW AWARDS

### High Point and Reserve High Point Rules and Guidelines

One high point individual (champion) and one reserve high point individual (reserve champion) award will be selected in each of the Western, Hunter, Gaited Horse, Ranch Horse, and Speed Event Divisions.

Points in each of these categories will be accumulated on a one-horse, one-rider basis from the exhibitor's four highest placings in performance classes.

In a case of ties for High Point or Reserve High Point, the following priority order will be used to determine who receives the award:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tiebreaker: Points earned in the greatest number of up to four possible classes.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tiebreaker: Most points earned in all riding classes (all division classes except Showmanship).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tie Breaker: Points earned in the greatest number of classes (out of all division classes).
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tie Breaker: Total number of horses placed over in any one division class.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tiebreaker: The horse with the highest placings in division classes.

### Divisions and Classes that are used to calculate Highpoint and Reserve Highpoint

- Western High/Reserve High Point
  - #7 – Western Showmanship
  - #17 - Western Pleasure
  - #18 - Western Horsemanship

- #19 - Western Riding
- #20 - Western Trail
- Ranch High/Reserve High Point:
  - #9 - Ranch Ground handling
  - #11- Ranch Roping
  - #12 - Working Cow Horse (Boxing Only)
  - #13 - Ranch Reining
  - #14 - Ranch Riding
  - #15 - Ranch Trail
  - #16 - Ranch Rail
- Hunter High/Reserve High Point:
  - #10 - Hunter Showmanship
  - #28 - Hunter Under Saddle
  - #29- Hunt Seat Equitation
  - #30 - Working Hunter
  - #31 - Equitation Over Fences
  - #32- Hunter Hack
- Gaited High/Reserve High Point:
  - #8 – Gaited Showmanship
  - #25 - Gaited Equitation
  - #26 or 27 - Gaited Pleasure classes (Walking or Non-Walking)
- Speed Events High/Reserve High Point:
  - #21 - Pole Bending
  - #22 - Barrel Racing
  - #23 - Stake Race
  - #24 - Goat Tying
- Dressage High/Reserve High Point:
  - #33- Dressage Training Level
  - #34 - Dressage First Level
  - #35 - Western Dressage

Classes that **do not count** toward High Point or Reserve High Point

- #1 - Stock Type Mares
- #2 - Stock Type Geldings
- #3 - Hunter Type Mares
- #4 - Hunter Type Geldings
- #5 - Gaited Mares
- #6 - Gaited Geldings

### **How Points Are Awarded**

Each of the first 10 horses in a class will be given one point for each horse placing below it, plus one point: Points not to exceed 10 for first place.

1. Horses not placing in the top 10 in a class will not receive points for that class.
2. The number of horses in a class will be determined by the number actually shown.
3. Under no circumstances shall a disqualified contestant receive points; however, all horses brought

into the ring will constitute an entry and will be counted.

	Number of Horses in a class										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1st	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Points awarded per placing
2nd		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
3rd			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
4th				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5th					1	2	3	4	5	6	
6th						1	2	3	4	5	
7th							1	2	3	4	
8th								1	2	3	
9th									1	2	
10th										1	

## EDUCATIONAL CONTEST AWARDS

### 1. Horse Judging Contest

- A. Individual awards will be given to the top 10 individuals in the halter phase, performance phase, reasons phase, and overall.
- B. Team awards will be given to the top 5 teams in the halter phase, performance phase, reasons phase, and the top 10 teams in overall.

### 2. Horse Bowl

- A. Awards given to top 10 overall teams and top 10 overall individuals

### 3. Team and Individual Presentations and Public Speaking

- A. Awards will be given to the first 10 placings in team overall and first 10 placings in individual overall presentations and public speaking.

### 4. Hippology

- A. Awards will be given to the top 10 individuals in the written phase, stations phase, judging phase, and overall.
- B. Team awards will be given to the top 5 teams in the written phase, stations phase, judging phase, and team problems phase. The top 10 teams in Overall will receive awards.



# CONFORMATION and SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

## CONFORMATION OR IN-HAND CLASSES

1. Horses will be judged according to respective breed standards on conformation, condition, structural defects, soundness and way of going at the discretion of the judge.
2. Horses to be judged individually while standing, at a walk and trot (or favorite gait) on the line.
3. Horses must be shown in halters with throat latches made of leather or other suitable material. In Hunter and Gaited classes, horse may be shown in halter or bridle.
4. Whips or bats of any type are not permitted in hunter type and stock type classes. Whips less than 4' in length, including the popper, are permitted in gaited classes. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited.
5. Horses will be handled and shown by one 4-H member only.
6. Horses should enter the ring as specified by the official. Subsequent procedures will be as directed by the judge and/or ring steward.

## SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES (Hunter, Western, and Gaited)

1. Exhibitor and equipment:
  - A. Personal appearance of 4-H member: neat, clean, well-groomed, attentive, courteous and in appropriate attire for their discipline.
  - B. Equipment:
    - (1) Hunter: Clean, adjusted and acceptable hunter bridle or halter.
    - (2) Gaited: Clean, adjusted halter (English or western style halter)
    - (3) Western: Clean, adjusted halter to fit the horse. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters.
    - (4) All divisions: Crops, bats, dressage whips etc. will not be allowed. War bridles or like devices, or any type of wire or rope over a horse's head will not be allowed.
2. Horse (Fitting and Grooming):
  - A. The horse should be clean, well-groomed and fitted for its type.
  - B. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.
3. Method of Showing (Showmanship):
  - A. Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse
    - (1) The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.
    - (2) Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The

exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge. The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.

- (3) Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead strap or bridle reins. The excess lead shank/bridle reins must be carried in the left hand at all times and the lead shank/bridle reins must not be wrapped around either hand. It is acceptable to either figure-8 or loose coil the excess lead shank/bridle reins in the left hand. It is preferable that the exhibitor's hand not be on the snap or chain portion of the lead continuously. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.
- (4) Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.
- (5) The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.
- (6) When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the exhibitors left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg.

(7) When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the horse. The exhibitor is required to use the Quarter Method when presenting the horse and maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. That position should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position at all times. The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail. When moving around the horse, exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

(8) Presentation of Horse

- a. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed. The hair coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. For the Hunter and Western divisions, the mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments (ribbons, bows, etc.), but may be braided or banded as appropriate. For the Gaited Division ribbons are optional and may be either clipped or braided into mane. The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The mane should be even in length or may be roached, but the forelock\* and tuft over the withers must be left. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped, except where government regulations prohibit.
- b. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may be painted black or with hoof dressings, or shown naturally.
- c. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

**4. CLASS PROCEDURES:** All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually

from the gate, a working order is required. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot; back in a straight or curved line; a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ), 180 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), 270 ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

#### **A. Pattern Performance**

- (1) The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reason-able amount of speed. Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty, however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.
- (2) The horse should be led directly to and away from the judge in a straight or curved line and track briskly and freely at the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.
- (3) The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.
- (4) The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.
- (5) On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.
- (6) A pull turn to the left is an unacceptable maneuver.
- (7) The horse should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a horse that stops square

5. **SCORING:** Exhibitors are to 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, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to -3 with  $\frac{1}{2}$  point increments acceptable that will be added or 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 the form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of the 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

#### **A. Faults**

- (1) Three (3) points
  - a. Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
  - b. Over or under turning up to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a turn
  - c. Ticking or hitting cone
  - d. Sliding a pivot foot
  - e. Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot or set-up and replacing it in the same place
  - f. Lifting a foot in a set-up and replacing it in the same place after presentation
- (2) Five (5) points
  - a. Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
  - b. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides

- c. Splitting the cone (cone between the horse and exhibitor)
- d. Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn
- e. Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation
- f. Horse resting a foot or hipshot in a set-up
- g. Over or under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn

(3) Ten (10) points

- a. Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- b. Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- c. Standing directly in front of the horse
- d. Loss of lead shank, holding chain or two hands on shank
- e. Blatant disobedience including kicking, rearing or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor
- f. Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn more than one time

(4) Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:

- a. Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses, or judge
- b. Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
- c. Failure to display correct number
- d. Willful abuse
- e. Excessive schooling or training; use of artificial aids
- f. Illegal equipment
- g. Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

## RANCH GROUND HANDLING, Procedures and Scoring System

1. 4-H member and equipment:

A. Personal appearance of 4-H member: neat, clean, well-groomed, attentive, and courteous. Shirts with collar and long sleeves are required, along with western boots and western hat or approved helmet.

B. Equipment:

Halters only. Halters and leads may be rope, nylon, or plain leather (no silver). Lead ropes may not have chain. No training sticks or aids are permitted.

2. This class tests the handler's ability to communicate with the horse from the ground by judging a series of maneuvers that require the horse to yield to pressure – forward, backward, and laterally. Maneuvers are selected to be realistic in their application to everyday training. Exhibitor movements should be workmanlike and efficient, and the horse should be obedient and cooperative. Evaluating safe and effective ground handling will take priority to the quality of attire or tack.

3. Each exhibitor will perform a pattern that will consist of no less than seven (7) of the maneuvers listed below. 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).

A. Square horse for inspection; judge will only walk in front of the horse.

B. Lead the horse at a walk, jog/trot (or favorite gait for gaited horses only), or back in a straight or curved\* line, or a combination of straight and curved\* lines. *\*Curve = any non-straight line including, but not limited to: any change of direction from gradual turns to distinct turns, circles or portions of circles, or multiple curves to create a shape.*

C. Extension of walk or trot.

D. Stop

E. Answer questions from the judge

F. Pivots, moving the forehand up to 270°

G. Move the hindquarters, up to 270° (turn on forehand)

H. Step away from the horse to the end of the lead while horse remains still

I. Lower the horse's head (pulling down on the lead or pressure on the poll)

J. Demonstrate a sidepass

K. Back the horse while handler remains stationary

L. Send the horse in a circle (either direction), around a marker, or over a pole.

4. Poles, barrels, and cones may be used as markers to define maneuver locations and/or parameters. However, the pattern should not take on the appearance of an "In-hand Trail" class. Hitting/touching/moving these objects will not be scored as penalties, but taken into account when scoring the handler's abilities.

5. 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). Exhibitors may touch the horse to initiate any lateral movement and when asked to lower the horse's head. The judge will recognize added degree of difficulty of not touching the horse and this will be reflected in the maneuver score.

6. 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 -3 to +3 with ½ point increments in between. In addition to the maneuver score, exhibitors can incur penalty points as listed below.

## 7. Penalties

A. One-half (½) point

(1) Break of gait (walk or trot) up to 1 full stride

B. One (1) point

(1) Touching horse other than when allowed. It is acceptable to touch the horse to sidepass, move the hindquarters, and lower the head.

(2) Horse moving 1 step during any portion when it should be standing still

C. Two (2) points

(1) Freeze up: complete loss of forward, backward or lateral movement within a maneuver

(2) Break of gait (walk or trot) for more than 1 full stride

(3) Horse moving more than 1 step during any portion when it should be standing still (4) Stepping out of obstacle or over any unintended pole (or other obstacle marker) with one foot, accruing with each additional step

(5) Use of hand on halter in any manner

(6) Touching horse with lead (first offense)

- (7) Incorrect or incomplete answer to the judge's question
- (8) Artificial or overdone showing

D. Five (5) points

- (1) Inappropriate Body condition score: Clearly below a 4 or clearly above a 7
- (2) Balking, continued spooking, kicking, biting, rearing, striking
- (3) Failure to complete a maneuver
- (4) Touching horse with end of lead (second offense)

E. Zero (0) score

- (1) Off pattern
- (2) Consistent lameness
- (3) Illegal attire
- (4) Illegal tack
- (5) Abuse
- (6) Off Pattern

## WESTERN DIVISION

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**PERSONAL:** All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet with a fastened chin harness the entire time the exhibitor is mounted. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, or the parents or guardian or trainer of exhibitor, to ensure compliance. Clothing must be clean and neat. Boots and shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required. Spurs, chaps or similar equipment are optional. Contestants must wear western hats or helmets when showing in hand. No ball caps will be allowed in any class in the Western Division.

**TACK:** Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle, but silver tack equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A snaffle, curb, half-breed or spade bit is permissible; but a martingale, tie-down or nose band is prohibited. No wire curbs, regardless of how taped, nor chin strap narrower than ½ inch will be permitted. Chain curbs are permissible but must be of the standard flat variety with no twist and must meet the approval of the judge. A hackamore or snaffle may be used only on horses or ponies five years of age or younger in Western events. "Hackamore" means that a horse will be ridden **ONLY** with a rawhide braided or leather braided or rope bosal. The core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which includes a tie-rein. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or taped. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited except in Roping or speed events. A judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which in his opinion would give a horse an unfair advantage. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in Western Horsemanship and Western Riding.

**BITS:** Snaffle bits used in western performance classes must be conventional egg-butt, O-ring or D-ring type with a ring diameter no larger than 4 inches. The mouthpiece must be round and smooth and constructed of unwrapped metal. If the mouthpiece is inlaid, it must be smooth or latex wrapped. The bars of the bit must measure at least 5/16 inches when measured 1 inch from the cheek. A gradual decrease toward the center of the bit is permissible. The mouthpiece may be of two or three pieces with either a connecting ring or a flat bar being the center. If the ring structure is used it must be no larger than 1 1/4 inches in diameter; if the connecting piece is a flat bar, it can be no longer than 2 inches and must measure 3/8 inches to 3/4 inches top to bottom. Both connecting ring and flat bar must lie in the

horse's mouth.

Curb bits are those bits that have shanks used for leverage. The mouthpiece may be either smooth or broken. The bit must be free of mechanical devices. The length of the shank must not exceed 8 ½ inches measured from the upper inside of the top ring (where the headstall attaches) to the center of the bottom ring (where the reins attach). The bars of the curb bit must be round, smooth and unwrapped metal at least 5/16 inches and no larger than 3/4 inches in diameter when measured 1 inch from the cheek. If the mouthpiece is solid, nothing may protrude below the bar. If the mouthpiece is made of two or three pieces, a connecting ring 1 1/4 inch or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 inches - 3/4 inches (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2 inches), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. The maximum height of the port on a curb bit is 3 ½ inches measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port (this includes any extensions that might be added to the port).

Slip bits, gag bits, donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.

Reins shall be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance, unless a horse or pony five years of age or younger is being shown in either a snaffle bit or bosal. If showing with one hand on the reins, the free hand shall not be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle.

Contestants must use split reins or romal. Roping reins are not permitted. Only one finger between split reins is permissible. No finger is permitted between the reins when using a romal.

Horses or ponies five years of age or younger may be shown with both hands on reins in all western division classes in accordance with the following rules:

1. Horses to be shown in standard, plain or silver headstalls (browband, shaped ear or split ear). Smooth snaffle bit with broken mouthpiece (conventional O-ring, egg butt or D-ring).
2. Reins to be attached above the curb strap.
3. Standard, leather or woven, split reins are mandatory with a snaffle bit.
4. A rawhide braided, leather braided or rope bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit, with no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation. Bosal use must include a complete mecate rein.
5. All entries with a hackamore/snaffle bit must be shown with both hands on reins, maintaining light contact with horse's mouth.

## **WESTERN PLEASURE**

1. Horses are shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. Horses may be required to reverse at the walk or jog and may be required to go from any gait to any other gait at the discretion of the judge. For safety of the contestants, a reverse at the lope shall not be called. An extended lope will not be called. A moderate extension of the jog may be called for.

2. The judge shall have the right to ask for additional work from any horse. Additional work shall be related to the utility of the horse.
3. The judge may ask that only finalists be backed.
4. Horses are to be reversed to the center of the arena.
5. Large numbers in this class will necessitate elimination heats to accommodate all horses. The suggested maximum number is 15 horses in each heat.
6. Any portion of a class or heat may be placed on the rail for extra work by the judge at any time.
7. At no time shall the fault-out system be used which results in a contestant being eliminated individually. Instead, a more positive approach should be used, with winners being announced and the remainder of the class being dismissed from the arena as a group or recognized individually as finalists. Individual horses will not be pulled off the rail while the class is being judged.
8. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at the discretion of the judge.
9. Horses entered in this class may not enter Ranch Rail.

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

1. The Western Horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with the 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. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.
2. **CLASS PROCEDURES:** All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern: walk, jog, trot, extended trot, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle or figure 8, or combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop; back in a straight or curved line; turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand; side pass, two-track or leg-yield; flying or simple change of lead; counter-canter; or any other maneuver; or ride without stirrups. A back should be asked for at some time during the class. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

Pattern(s) should be designed to test the horseman's ability. Individual patterns will be completed prior to rail work. Further pattern work may be requested in finals. If the judge requires additional work of exhibitors for consideration of final placing, the pattern may or may not be posted. Placing of ties or close scores may be adjusted on rail work as appropriate. Scores are not cumulative and finals are run as a clean slate.



### 3. Scoring:

A. Exhibitors are to 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, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to -3 with  $\frac{1}{2}$  point increments acceptable that will be added or 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 the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor 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. Exhibitor's overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

#### B. Penalties

(1) Three (3) points

- a. Break of gait at the walk or jog up to 2 strides
- b. Over or under turn from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn
- c. Tick or hit of cone

(2) Five (5) points

- a. Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
- b. Incorrect lead or break of gait at the lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- c. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- d. Loss of stirrup
- e. Bottom of boot not touching pad of stirrup at all gaits including backup
- f. Obviously looking down to check leads
- g. Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation

(3) Ten (10) points

- a. Loss of rein
- b. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work
- c. Holding saddle with either hand
- d. Cueing with the end of the romal
- e. Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing
- f. Spurring in front of the cinch

(4) Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:

- a. Failure to display correct number
- b. Abuse of horse or schooling
- c. Fall by horse or exhibitor
- d. Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins
- e. Use of prohibited equipment
- f. Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn

4. Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse: The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance, and position throughout the class as well as the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

## A. Presentation and Position of Exhibitor

(1) Appropriate western attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean.

(2) The exhibitor should appear natural in the seat and ride with a balanced, functional, and correct position regardless of the maneuver or gait being performed. During the rail work and pattern, the exhibitor should have strong, secure, and proper position. Exhibitors should sit and maintain an upright position with the upper body at all gaits.

(3) The rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. The heels should be lower than the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly under the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed, and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched lower back will be penalized. The shoulders should be back, level, and square. The rider's base of support should maintain secure contact with the saddle from the seat to the inner thigh. Light contact should be maintained with the saddle and horse from the knee to mid-calf. The knee should point forward and remain closed with no space between the exhibitor's knee and the saddle. The exhibitor will be penalized for positioning the legs excessively behind or forward of the vertical position. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. The rider's toes should be pointing straight ahead or slightly turned out with the ankles straight or slightly broken in. Riding with toes only in the stirrup will be penalized. Those exhibitors that can maintain the proper position throughout all maneuvers should receive more credit. When riding without stirrups, the exhibitor should maintain the same position as previously described. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

(4) The rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Excessive turning of the head to the inside of the circle, or down at the horse's head or shoulder will be penalized.

(5) The exhibitor should not crowd the exhibitor next to or in front of them when working on the rail and should pass to the inside of the arena. When reversing on the rail, the exhibitor should always reverse to the inside of the arena.

## B. Presentation of Horse

(1) The horse's body condition and overall health and fitness should be assessed. The horse should appear fit and carry weight appropriate for the body size. A horse which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired

should be penalized according to severity.

(2) Tack should fit the horse properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

## 5. Performance

- A. The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of promptness. Increasing speed of the maneuvers performed increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. Exhibitors that perform the pattern sluggishly and allow their horse to move without adequate impulsion, collection or cadence will be penalized.
- B. The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones, excessive schooling or training, or willful abuse by the exhibitor is cause for disqualification.
- C. The horse should track straight, freely and at the proper cadence for the prescribed gait. Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern and on the rail, and should be performed when called for on the rail. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with its body while performing straight lines and slightly arched to the inside on curved lines or circles. Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern. The counter-canter should be performed smoothly with no change in cadence or stride unless specified in the pattern.
- D. The stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver. The back should be smooth and responsive.
- E. Turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the horse should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs. A rollback is a stop and 180 degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely.
- F. The horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the sidepass, leg yield and two-track. The sidepass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction. When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arched opposite to the direction that the horse is moving. In the two-track, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.
- G. A simple or flying change of lead should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple change of lead is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three strides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.
- H. Position of the exhibitor and performance of the horse and rider on the rail must be considered in the final placing.

## WESTERN RIDING

1. Western Riding is an event where the horse is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes at the lope, response to the rider, manners and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving.
2. Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits (starting and finishing pattern with the same cadence), and the horse's ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously both hind and front at the center point between markers. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll. Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. The horse should cross the log both at the jog and the lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.
3. The judge will select one of the current AQHA Western Riding Patterns (not including the Level 1 Western Riding patterns) to be performed. The judge is responsible for the pattern being correctly set.
4. On the pattern:
  - A. The eight small circles represent pylon markers which are recommended. These should be separated by a uniform measured distance of not less than 30 feet or more than 50 feet on the sides with five markers (see diagram). In pattern one, the three markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers. It is recommended that markers be set a minimum of 15 feet from the fence and with 50 to 80 feet width in the pattern, as the arena permits.
  - B. A solid log or pole should be used and be a minimum of 8 feet in length.
  - C. The long serpentine line indicates the direction of travel and gaits at which the horse is to move. The shaded area represents the lead changing area between the markers. The dotted line (...) indicates walk, the dash line (---) jog and the solid line (\_\_\_) lope.
  - D. A cone shall be placed along the wall or rail of the arena to designate where the exhibitor should initiate the walk. The on-deck exhibitor should not go to the start-cone until the contestant on pattern has cleared the working area by the start cone for the final time.
5. Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
  - A. Scoring guidelines to be considered: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus 1.5 to minus 1.5: -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 average, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.
6. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:
  - A. Five (5) points
    - (1) Out of lead beyond the next designated change area (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two five (5) point penalties).

(2) Blatant disobedience including kicking out, biting, rearing, and bucking

B. Three (3) points

- (1) Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or not stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet of the designated area
- (2) Simple change of leads
- (3) Out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area
- (4) Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
- (5) In pattern one, failure to start the lope within 30 feet after crossing the log at the jog
- (6) Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
- (7) Break of gait at the lope

C. One (1) point

- (1) Hitting or rolling log
- (2) Out of lead for more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers
- (3) Splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope
- (4) Break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides

D. One-half (½) point

- (1) Tick or light touch of log
- (2) Hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change
- (3) Non-simultaneous lead change (front to hind or hind to front)

E. Disqualified - 0 score

- (1) Illegal equipment
- (2) Willful abuse
- (3) Off course
- (4) Knocking over markers
- (5) Completely missing log
- (6) Major refusal - stop and back more than 2 strides or 4 steps with front legs
- (7) Major disobedience or schooling
- (8) Failure to start lope prior to end cone in pattern #1
- (9) Failure to start lope within 30 feet of designated area in patterns 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- (10) Four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads
- (11) Overturn of more than 1/4 turn
- (12) Faults, which will be cause for disqualification: head carried too low (tip of ear below withers consistently), over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

F. Credits

- (1) Changes of leads, hind and front simultaneously
- (2) Change of lead near the center point of the lead change area
- (3) Accurate and smooth pattern
- (4) Even pace throughout
- (5) Easy to guide and control with rein and leg
- (6) Manners and disposition
- (7) Conformation and fitness

G. The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly in maneuver scores:

- (1) Opening mouth excessively
- (2) Anticipating signals
- (3) Stumbling
- (4) Head carried too high
- (5) Head carried too low (tip of ear below the wither)
- (6) Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- (7) Excessive nosing out

## **WESTERN TRAIL**

1. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider, and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
2. Horse shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.
3. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, and lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
4. Open to all horses and ponies. Standard tack and attire for the Western division. Hands on reins may be changed. No tie-downs or martingales. The class will have no rail work. Horses may be asked to walk, jog (intermediate gait) and lope between obstacles.
5. Contestants will work in an assigned order of go. No work-offs or finals. Penalty score and/or certain obstacles will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected by the judge prior to the beginning of the competition.
6. Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 1/2: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, + 1 very good, + 1 ½ excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

7. The following deductions will result:

A. One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) point

- (1) Each tick of log, pole, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle

B. One (1) Point

- (1) Each bite of or hit of or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle
- (2) Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog (trot/gait) for two strides or less
- (3) Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog
- (4) Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- (5) Split pole in lope-over
- (6) Incorrect number of strides, if specified

C. Three (3) point

- (1) Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog (trot/gait) for more than 2 strides
- (2) Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- (3) Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- (4) Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- (5) Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- (6) Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

D. Five (5) point

- (1) Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course
- (2) First or second cumulative refusal, balk, evading an obstacle by shying or backing
- (3) Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate
- (4) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
- (5) Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- (6) Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- (7) Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- (8) Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
- (9) Holding saddle with either hand

E. Faults, which occur on the line of travel between obstacles, scored according to severity:

- (1) head carried too high
- (2) head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.
- (3) opening mouth excessively

F. Disqualified 0-Score

- (1) Use of two hands or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins (except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle)

- (2) Use of romal other than as outlined in AQHA rulebook
- (3) Performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order
- (4) No attempt to perform an obstacle
- (5) Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
- (6) Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head
- (7) Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction
- (8) Working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn
- (9) Riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area
- (10) Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing
- (11) Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as designated
- (12) Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles
- (13) Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.
- (14) Failure to open & shut gate; failure to complete gate.

8. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog (at least 30') and lope (at least 50') for the judges to evaluate these gaits.

9. If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire obstacle.

10. At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

#### A. Mandatory Obstacles:

- (1) Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. (Losing control of the gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.
- (2) Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block, or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trot-overs, and lope-overs should be as follows or increments thereof.
  - a. The spacing for walkovers shall be 20" to 24" (40cm to 60cm) and may be elevated to 12" (30cm). Elevated walkovers should be at least 22" (55cm) apart.
  - b. The spacing for trot-overs shall be 3' to 3'6" (90-105cm) and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
  - c. The spacing for lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' (1.8-2.1m) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8" (20cm).
- (3) Backing obstacle. Backing obstacles to be spaced a minimum of 28" (70cm). If



elevated, 30" (75cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.

- a. Back through and around at least three markers.
- b. Back through L, V, U, straight, or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24" (60cm).

B. Optional Obstacles, but not limited to:

- (1) Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes to be used.
- (2) Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' (1.8m) for jog.
- (3) Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.)
- (4) Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36" (90cm) wide and at least six feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
- (5) Put on and remove a slicker.
- (6) Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
- (7) Side pass (may be elevated to 12" (30cm) maximum).
- (8) An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5' to 7' long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
- (9) Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
- (10) A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.

C. Unacceptable Obstacles:

- (1) Tires
- (2) Animals
- (3) Hides
- (4) PVC Pipe
- (5) Dismounting
- (6) Jumps
- (7) Rocking or moving bridges
- (8) Water box with floating or moving parts
- (9) Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
- (10) Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll.
- (11) Ground ties

- 11. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.

# RANCH HORSE DIVISION

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

**PERSONAL:** All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet with a fastened chin harness the entire time the exhibitor is mounted. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, or the parents or guardian or trainer of exhibitor, to ensure compliance.

Clothing should be clean and neat. Shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required along with Western boots.

**TACK:** Western saddles will be used. Ranch working equipment is recommended but show equipment will not be penalized. Bits will mirror the Western division with the exception of allowing mecate reins with horses 5 and under ridden in a snaffle.

Bosals and Snaffle Bits can be used in any class, given the horse is 5 years old and younger.

Split, Roping, Romals, or Roping reins may be used in **all** Ranch Horse Classes. If using a curb bit, the reins **must** be held in one hand but may be held in any manner.

The judge or appointed equipment official may prohibit the use of bits or equipment considered to be severe. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are only allowed in Ranch Reining and Working Cowhorse. Nothing should be worn on the horse's legs in Ranch Riding, Ranch Trial, Ranch Rail, and Ranch Roping.

Banded or braided manes and tail extensions are not allowed in any Ranch division class.

## **RANCH REINING**

1. The ranch reining class measures the ability of the stock horse to perform basic handling maneuvers. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or other approved patterns by the show management and judge.
2. 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 degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting a pleasing to watch.

### **3. SCORING:**

Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100, with the run beginning with a score of 70 points. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments from a low of -1 ½ to a

high of +1 ½ with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Pluses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.

All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time.

#### 4. PENALTIES:

##### A. One-half (1/2) Penalties:

- (1) starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides
- (2) delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description
- (3) failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back
- (4) over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn

##### B. One (1) Point Penalties:

- (1) over-bridled (per maneuver)
- (2) out of frame (per maneuver)
- (3) 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)
- (4) over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- (5) slipping rein

##### C. Two (2) Point Penalties:

- (1) break of gait
- (2) freeze up in spins or roll-backs
- (3) failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns
- (4) failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns
- (5) failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position
- (6) trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena

##### D. Five (5) Point Penalties:

- (1) spurring in front of cinch
- (2) blatant disobedience (including kicking, biting, bucking and rearing)
- (3) use of either hand to instill fear/praise

##### E. Off-Pattern (OP): Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

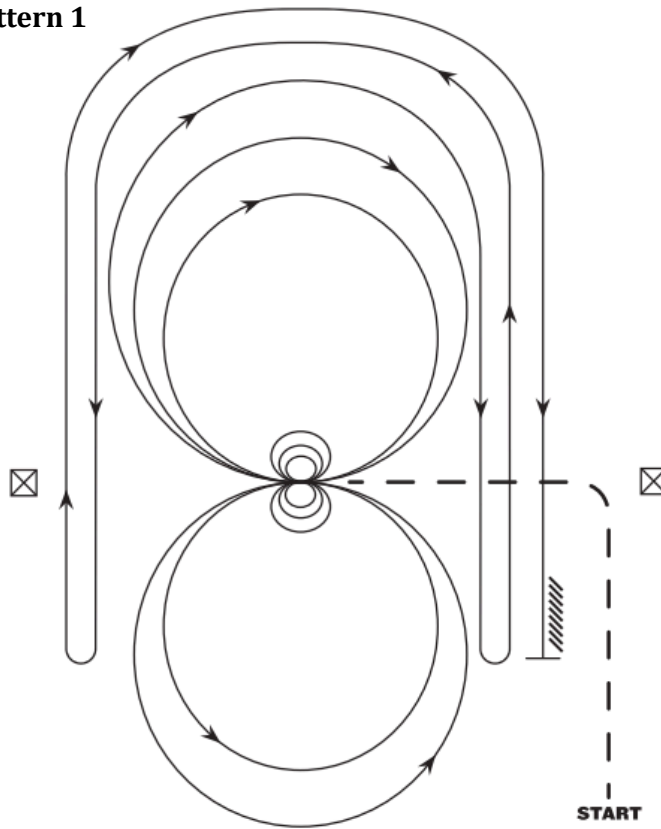
- (1) breaking pattern
- (2) inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.)

- (3) trotting in excess of 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena
- (4) repeated blatant disobedience
- (5) use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore)

F. Disqualification (DQ):

- (1) Lameness
- (2) Abuse
- (3) illegal equipment
- (4) disrespect or misconduct
- (5) leaving arena before pattern is complete
- (6) improper western attire
- (7) fall of horse/rider

**Ranch Reining Pattern 1**

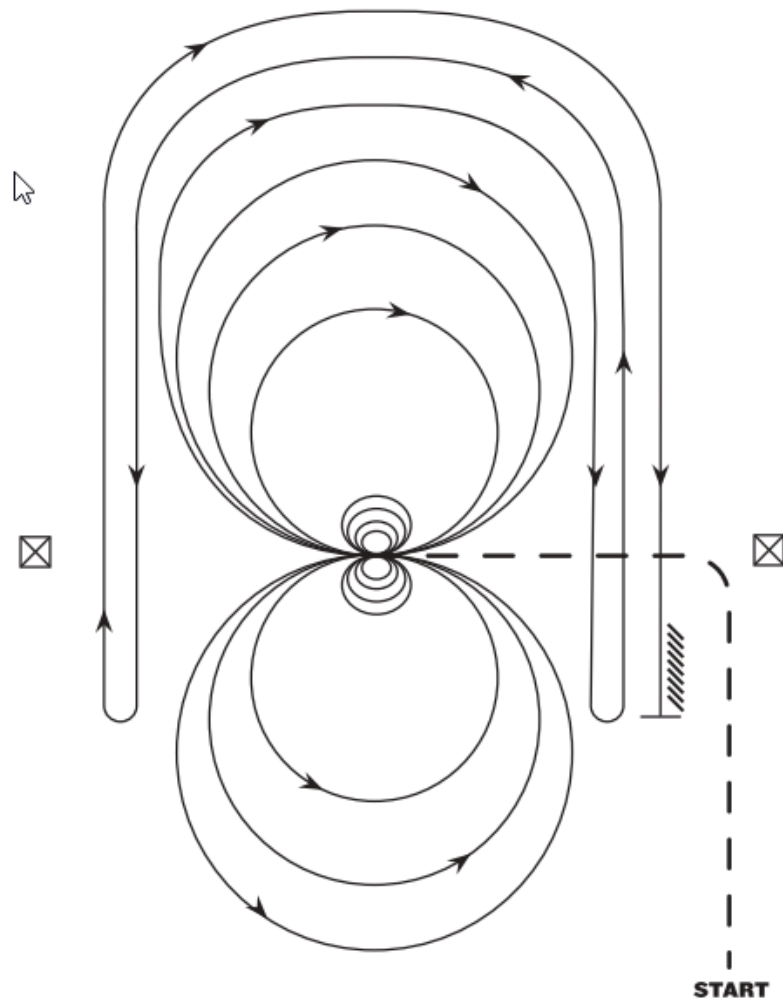


**Mandatory Markers along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the center of the pattern.

Ride pattern as follows: Trot to center of arena and stop.

1. Complete 3 spins in one direction. Hesitate.
2. Complete 3 spins in the opposite direction. Hesitate.
3. Beginning on right lead, complete two large fast circles to the right. Change leads at center of arena.
4. Complete two large fast circles to the left. Change leads at center of arena.
5. Begin a large circle to the right but do not close this circle. Run down the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a left roll back at least 20 feet from the wall or fence, no hesitation.
6. Continue back around the previous circle but do not close this circle. Run down the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a right roll back at least 20 feet from the wall or fence, no hesitation.
7. Continue back around previous circle, but do not close this circle. Run down the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet from the wall or fence. Back up at least 10 feet. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.

## Ranch Reining Pattern 2

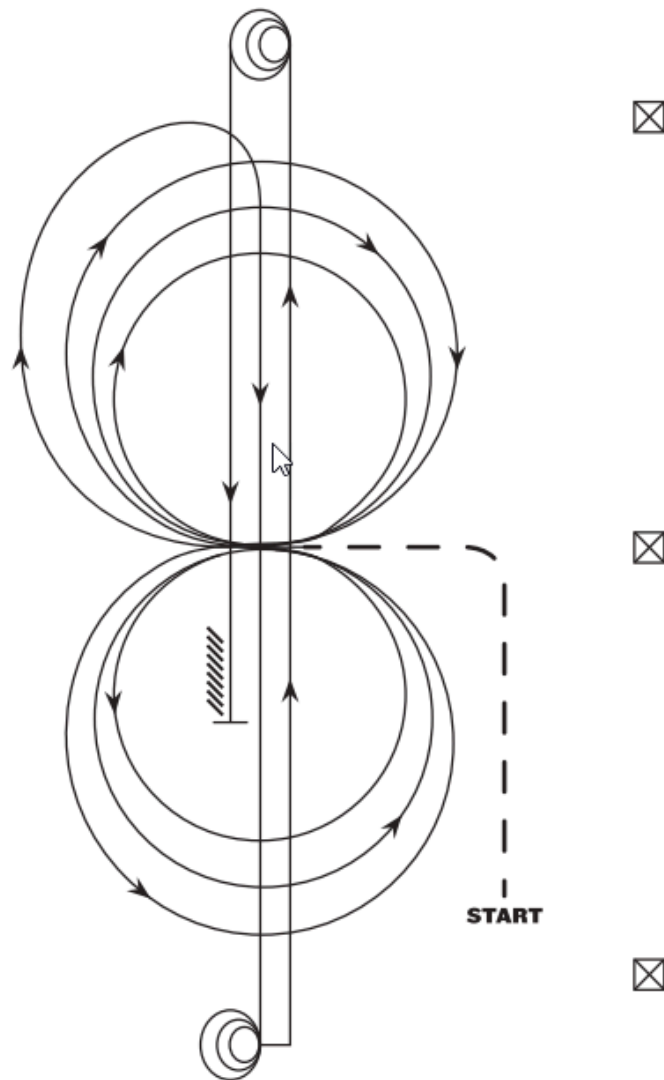


**Mandatory Markers along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the center of pattern.

Ride pattern as follows: Trot to center of arena and stop or walk before departure.

1. Beginning on right lead, complete two circles to the right - the first one large and fast; the second one small and slow. Stop at center.
2. Complete 4 spins to the right. Hesitate.
3. Beginning on left lead, complete two circles to the left - the first one large and fast; the second one small and slow. Stop at center.
4. Complete 4 spins to the left. Hesitate.
5. Beginning on the right lead, complete a large fast circle to the right and change leads at center of arena. Complete a large fast circle to the left and change leads at center of arena.
6. Begin a large fast circle to the right, but do not close this circle. Run down the right side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a left roll back at least 20 feet from the wall or fence.
7. Continue back around the previous circle, but do not close this circle. Run down the left side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a right roll back at least 20 feet from the wall or fence.
8. Continue back around previous circle, but do not close this circle. Run down right side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet from the wall or fence. Back up at least 10 feet. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.

## Ranch Reining Pattern 3

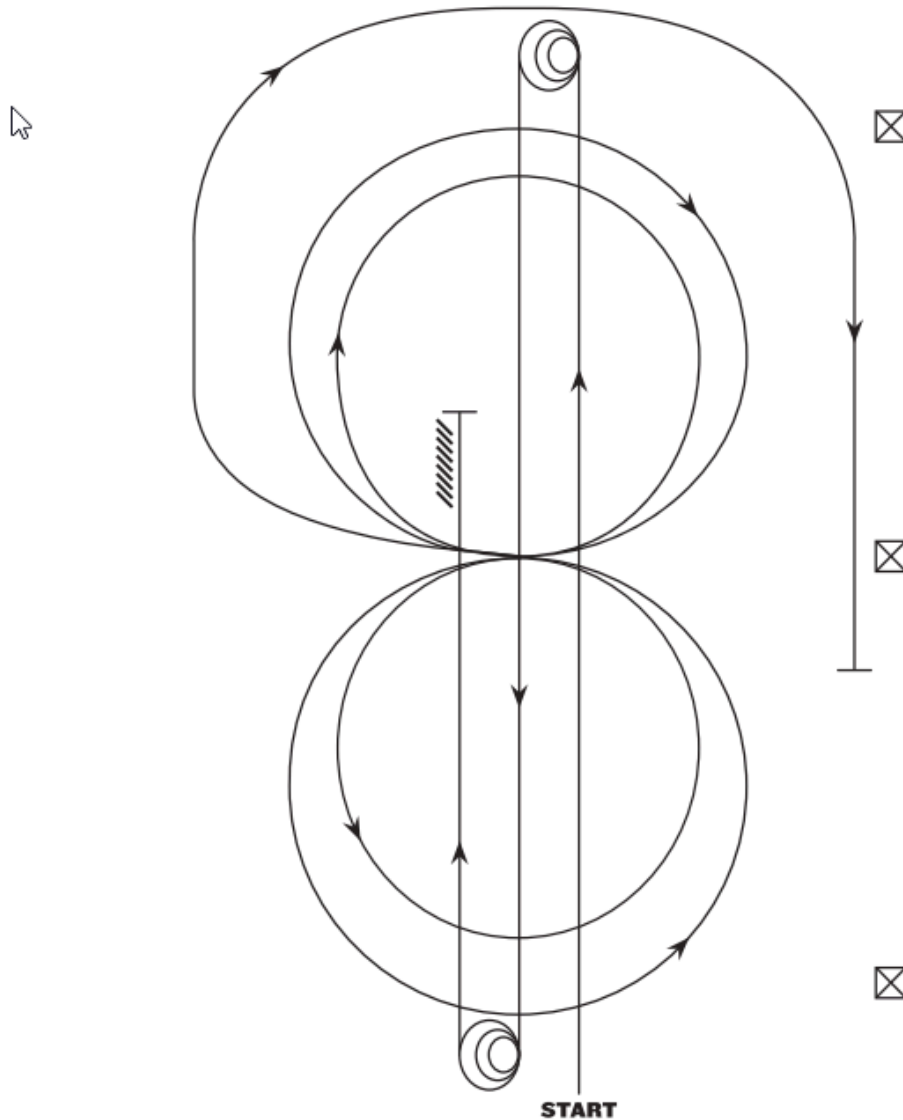


**Mandatory Marker along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the center of pattern. Judge shall also place markers on fence or wall at least 50' from each end of the arena.

Ride pattern as follows: Trot to center of arena and stop or walk before departure. Start pattern facing toward judge.

1. Beginning on right lead, complete three circles to the right - the first two large and fast; the third one small and slow. Change leads at center of arena.
2. Complete three circles to the left - the first two large and fast; the third one small and slow. Change leads at center of arena.
3. Begin a large circle to the right, but do not close this circle. Run down center of arena, past the end marker, and do a sliding stop.
4. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the right.
5. Run up center of arena to the opposite end, past the end marker, do a sliding stop.
6. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the left.
7. Run back to the middle of the arena, past the center marker, and do a sliding stop. Back up at least 10 feet. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.

## Ranch Reining Pattern 4



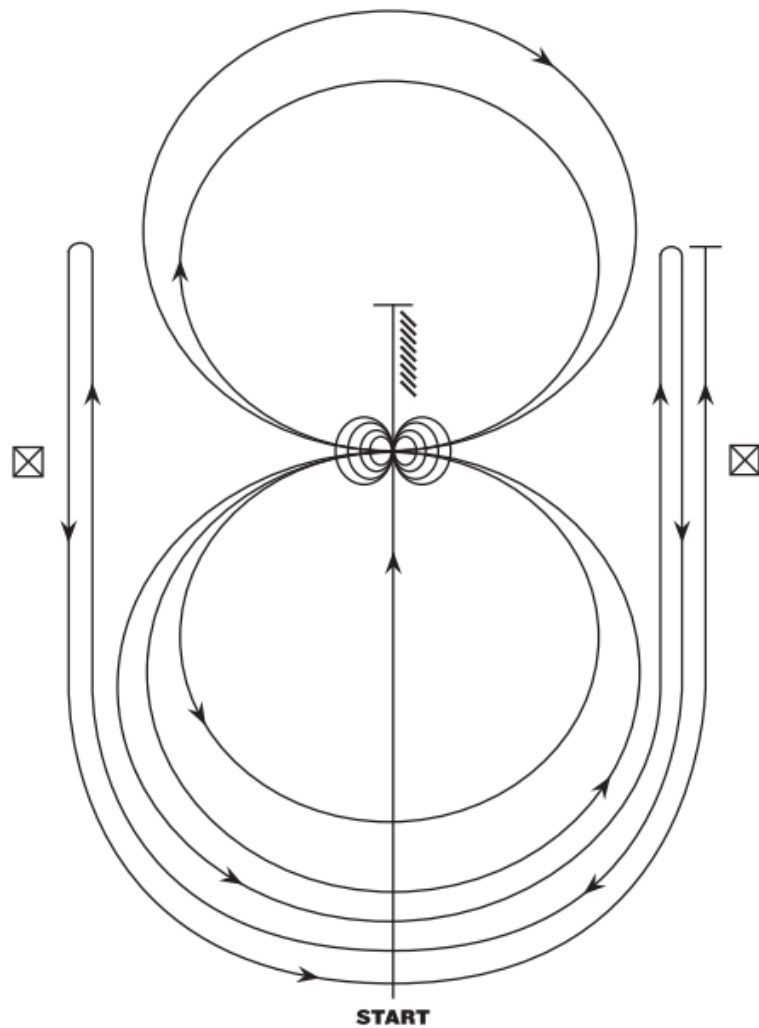
**Mandatory Marker along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the center of pattern. Judge shall also end place markers on fence or wall at least 50' from each end of the arena.

Ride pattern as follows:

1. Run up center of arena past the end marker and do a sliding stop.
2. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the left.
3. Run down to opposite end of arena, past the end marker and do a sliding stop.
4. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the right.
5. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back at least 10 feet. Complete 1/4 turn to the left; hesitate.
6. Beginning on right lead, complete two circles to the right - the first one small and slow, the second one large and fast. Change leads at center of arena.
7. Complete two circles to the left - the first one small and slow, the second one large and fast. Change leads at center of arena.
8. Begin a large circle to the right but do not close this circle. Run down the right side of the arena, past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet from the fence. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.

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## Ranch Reining Pattern 5



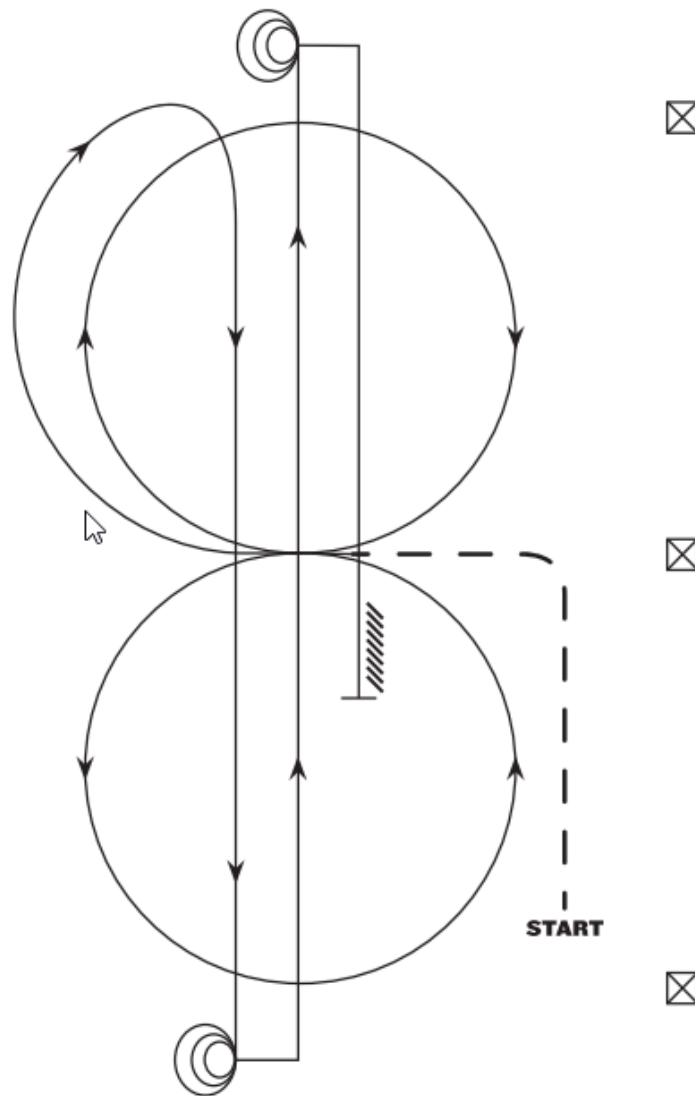
**Mandatory Markers along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena fence or wall the center of pattern. Judge shall also place markers on fence or wall at least 50' from each end of the arena.

Ride pattern as follows:

1. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back to center of arena or at least 10 feet. Hesitate.
2. Complete four right spins. Hesitate.
3. Complete four and one-quarter left spins. Hesitate. Horse to be facing left fence.
4. Beginning on left lead, complete two circles to the left - the first one small and slow, the second one large and fast. Change leads at center of arena.
5. Complete two circles to the right - the first one small and slow, the second one large and fast. Change leads at center of arena.
6. Begin a large circle to the left, but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a right rollback at least 20 feet from the wall or fence.
7. Continue back around the previous circle, but do not close circle. Run up the left side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a left rollback at least 20 feet from the wall or fence.
8. Continue back around previous circle, but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena, past the center marker, and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet from the wall or fence. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.



## Ranch Reining Pattern 6

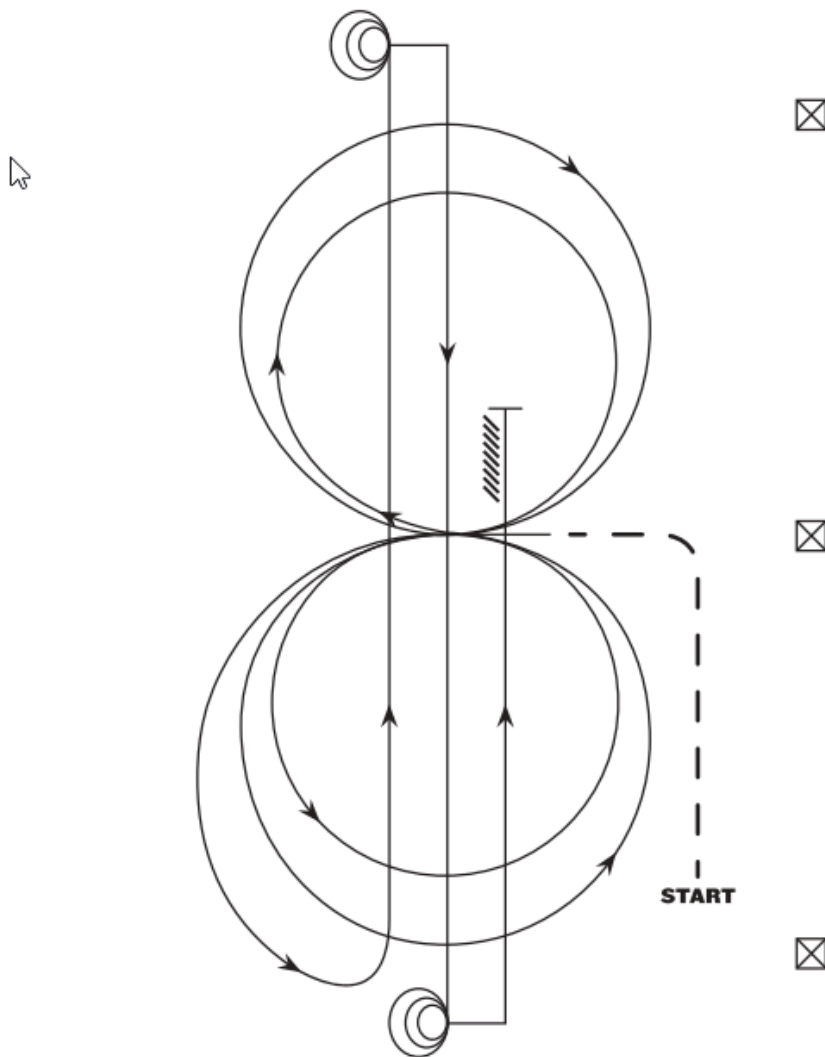


**Mandatory Marker along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena wall or fence the center of pattern. Judge shall also place markers on fence or wall at least 50' from each end of the arena.

Ride pattern as follows: Trot to center of arena and stop or walk before departure. Start pattern facing toward judge.

1. Beginning on right lead, lope one circle to the right. Change leads at center of arena.
2. Complete one circle to the left. Change leads at center of arena.
3. Begin a circle to the right, but do not close this circle. Run down center of arena, past the end marker, and do a sliding stop.
4. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the right.
5. Run up to other end of arena, past the end marker, do a sliding stop.
6. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the left.
7. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back at least 10 feet. Hesitate to show completion pattern.

## Ranch Reining Pattern 7



**Mandatory Marker along Fence or Wall:** The judge shall indicate with markers on arena wall or fence the center of pattern. Judge shall also place markers on fence or wall at least 50' from each end of the arena.

Ride pattern as follows: Trot to center of arena and stop or walk before departure. Start pattern facing toward judge.

1. Beginning on left lead, complete two circles to the left - the first one large and fast, the second one small and slow. Change leads at center of arena.
2. Complete two circles to the right - the first one large and fast, the second one small and slow. Change leads at center of arena.
3. Begin a circle to the left, but do not close this circle. Continuing around the end of arena, run up the center, past end marker, and do a sliding stop.
4. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the left.
5. Run down to other end of arena, past the end marker, and do a sliding stop.
6. Complete 3 1/2 spins to the right.
7. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back at least 10 feet. Hesitate to show completion pattern

## RANCH ROPING

1. The goal of this class is to show the ability of the horse and rider's skill in handling cattle as if they were doctoring injured or sick cattle. Cattle should be handled as calmly and slowly as possible. The judge should judge this class as if the cattle belonged to him or her. Entry does not have to separate the cow from herd and should not receive credit for separation from herd. If the cow is separated from the herd there should be no running or cutting of the cow. This is a judged event with a 2 minute time limit. There shall be a 30 second warning given prior to the end of the run. The rope must be thrown and the contestant may rebuild and throw an unlimited number of loops. No credit will be given for additional loops after a successful catch of any part of the animal. The honda on the rope used must be of a breakaway design. Ropes may not be tied hard and fast to the saddle horn.
2. For this event the arena will be shortened with the addition of portable panels. The exhibition area should typically be normal width of the arena (usually 100 to 150') by 45' – 75'. Show management or the judge may make adjustments to the size of the arena to allow for the temperament of the cattle.
3. Horse and rider must start from an entrance gate which will be opposite from where ten (10) calves/yearlings are held as a herd with each bearing a number 0 - 9. A random draw will be used to select the calf to be roped, which will be announced to the contestant when the horse enters the arena gate.
4. The contestant should make a desired catch, position their horse in an appropriate manner and dally up. A desired catch is defined as one in which the animal is roped and the rope comes tight in front of the animal's shoulders. A catch of any other part of the animal shall be considered legal but the exhibitor will receive a penalty. When the calf breaks free from the honda, the Flag Judge will signal the end of the run. In order to receive a score, the exhibitor must have a dally (full wrap) in place at the time the animal breaks free from the honda.
5. The show committee will provide 2-4 herd holders. The sole duty of the herd holders is to settle the cattle prior to the event and between runs.
6. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
7. Each maneuver will be scored from a plus three (+3) to minus three (-3) in ½ point increments.
8. Credit Earning
  - A. Ability to sort.
  - B. Stopping.
  - C. Ability to rope out of the herd without disturbing other cattle.
  - D. Dallying.
  - E. Ability to manage coils.
  - F. Ability to manage rope and position of horse while dallying.
  - G. Difficulty of a throw that results in a successful catch.
9. Penalties
  - A. Ten (10) point penalty
    - (1) Roping any portion of the cow other than the head/neck.

B. Five (5) point penalty

- (1) Multiple loop run (penalty may be assessed for each rebuild with a maximum of 15 points taken).
- (2) Running / scattering of the herd.
- (3) Blatant disobedience of the horse including kicking, biting, rearing or striking.
- (4) Inability of rider to efficiently recoil and build a loop after a miss.

C. Three (3) point penalty

- (1) Too much time in the herd without roping.
- (2) Loss of cow (re-cut in the herd).

D. One (1) point penalty

- (1) Loss of working advantage.

E. Zero (0) score / DQ

- (1) Failure to dally
- (2) Running into or over cattle.
- (3) Schooling.
- (4) Whipping or hitting horse with rope.
- (5) Thrown from horse.
- (6) Fall to ground.
- (7) Loss of rope.
- (8) Bucking.
- (9) Roping wrong cow.
- (10) Roping more than 1 cow with the same loop.
- (11) Excessive running of the cattle.
- (12) Failure to catch.

## RANCH WORKING COWHORSE

1. Ranch Working Cowhorse is designed to demonstrate the horse's ability to do cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. After one minute has passed, the announcer will announce, 45 seconds remaining. At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time.
2. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn', rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner. This is not a fence turn class. If control of the cow is lost, rider should not chase up the side of the arena and do a fence turn, however, should attempt to return the cow to the desired end of the arena in a quiet manner.
3. There are three parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena. **There will be no pattern work prior to working the cow.**
  - A. **Part One – Boxing the Cow** – The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the

cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.

**B. Part Two – Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of Arena** – After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse shall be close enough to cow to demonstrate control with cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. Rider will then stop and release the cow and move horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing.

**C. Part Three – Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena** – The exhibitor will again control or “hold” the cow for the remainder of time at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse's ability to “hold” the cow.

4. The judge may blow his/her whistle at any time during the work. One whistle to terminate the work, two whistles to award a new cow. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. There shall be no schooling between cows if a new cow is awarded. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, he or she must pull up immediately. If at any time a judge feels that the contestant is out of control endangering themselves and/or their horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a score of zero will be given. In the case of an emergency (such as a person falling into the arena or part of the arena falling apart) the judge may blow two whistles for a second time. At this point, the contestant has no option to continue and must receive a new cow. Contestant must pull up immediately or a score of zero will be given. Judging ends when the whistle blows.

5. Scoring:

- A. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time.
- B. Each horse/rider team is scored between 1-100 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). Pluses and minuses are a reflection of 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.
- C. During “Boxing”, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its ‘cow sense’ (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.
- D. Credit will be given during “Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence” for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
  - E. One (1) Point Penalties:
    - (1) Loss of working advantage
    - (2) working out of position
    - (3) slipping rein

F. Three (3) Point Penalties:

- (1) Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage
- (2) losing a cow while boxing

G. Five (5) Point Penalties:

- (1) Spurring in front of cinch
- (2) blatant disobedience
- (3) use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- (4) use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver

H. Off-Pattern (OP):

- (1) Turning tail
- (2) failure to attempt any part of the class
- (3) leaving arena before run is complete
- (4) repeated blatant disobedience
- (5) schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow
- (6) schooling horse between cows (if new cow is awarded)
- (7) cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly

I. Disqualification (DQ):

- (1) Lameness
- (2) Abuse
- (3) illegal equipment
- (4) disrespect or misconduct
- (5) improper western attire
- (6) fall of horse/rider.

## **RANCH RIDING**

1. 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.
2. One of the American Quarter Horse Association approved patterns will be selected. Some patterns include walking through, near, or around a pen of live cattle.
3. Ranch Riding Gaits: In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding 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:
  - A. 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.

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

C. 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.

D. Natural Gait and Extended Natural Gait – Non-trotting horses should perform their natural gait where a trot is indicated and show a distinctive difference in speed of that gait where an extended trot is asked. The natural gait should be smooth and appear effortless for riding long distances.

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

F. 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. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

G. 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.

4. Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

5. Touching or holding the saddle horse is acceptable.

6. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments from a low of -1½ to a high of +1½ with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

Class consists of pattern work that is ridden individually. For each maneuver the horse is judged on quality of gaits, response to the rider, manners and disposition.

Penalty points and/or certain maneuvers will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition.

A. One (1) point penalties:

- (1) Too slow (per gait)
- (2) Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- (3) Out of frame (per maneuver)
- (4) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
- (5) Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less

B. Three (3) point penalties:

- (1) Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- (2) Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- (3) Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two strides
- (4) Draped reins (per maneuver)

- (5) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- (6) Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
- (7) Trotting for more than 3 strides in lope departures or when exiting a rollback
- (8) Severe disturbance of any obstacle

C. Five (5) point penalties:

- (1) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

D. Off-Pattern (OP) – Placed below horses performing all maneuvers;

- (1) Eliminates maneuver
- (2) Incomplete maneuver
- (3) Repeated blatant disobedience
- (4) Use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore)

E. Zero (0) score:

- (1) Illegal equipment
- (2) Willful abuse
- (3) Lameness
- (4) Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- (5) Disrespect or misconduct
- (6) Improper western attire
- (7) Fall of horse or rider

## **RANCH TRAIL**

1. This class is designed to show the horse's ability to navigate and cope with the various situations and obstacles encountered in everyday ranch work. It is designed to show a horse's ability to perform these obstacles with a willing attitude. The horse is judged on cleanness and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly, and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiating the course.
2. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles should be used. The course can be laid outside of the arena using natural terrain. However, if a ground tie is specified in the course, the course must be set up in an enclosed arena.
3. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable prior to the start of the class. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.
4. At least two or three obstacles and/or penalty points will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition. One of the mandatory obstacles should be used as the first tie breaker.
5. Live cattle may be used at the discretion of show management.



6. Tack and Equipment:

A. Wearing gloves, leather or fabric, is optional. Roping gloves may be worn for the duration of the class or may be worn only for the roping and log drag obstacles.

B. Roping reins or reins with romal are permitted, but must be used with a snap attachment if a ground tie is in the course.

7. Use of hands: Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed, except to work with an obstacle. Reins may be held in any manner. Two hands may be used when using a snaffle bit or bosal on a horse or pony 5 years of age or younger.

8. The horse will be shown at a ground-covering walk, trot (or natural gait), and lope between the obstacles and credit will be given for performing these gaits on the correct lead with an alert attitude. The walk may be judged as part of an obstacle. Between obstacles, at least 30 feet should be allowed for the trot, and at least 50 feet for the lope. Gaits between obstacles will be scored as part of the next obstacle.

9. Extending the trot or natural gait may also be asked. The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at this gait, as might be done in open terrain.

10. No additional credit will be given for unnecessary/additional maneuvers (such as sidepassing to and from an obstacle).

11. The judge may ask a rider to move on to the next obstacle if the horse/rider is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable time or if the judge deems that the rider is, or will be, in an unsafe situation.

A. A rider will lose 15 points if an obstacle is attempted and not completed.

12. A judge may excuse a rider from the arena after 2<sup>nd</sup> obstacle with three refusals.

13. Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ needs improvement, 0 correct, +½ good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:

A. 1 Point Penalties:

- (1) over-bridled (per maneuver)
- (2) out of frame (per maneuver)
- (3) each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle
- (4) incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less
- (5) both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot
- (6) skipping over or failing to step into required space
- (7) split pole in lope-over
- (8) incorrect number of strides, if specified
- (9) one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting

to balance (10) wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less

B. 3 Point Penalties:

- (1) wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (2) strides
- (2) draped reins
- (3) break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- (4) break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- (5) three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie
- (6) trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- (7) knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- (8) stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with one (1) foot
- (9) missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with one (1) foot

C. 5 Point Penalties:

- (1) Spurring in front of cinch
- (2) blatant disobedience
- (3) use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- (4) stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than one (1) foot
- (5) dropping an object required to be carried
- (6) Each refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- (7) letting go of gate
- (8) five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie
- (9) missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than one foot

D. 15 point Penalty:

- (1) Failure to complete an obstacle once attempted.

E. Off-Pattern (OP) - exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly

- (1) Breaking pattern (including performing the obstacle or essential element incorrectly or other than in specified order, and incorrect line of travel)
- (2) Incomplete, eliminating, or adding a maneuver
- (3) Repeated blatant disobedience
- (4) Use of two hands (except for Junior shown in snaffle bit/hackamore)
- (5) Failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate

F. Disqualified 0 – Score

- (1) 2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence of failing to complete an obstacle (a judge may excuse a rider from the arena after 2<sup>nd</sup> obstacle with three refusals)
- (2) Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- (3) lameness
- (4) abuse
- (5) leaving working area before pattern is complete
- (6) illegal equipment
- (7) disrespect or misconduct
- (8) fall of horse/rider

14. Six to ten obstacles will be used. Three will be mandatory, and the remaining will be selected from the optional list.

A. Mandatory Obstacles:

- (1) Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. This gate may not be a rope gate.
- (2) Log Drag – Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance in a straight

line or a curve to the right. The curve may range from a gradual curve to a complete circle or portion of a circle. Rider to pick up rope while mounted at point A, and drop rope at point B. Rope may not be tied hard and fast to the saddle horn; dallying is optional. Log size should be roughly the size of a small fence post, suggested maximum weight ~30 lbs. Rope should be securely attached to one end of the post by either drilling a hole through the post and tying a bowline (or other non-slip knot), or attaching an O-ring and tying a non-slip knot through the ring.

(3) Stationary Steer – This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge will give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the contestant makes the swing and throw at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized, but missing the stationary steer will not be penalized. Rider must provide the rope for this obstacle; rope may be carried in hand, over saddle horn, or affixed to saddle. At the completion of this obstacle, contestant may coil rope and keep for remainder of class, or drop rope at obstacle without penalty.

#### B. Optional Obstacles:

(1) Mailbox – Rider will open and close a mailbox when mounted.

(2) Bridge – Horse should walk willingly over a bridge. The bridge may be stationary or “teeter-totter” with a 4” maximum rocker pole.

(3) Slicker – The rider shall show the ability to handle the horse while simulating putting on a slicker. The rider may also be asked to carry the slicker from point A to point B.

(4) Walk-over log-L obstacle – Walk over 90° log “L”. Log should be no less than 6” and no more than 12” in diameter. Riders should negotiate this obstacle in a straight line.

(5) Step-overs at a walk, trot, or lope – Natural branches, logs, fence posts, etc. which are laid out in seemingly random angles and distances. Distances should be measured only so the set-up is repeatable, but not for uniform spacing or stride length. Obstacles may not be raised and the maximum height of any step-over is 18”.

(6) Water hazard – The horse should enter and exit the water hazard in a quiet manner.

(7) Back through obstacle – Straight, “L”, or into/out of a marked location.

(8) Sidepass – Straight, one direction, may or may not be elevated.

(9) Ground Tie – Rider must be able to dismount and walk a minimum of 5 paces away with the horse in a designated spot. If used, this must be the last obstacle of the course (no remount) and class must be held in an enclosed arena. If a rider is using a one-piece rein (romal, roping rein, etc.), it should be unsnapped from the bit on one side while ground tying.

(10) Pick up front feet – The rider must be able to dismount and pick up both front feet in an easy, time efficient manner. If used, this must be the last obstacle of the course (no remount). May be used in succession with ground tie so rider only dismounts once per course.

(11) Live cattle – walk through, near, or around pen of live cattle. The use of cattle could be any degree from a cattle pen set up as a presence on the course to an interactive obstacle.

(12) Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be found in everyday ranch work and meets the approval of the judge.

C. If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire combination.

## RANCH RAIL

1. This class is designed to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride 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 movement of the ranch rail horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a natural flowing stride and consistent, ground covering gaits. Transitions should be performed when requested, with smoothness and responsiveness. The ideal ranch rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint while being responsive to the rider and making timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle, yield to contact and shall not be shown on a full drape of rein. Riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control by the rider. The horse shall be balanced and appear willing and a pleasure to ride in a group situation.
2. Class Requirements- All exhibitors will work as a group. Individuals working off the rail will not be penalized and passing is permissible. Horses must work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot and lope. Horses must work at least one way of the ring at the extended trot and extended lope. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend their stride at the walk. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described below with an emphasis on forward, free-flowing, and ground-covering movement.
3. At the extended trot and lope, the exhibitor may post or stand in the stirrups.
4. Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.
5. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.
6. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses may be brought to the center or backed on the rail.
7. The rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.
8. Horses in this class may not cross enter into western pleasure.
9. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.
10. Use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein) shall be cause for disqualification.
11. Faults scored according to severity-
  - Too slow (any gait)

- Excessive speed (any gait)
- Over-bridled (nose behind the vertical)
- Head carried too low such that the poll is below the withers
- Out of frame
- Head carried too high
- Break of gait
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called
- Opening mouth excessively
- Draped reins
- Use of spurs forward of the cinch
- Canted at the lope
- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)

#### 12. Faults which will be cause for disqualification-

- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

## SPEED EVENTS DIVISION

### APPOINTMENTS:

**PERSONAL:** Clothing should be clean and neat. Shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required along with western boots. All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet with a fastened chin harness. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor or the parent or guardian or trainer of the exhibitor to ensure compliance. **No exhibitor may be tied, buckled or fastened into the saddle in any manner or by any means during competition. Rubber bands are not allowed in any Speed Class. Stirrup, stirrup leathers or any part of the fender should not be attached by any means to the cinch, breastplate, saddle, horse, or anywhere other than where it is normally attached to the saddle.**

**TACK:** Western saddles will be used. A mechanical hackamore or other bridles can be used. However, the judge or appointed equipment official may prohibit the use of bits or equipment considered to be severe. Nosebands and tie-downs are allowed in speed events; however these **cannot** have any bare metal in contact with the horse's head.

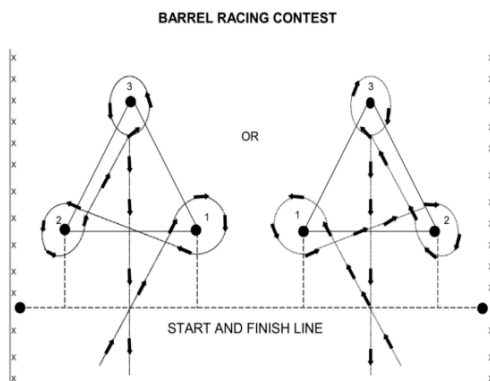
### GENERAL SPEED EVENTS RULES:

1. Each contestant will enter the arena from within a designated area behind the arena gate. Arena conditions and show management will determine where the run will begin and end.
2. The contestant is allowed a running start. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse passes over the finish line.
3. A closed gate finish will be used.

4. An electric timer, when accessible, will be the official time. Otherwise, at least two watches shall be used, with the average time of the two watches to be the official time. Starting line markers or electric timers, when possible, shall be placed against the arena fence.
5. The judge may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip, reins or rope anywhere on the horse.
6. In the event of a tie, the horse declared the winner in the runoff must re-run the pattern within two seconds of its original time or the runoff must be held again. Penalty time will not apply to the two-second rule, but will apply to the final runoff time.
7. In the event of show management problems (ie: timer malfunction, etc.), the contestant will receive a rerun. The contestant shall have the option of performing the rerun immediately or electing to move to the end of the class and rerun.
8. No assistance, to either horse or rider, is permitted past the arena gate.
9. All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM-SEI approved equestrian helmet with a fastened chin harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena.

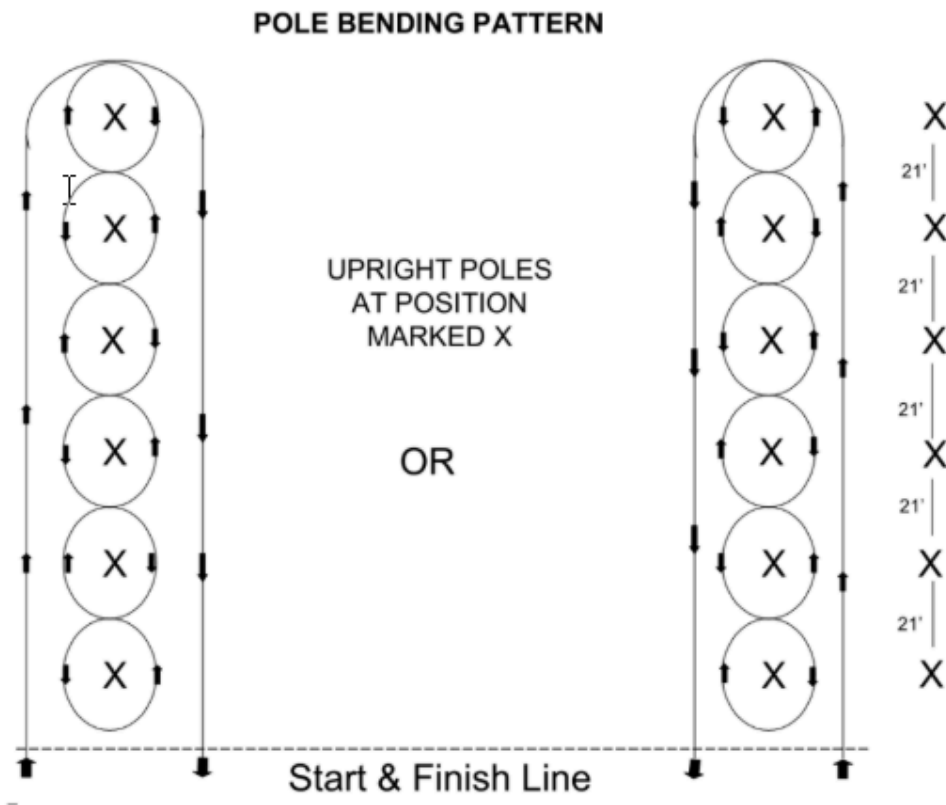
## BARREL RACING

1. Speed Events General Rules apply.
2. Barrel Racing is a timed event.
3. The course must be set to fit the arena. The course should be set so that a horse may have ample room to turn and stop. (All barrels are recommended to be at least 21 feet from the fence if possible.)
4. Knocking over a barrel shall carry a five (5)-second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch the barrel with his or her hands in Barrel Racing. A superintendent, ring steward or some other official will be designated to rule pattern disqualifications in the absence of the official show judge.



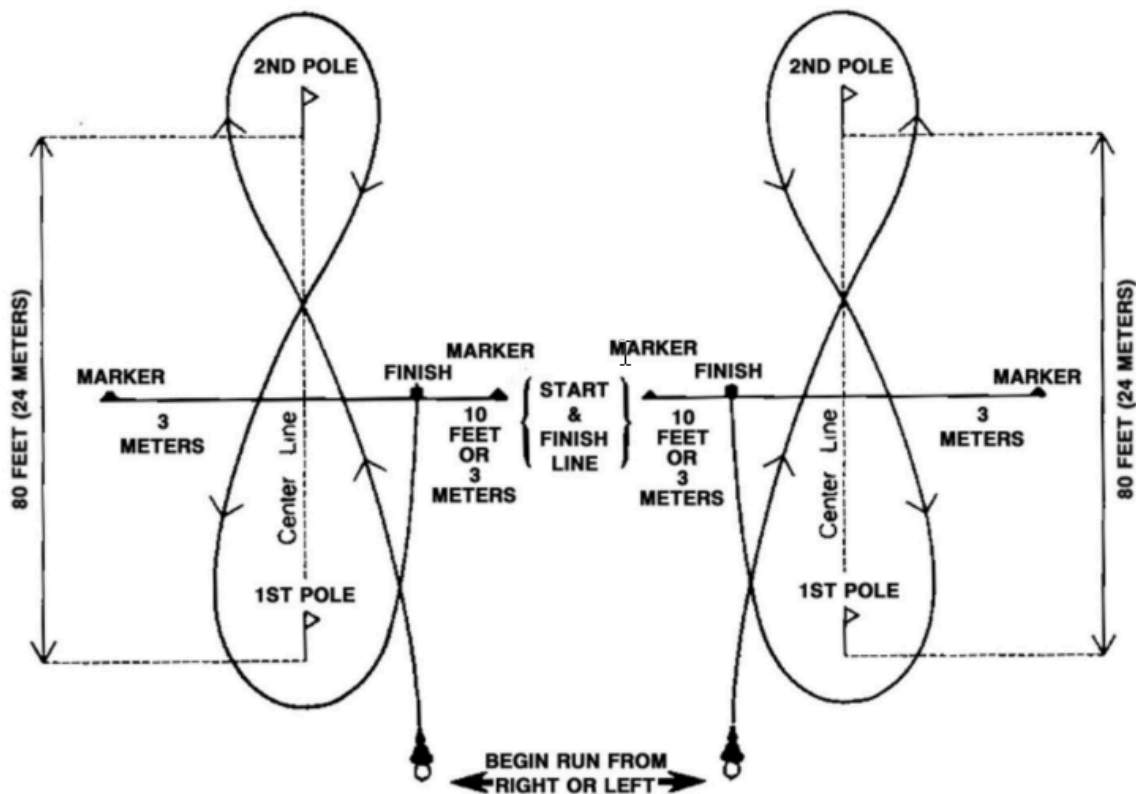
## POLE BENDING

1. All Speed Events General Rules apply.
2. Pole Bending is a timed event.
3. The Pole Bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line.
4. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
5. The course must be set to fit the arena. The course should be set so that a horse may have ample room to turn and stop.
6. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five (5)-second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole(s) with his or her hands in Pole Bending. A superintendent, ring steward or some other official will be designated to rule pattern disqualifications in the absence of the official show judge.



## STAKE RACE

1. All Speed Events General Rules apply.
2. The contestant is allowed a running start. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line. Start by crossing start/finish between the upright markers, run pattern as shown in diagram, and finish by again crossing start/finish line. The contestant begins with crossing the center line between the two end poles and runs a pattern around the two end poles. The first turn may be either left or right, however, the second turn must be opposite of the first.
3. This is a timed event. If an upright marker is knocked down, there is no time.
4. Upright markers are set 40 feet on either side of the center line. Two upright markers will be placed on the starting line 20 feet apart (10 feet on each side of the mid-line). If an electric timer is used, it is suggested that rubber cones, short enough so as not to interfere with the timer, be used.
5. Contestants must cross start and finish line between the markers. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification.
6. All contestants are eligible to enter in Stake Race.



ACCEPTABLE STAKE RACE PATTERNS



# GOAT TYING

1. All Speed Events General Rules apply.

2 Equipment:

- Western-type equipment must be used.
- Pigging string or rope to secure the animals.

3. Time Limit:

There will be a one-minute time limit to complete the tie.

4. General Rules:

1. Goats will be changed after 5 runs, unless otherwise specified by management.
2. Clearly visible starting line shall be provided.
3. The stake and starting line will be permanently marked.
4. The horse's nose will be timed as it crosses the starting line.
5. Goats to be tied: right, left, right and left, etc. Arena permitting, the gate will be in the center between the two goats, allowing each contestant the same length to run at the goat.
6. Starting line will be 100 feet from the stake.
7. The goat should be tied to a stake with a rope 10 feet in length.
8. The stake should be completely under the ground so that no part of it is visible or above ground.
9. The contestant must be mounted on a horse and must ride from the starting line to the goat, dismount from their horse and throw the goat by hand.
10. If the goat is down when the contestant reaches it, goat must be stood on at least three feet (goat must be elevated by contestant so that at least three feet are dangling straight beneath the goat and goat must be re-thrown), then cross and tie any three legs together with a leather thong, pigging string or rope, and stand clear of the goat.
11. Legs must remain crossed and secure for six seconds after completion of the tie.
12. To qualify as a legal tie, there will be one or more wraps and half hitch, hooey or knot.
13. Time will start when the contestant crosses the starting line.
14. Time will stop when the contestant signals the completion of the tie.
15. The contestant must move back three feet from the goat before the judge will start the six-second time limit on the tie. Goat's legs must remain crossed and tied.
16. Qualified persons other than contestants will be used as goat holders.
17. Contestants will receive a no time for touching the goat or tie string after signaling the tie is completed.
18. If a contestant's horse crosses over the rope or goat, or if the contestant's horse comes in contact with the goat or rope prior to the contestant signaling for time, a ten (10) second penalty will be assessed.
19. If the goat should break away because of the fault of the horse while the contestant is mounted, the contestant will receive no time. A contestant is still mounted until both feet are on the ground.

# GAITED DIVISION

## **APPOINTMENTS**

All tack, bits, equipment, shoeing regulations and attire that are accepted in the respective breed association and/or USEF will be permitted.

**ALL GAITED (Non-trotting) Entries in This Division MUST Pass Inspection with the show DQP prior to competing. THIS SHOW WILL FOLLOW WALKING HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (WHOA) GUIDELINES FOR SHOEING AND INSPECTION. As such:**

- **Hoof bands are prohibited in all classes.**
- **The maximum hoof toe length will be five inches, exclusive of the shoe, measured from the coronet band, at the center of the hoof along the front of the hoof wall to the bottom of the hoof.**
- **The maximum shoe size is 1 ½" x ½" (classic park shoe) for any class.**
- **Tungsten metal (in whole or in part) is prohibited.**

**Only clear grooming products are allowed for use as hoof polish. Black or opaque hoof polish is prohibited.**

## **GAITED PLEASURE (Walking Horses)**

This class is limited to Tennessee Walking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses who perform the flat walk and running walk. All horses must be shown in accordance with standard shoeing and tack regulations set forth by the [WHOA rulebook](#).

1. Horses shall be required to perform 2 gaits: flat walk and running walk as appropriate for breed.

2. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.

3. Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.

4. Form is not to be sacrificed for speed.

5. Horses entered in this class may not enter non-walking Gaited

pleasure class.

## **GAITED PLEASURE (Non-Walking Type)**

This class will include but is not limited to non-trotting breeds such as the Racking Horse, Rocky Mountain Horse, Paso Fino, Missouri Fox Trotter, Standardbred, etc. who perform a gait other than a flat walk and running walk.

1. Horses shall be shown at the walk as appropriate for the breed and pleasure gait. Gait call for this class will be a walk, pleasure gait, and extended pleasure gait.
2. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.
3. Horses will be judged on manners, suitability and performance.
4. Horses are to be reversed at the walk.
5. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.
6. Horses entered in this class may not enter the walking type gaited pleasure class.

## GAITED EQUITATION

1. This class would include but is not limited to non-trotting breeds such as the Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, Racking horse, Rocky Mountain Horse, Paso Fino, etc. All entries padded or unpadded can participate in this class. All horses must be shown in accordance with standard shoeing regulations set forth by the [WHOA rulebook](#).
2. **Class Routine:** Horses will be required to perform two gaits (walk, pleasure gait, and extended pleasure gait). Riders selected for rail work will enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction. Riders will proceed at least once around the ring at each gait, and on command, reverse and repeat.
3. Test will be performed individually and may include but are not limited to the following:
  - A. Pick up reins: A quick check on muscular control and sensitivity of hands.
  - B. Backing
  - C. Group performance around ring: To check on maneuverability, ring generalship, etiquette and sportsmanship.
  - D. Individual performance on rail; any or all gaits and test may be required.
  - E. See rider in motion from both front and rear at all gaits.
  - F. Ride without stirrups: Any or all gaits may be requested.
  - G. Perform a figure eight, serpentine or circles of various size and/or speed.
4. The judge will use the individual work scores to determine the top riders which may be requested to perform additional individual work or rail work.
5. Those selected riders (or all riders if the class is small) will be required to work on the rail to determine final placings.
6. Rider's seat should be a natural, coordinated and comfortable riding position and should in no way be rigid or exaggerated. A rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control, with the general appearance of being able to ride for a considerable length of time with pleasure. Ring generalship shall be taken into consideration by the

judge. The appearance, presentation and alertness of the rider and mount make the overall picture of utmost importance.

**Hands:** The hands should be held in any easy position; waist or elbow high, over pommel, with palms downward, slightly turned toward body, wrist rounded slightly. The hands should be in unison with the horse's mouth, showing adaptability as well as control. How and where the horse carries his head determines the height the hands are held above the horse's withers. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated. (From the rider's view, then hands should be in a V shape, close enough for thumbs to touch.) The fingers should be closed firmly over reins, but not rigid. Pressure between thumb and index fingers is used to secure. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used, with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the off-side. Upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hipbones and should be flexible. Elbows should not clutch the body, be extended forward or spread away from the body. Hands should be in comfortable waist-level position, depending on how and where the horse carries its head. The use of hands should be smooth and gradual without jerking or pumping at any of the gaits, or in the parked position.

**Basic Position:** To obtain proper position, the rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle and find the center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without use of the stirrups. While in this position, have stirrup leathers adjusted to fit so that irons will be under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron.

The foot position will be natural and comfortable if the knee and thigh are rolled inward and the heel is slightly lower than the toes. From the front or rear view, the lower leg will be held naturally away from the horse, depending on the anatomy of the rider and the size of the horse. Knee should rest against the saddle.

**Position in Motion:** The position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful, attained only with practice. From the side view a straight line can be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, neck, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be anymore forward than the knee, thereby keeping the center of balance directly above the feet and ankles. This basic recommended position should be maintained at all gaits.

7. **Suggested Scoring:** Scoring may be on a basis on 0-100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable, an approximate breakdown follows:

90-100: Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Pattern is performed promptly, precisely and smoothly.

80-89: Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance and position of exhibitor or execution of pattern.

70-79: Generally good pattern execution and equitation with one minor fault in precision or execution of pattern (performance), or appearance and position of exhibitor.

60-69: Average pattern that lacks quickness or precision, or rider has obvious equitation flaws that prevent effective equitation, or commits two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

50-59: One major fault or several minor faults in the performance and/or appearance and position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horses.

40-49: Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

30-39: Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, or appearance and position of exhibitor. Exhibitor demonstrates a complete lack of riding ability or commits a severe fault in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor.

20-29: Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance or appearance and position of exhibitor, but does complete the class and avoids disqualification.

## HUNTER DIVISION

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***Exhibitors may only enter one horse/pony and rider combination in the working hunter, equitation over fences, and hunter hack, as they are run as one class, regardless of different fence heights (i.e. a rider may not jump multiple heights on different animals).***

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**PERSONAL:** All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet with a fastened chin harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, or the parents or guardian or trainer of exhibitor, to ensure compliance.

Clothing must be neat, clean and appropriate for Hunter classes. Riders should wear coats of any tweed or melton (conservative wash jackets in season), breeches of traditional shades of buff, gray, rust, beige or canary (Jodhpur included), high English boots or Jodhpur boots. Dark blue, brown or black approved ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness, and stock, tie or choker is required. Spurs of the unroweled type, crops or bats are optional. Hair must be neat and/or contained (as in net or braid). Gloves are preferred in equitation classes.

**TACK:** Clean English forward, hunting -type saddles. Snaffle, kimberwick, pelham (two reins) or full bridle, all with a cavesson noseband, is required. Breast plates are optional. Standing martingales are optional in working hunter and equitation over fences. Standing or running martingales are not allowed in all Hunter under saddle classes, but are optional in jumping. Hunter hack is considered a flat class and martingales are not permitted either over fences nor during the flat work. Hackamores and boots or bandages are prohibited except in equitation over fences. Draw reins are prohibited in all Hunter classes.

## HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

1. The class will be judged on the horse's way of going, manners and suitability. Conformation of the horse may be considered in extremely close competition only.
2. Horses enter the ring at a trot and are shown on the flat at a walk, trot and canter while maintaining light contact with the horse's mouth.
3. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all gaits.
4. The judge may ask finalists to extend the trot and/or hand gallop but never more than a safe number of horses to gallop at one time.
5. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may ask that only the finalists be backed.
6. Large numbers in this class will necessitate elimination heats to accommodate all horses. Finalists from each heat will be called to the center of the arena and identified.
7. Any portion of a class or heat may be placed on the rail for extra work by the judge at any time.

## HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

1. **General:**  
Hunt seat equitation on the flat is an evaluation based on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in harmony with the horse. The communication between horse and rider should be subtle.
2. **Class Procedure:**  
Riders in all heats, semi-finals and finals will be required to work on the rail. Riders shall enter the ring at a walk in a counterclockwise direction. The riders will proceed at least once around the ring at each gait (walk, trot and canter) and on command, reverse and repeat. Riders in heats and semi-finals must work both ways of the ring. In the finals, rail work is required in at least one direction but the judge may ask for rail work in both directions at their discretion. The riders may be requested to gallop in safe groups and/or perform additional tests. The reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail.
3. **Pattern:**  
A pattern will be performed by only the finalists in this class. The pattern should be designed so the majority of exhibitors can perform it in a reasonable amount of time (under sixty seconds). All patterns must include a trot and a canter. Horses' gaits are to be ridden with the same cadence and speed, as you would see in Hunter Under Saddle. All ties will be broken at the discretion of the judge(s). Riders will not be required to jump.
4. Finalists will individually perform a given pattern, which may be composed from the optional list of tests below. The judge will score each rider on his/her individual skills and execution of the pattern. Scores may be posted. A test may include but is not limited to the following:
  - A. Execute a slow sitting trot, posting trot and/or extended trot.
  - B. Back.
  - C. Walk from a gallop with emphasis on hands.
  - D. Halt from a canter.

- E. Dismount and mount.
  - F. Figure 8 at the trot, demonstrating the proper change of diagonals.
  - G. Figure 8 at the canter, demonstrating a simple change of leads (a simple change of leads is one in which the horse is brought back to a trot before being restarted in a canter on the opposite lead). Figure 8 should be started at the center of the two circles so one change of lead is shown.
  - H. Figure 8 at the canter on the correct leads, demonstrating a flying change of leads. (Change of leads without slowing down to a trot).
  - I. Ride without stirrups.
  - J. Maintain a counter-canter.
  - K. Demonstrate a half-turn on forehand and/or half-turn on the haunches.
5. Faults: Faults in all phases can be classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction. An exhibitor that incurs a severe fault avoids elimination, but should be placed below all other exhibitors that complete the pattern correctly. A minor fault can become a major fault and a major fault can become a severe fault when the degree and/or frequency of the infraction(s) merits.
- A. Minor faults
    - (1) Break of gait at walk or trot up to 2 strides
    - (2) Over/under turn of 1/8 of the prescribed turn
    - (3) Tick or hit of cone
    - (4) Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail
  - B. Major faults
    - (1) Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet of designated area
    - (2) Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
    - (3) Incorrect gait or break of gait at the canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
    - (4) Complete loss of contact between the rider's hands and the horse's mouth
    - (5) Missing a diagonal for more than 2 strides on the pattern or on the rail
    - (6) Loss of iron
    - (7) Head carried too low or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation
    - (8) Obvious looking for lead or diagonal
    - (9) Over or under turn more than 1/8 of prescribed turn, but not more than 1/4 turn
  - C. Severe Faults (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault) include:
    - (1) Loss of rein
    - (2) Touching horse, including using either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or on the rail
    - (3) Holding the saddle with either hand
    - (4) Cropping or spurring in front of the shoulder
    - (5) Severe disobedience or resistance by horse including, but not limited to, rearing, bucking, kicking out, or pawing.
  - D. Faults scored according to severity:
    - (1) Head carried too low (such that the poll is below the withers consistently).
    - (2) Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

E. Disqualifications (should not be placed) include:

- (1) Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number in visible manner
- (2) Willful abuse
- (3) Excessive schooling or training
- (4) Fall by horse or rider
- (5) Illegal use of hands on reins
- (6) Use of prohibited equipment
- (7) Knocking over the cone, going off pattern or working on wrong side of cone
- (8) Failure to follow pattern correctly, including failure to ever execute correct lead or gait where called for
- (9) Overturning more than 1/4 of prescribed turn

6. **FINALS SCORING** shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

- 90-100 Excellent equitation, including body position and use of aids. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely; demonstrates a high level of professionalism.
- 80-89 Above average rider that executes the pattern as well as correct equitation and use of aids. Excellent rider that commits a minor fault.
- 70-79 Average pattern execution and average equitation but lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. Above average rider that commits a minor fault.
- 60-69 Below average pattern that lacks quickness or precision. Rider has obvious position and/or appearance faults that prevents effective equitation. Average rider that commits two minor faults in the performance of the pattern.
- 50-59 One major fault or multiple minor faults in the performance. A rider that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.
- 40-49 Severe fault, two or more major faults or multiple minor faults in the performance or the exhibitor that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.
- 10-39 Exhibitor commits more than one severe fault or multiple major faults in performance, exhibits poor riding skills, but completes the class and avoids disqualification.

7. Basic Position:

- A. To mount, take up the reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration.
- B. Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical. Hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional, and bight of reins may fall on either side of the neck; however, it is more acceptable for the bight to fall on the off side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time. The rider should maintain light contact with the horse's mouth at all times except when standing still.
- C. Reins: The rein of a snaffle bridle may be held either outside the little finger or between the third and little finger. The snaffle rein of a pelham or full bridle should be held outside the little finger



and curb rein between the third and little finger or between the second and third fingers. In either case, reins should be picked up at the buckles by the right hand, then straightened and separated in correct order by the fingers of the left hand, pulled taut and adjusted to even pressure in both hands.

- D. The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind the girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot, but may be under the toe, ball of foot or slightly behind ball of foot.
- E. Position in Motion:
  - (1) The walk should be a 4-beat gait with the rider in a vertical position with a following hand.
  - (2) The posting trot: at left diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when left front leg is on the ground; at right diagonal rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground; when circling clockwise at a trot, rider should be on left diagonal; when circling counter-clockwise, rider should be on right diagonal. The rider should close the hip angle to allow the torso to follow the horizontal motion of the horse. The upper body should be slightly in front of the vertical.
  - (3) The sitting trot and canter: At the sitting trot the upper body is only slightly in front of the vertical. At the canter the body should be positioned slightly more in front of the vertical. As the stride is shortened, the body should be in a slightly more erect position.
  - (4) Two point position: The pelvis should be forward, but relaxed, lifting the rider's weight off the horse's back and transferring the weight through the rider's legs. In this position the two points of contact between horse and rider are the rider's legs. Hand should be forward, up the neck, not resting on the neck.
  - (5) Hand gallop: A three-beat, lengthened canter ridden in two-point position. The legs are on the horse's sides while the seat is held out of the saddle. When at the hand gallop, the rider's angulation will vary somewhat as the horse's stride is shortened and lengthened. A good standard at a normal hand gallop should be about 30 degrees in front of the vertical.

## WORKING HUNTER

1. Horses will be judged on performance, manners, hunting pace, style of jumping, way of moving and suitability for actual use in the hunting field.
2. All horses must be serviceably sound. Horses must be placed on performance before consideration for soundness. Finalists will be jogged in hand past the judge for soundness in order of finish in the same bridle and bit as exhibited in or shall be required to show a trot circle upon completion of their course. Any horse showing lameness, broken wind or impairment of vision shall be refused an award at the judge's discretion.
3. Each horse will individually negotiate a course consisting of at least eight jumps with a minimum of four obstacles. Fifty percent or more of the obstacles must be at least the required height and none may be more than 2" over or under. At least two changes of direction are recommended. Judging will start when the horse enters the arena and ends when the horse leaves the arena.

4. Height Divisions: Working Hunter will be evaluated and placed as one class, however exhibitors will select their height division to jump. Exhibitors must compete in the same division for both equitation over fences and hunter hack. Height divisions are as follows:

- A. 2' to 2'3"
- B. 2'3" to 2'6"
- C. 2'6" to 2'9"

4. Jumps to be used in the working hunter classes may be selected from the following list but will not be limited to this list:
  - A. Brush
  - B. Post and rail
  - C. In and out (post and rails should be spaced 20 feet - 22 feet for small/medium ponies, 22 feet - 24 feet for large ponies and 24 feet - 26 feet apart for horses)
  - D. White board fence or gate
  - E. Chicken coop
  - F. Stone wall
  - G. Oxer (must be ascending: it is recommended that the back element be 3 inches higher)
  - H. Aiken
  - I. Hedge
5. A ground line is required for all obstacles.
6. Judging-General:
  - A. All classes must be judged on performance and soundness and when indicated, conformation, suitability or manners.
  - B. Judges must penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences, whether touched or untouched.
  - C. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible.
  - D. When a horse makes two faults at an obstacle, only the major fault on the top element will be scored (exception: refusals count in addition).
  - E. When an obstacle is composed of several elements in the same vertical plane, a fault at the top element is the only one penalized.
  - F. At a combination, the faults committed at each obstacle are considered separately. In case of a refusal or runout at one obstacle in a combination, the competitor may rejump the previous as well as the following obstacle.
  - G. In case of refusal or run-out on an obstacle that contains more than one jumping element (ie: in and out, combination), entry must re-jump all elements of the obstacle.
  - H. Dismissed contestants will exit promptly.
7. Faults:
  - A. Minor or Major Faults
    - (1) Showing an obstacle to a horse
    - (2) Missing a lead change
    - (3) Kicking out
    - (4) Spooking
    - (5) Jumping out of form
    - (6) Jumping into corners of obstacle
  - B. Major Faults
    - (1) Knock down of any part of an obstacle
    - (2) Refusals

- (3) Trotting while on course when it is not specified
  - (4) Bucking
  - (5) Stopping for loss of shoe or broken equipment
  - (6) Circling while on course
  - (7) Dangerous jumping
- C. Elimination
- (1) Three refusals
  - (2) Off course
  - (3) Jumping a fence before it is reset
  - (4) Bolting from the ring
  - (5) Fall of horse or rider
- D. The following may or may not be considered as faults, depending on their severity and frequency:
- (1) Light rubs
  - (2) Swapping leads in a line
  - (3) Late lead changes
  - (4) Excessive show of animation
  - (5) Adding or eliminating a stride in a line

## **EQUITATION OVER FENCES**

1. The rider's performance and skills over fences are being judged in this class. Rider's basic position in the saddle; position and use of hands, legs and feet; ability to control and show the horse and suitability of horse to rider are important; but rider's skills and execution must be considered.
2. Each rider shall jump a course consisting of at least six jumps.

Height Divisions: Equitation over fences will be evaluated and placed as one class, however exhibitors will select their height division to jump. Exhibitors must compete in the same division for both working hunter and hunter hack. Height divisions are as follows:

- A. 2' to 2'3"
  - B. 2'3" to 2'6"
  - C. 2'6" to 2'9"
3. The following will result in elimination: fall of horse and/or rider; three cumulative refusals, and/or off course.
  4. The following constitute major faults and can be cause for elimination: a refusal, loss of stirrup, trotting while on course when not part of a test, and/or loss of reins.
  5. Position: Same as Equitation on the Flat.
  6. The judge will score each rider on his or her individual skills and execution of the course.
  7. The final riders may be required to perform additional testing to determine the final placing.

## **HUNTER HACK**

1. Horses will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners, and way of going.

2. Each horse/pony will first individually negotiate two jumpers, with a minimum of 48 feet between jumps. Fences may be set greater than 48 feet apart but must be in increments of 12 feet. Martingales are not allowed.

**Height Divisions:** Hunter hack will be evaluated and placed as one class, however exhibitors will select their height division to jump. Exhibitors must compete in the same division for both working hunter and equitation over fences, if applicable. Height divisions are as follows:

- A. 2' to 2'3"
  - B. 2'3" to 2'6"
  - C. 2'6" to 2'9"
3. Faults over fences will be scored as in the working hunter class. Horses eliminated in the over fence portion of the class shall be disqualified. Judging shall start when the horse enters the arena and ends when the horse leaves the arena.
  4. A minimum of the top 15 horses and ponies and all ties will be selected by the judge to be judged on the rail, according to hunter under saddle rules. The judge will work horses and ponies both directions of the ring.
  5. Placing for the class shall be determined by allowing a minimum of 70 percent for individual fence work and a maximum of 30 percent for work on the flat.

## DRESSAGE

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**PERSONAL:** All exhibitors are required to wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet with a fastened harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena. Exhibitors should wear a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, breeches or jodhpurs, boots or Jodhpur boots. Gloves are preferred, but not required.

**TACK:** Any English type saddle (dressage, forward seat, flat or cut-back) may be used. A plain snaffle bridle and a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment), crescent noseband or a crossed noseband is required. Except for the crescent noseband, buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed. A snaffle bit with a smooth mouthpiece with a solid surface is required. Twisted wire and roller bits are not allowed. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited. Bits may be made with rubber, plastic or leather covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other materials.

Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Braiding of the horse's mane and tail is permitted. False tails are permitted and if used may not contain any metal parts.

The above restrictions apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, and bandages (without magnets) are permitted.

Spurs are optional and the shank may be either curved or straight. Straight shanks must point directly back from the center of the spur. Curved shanks must point downward. A dressage whip, no longer than 47.2 inches including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.

### **EXECUTION AND JUDGING OF TESTS:**

1. The purpose is to test the rider and horse on the basic principles of dressage competition. The object of dressage competition is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse making it calm, supple, loose and flexible, confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with its rider. See the USEF Rulebook ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)) for further explanations of the general principals of dressage competition and the correct gaits and movements.
2. The dressage test used will be selected annually.
3. Arena size may be either 20m X 40m or 20m X 60m.
4. Approximately 6-10 minutes will be allowed for each test. The specific time limit will be based on the test selected. Show management reserves the right to adjust individual ride times under extenuating circumstances.
5. A competitor who does not enter the arena within 45 seconds after the entry bell or whistle is sounded for his ride shall be eliminated.
6. Tests may be called during the competition. If tests are announced it is the responsibility of the competitor to arrange for a person to announce the test. Lateness and errors in announcing the ride will not relieve the rider from "error penalties". Announcing the test is limited to reading the movement as it is written once only. However, the repetition of reading of a movement is acceptable if there is reason to doubt that the rider heard the original call.
7. The use of the voice in any way or clicking the tongue is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.
8. When a competitor makes an "error of the course" (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the judge warns him by sounding the bell or whistle. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves him to continue by himself.
9. The score for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is performed insufficiently (4 or below) or sufficiently (5 or above). The scoring scale is:

10 - Excellent

9 - Very Good

- 8 - Good
- 7 - Fairly Good
- 6 - Satisfactory
- 5 - Sufficient
- 4 - Insufficient
- 3 - Fairly Bad
- 2 - Bad
- 1 - Very Bad
- 0 - Not executed

10. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be eliminated.
11. If during the test (between the time of entry and the time of exit at A) the horse leaves the arena (all four feet outside the fence or line marking the arena perimeter) the competitor is eliminated.
12. Resistance of the horse which prevents continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds results in elimination.
13. In case of ties the competitor with the highest marks received under Collective Marks shall be declared the winner. When the scores for Collective Marks tie, the judge may be required to decide on the winner after review of both score sheets.
14. In most cases, it is acceptable for a competitor to enter and work in the perimeter area surrounding the arena (not within the arena itself) immediately prior to his/her ride and after the final salute of the previous competitor.

## WESTERN DRESSAGE

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**PERSONAL:** All exhibitors are required to wear boots and a properly fitted ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet with a fastened harness the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena. Shirts with a collar and long sleeves are required. Spurs are optional and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English Dressage style. Other optional attire includes: chaps, gloves, neck tie or similar tie/pin, vest, jacket, coat, or sweater.

**TACK:** See the Appointments for the Western Division for the basis of allowable Western tack. The following exceptions and/or additions are allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Western cavesson on the bridle (braided or plain) with space for two fingers between the cavesson and horse's jaw. No metal, studs, or rigid material may be part of the cavesson. No flash, figure-8, or dropped nose bands.
2. Bits/bridles that may be used on horses of any age:
  - A. Snaffle bit (as defined in Western Appointments).
  - B. Hackamore (Bosal, as defined in Western Appointments).

- C. Bitless bridle. Must be Western style made of leather or leather like material.
3. Breastplate and/or crupper.
4. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm) including lash.
5. Standard stock saddle is customary, but a working saddle, Aussie, and Western side saddle are also acceptable. A horn is optional but Western style fenders are required. Padding on the saddle's seat and tapaderos are permitted.
6. "Polo" style leg wraps close to horse's color. No other kind of boots or wraps are allowed.
7. Reins:
8. With snaffle bit: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations.
9. With bosal: Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins; two hands must be used. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
10. With curb: Romal reins or Split reins. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using split reins, one or two hands are allowed.
11. Hand position on reins:
- A. Romal reins: the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
  - B. Split reins: When split reins are held in one or two hands, the rider may not switch back and forth during a test. When the split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways that the rider may use them:
    - (1) with one finger between the split reins; the ends of the reins fall on the side of the reining hand
    - (2) without a finger between the reins; the hand must be around the reins. The ends of the Split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
  - C. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

In addition to what is described in Appointments for the Western Division, the following are not allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Full cheeks, half cheeks, kimberwicks, roping bits with both reins attached to a single ring, or any type of rein or attachment which increases the effective length of the bit's shank or creates additional leverage.
2. Round, rolled, braided, or rawhide curb straps.

3. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots," splint/hock/bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, and nose covers.

The above restrictions apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, and bandages (without magnets) are permitted.

### **EXECUTION AND JUDGING OF TESTS:**

1. Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition, with the purpose of enjoying a safe, pleasurable, versatile, and useful working horse. The hallmarks of the Western Dressage Horse are usefulness, rideability, willingness, safety, pure gaits, lightness, calmness, and steadiness. A Western Dressage Rider should use clear, effective, subtle aids coupled with a confident seat and light, responsive hands in communication with the horse.

A Western Dressage Partnership should exhibit impulsion originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s). The horse should move freely forward via a willingness to work off the hindquarters which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.

2. Gaited horse will perform a saddle gait in place of the jog. The saddle gait selected should be the gait in which the gaited horse is balanced and athletically comfortable performing. The saddle gait is a 4 beat lateral or diagonal gait, timely and evenly performed. The tempo, rhythm and foot falls of the gait they choose to show must not change throughout the test. The true four beat gait the horse performs should be able to be ridden in a working, lengthened, free and collected manner as called for in the Western Dressage test.
3. See the USEF Rulebook ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)) for further explanations of the general principals of Western Dressage competition and the correct gaits (included for gaited horses) and movements.
4. The dressage test used will be selected annually.
5. Arena size may be either 20m X 40m or 20m X 60m.
6. Approximately 6-8 minutes will be allowed for each test. The specific time limit will be based on the test selected. Show management reserves the right to adjust individual ride times under extenuating circumstances.
7. A competitor who does not enter the arena within 45 seconds after the entry bell or whistle is sounded for his ride shall be eliminated.
8. Tests may be called during the competition. If tests are announced it is the responsibility of the competitor to arrange for a person to announce the test. Lateness and errors in announcing the ride will not relieve the rider from "error penalties". Announcing the test is limited to reading the movement as it is written once only. However, the repetition of reading of a movement is acceptable if there is reason to doubt that the rider heard the original call.



9. Voice: The quiet use of the voice or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is permitted. Touch: Petting the horse is allowed during the test as a gentle reward.
10. When a competitor makes an “error of the course” (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the judge warns him by sounding the bell or whistle. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed then leaves him to continue by himself.
11. The score for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is performed insufficiently (4 or below) or sufficiently (5 or above).  
The scoring scale is:
- 10 - Excellent 6 - Satisfactory 2 - Bad  
9 - Very Good 5 - Marginal 1 - Very Bad  
8 - Good 4 - Insufficient 0 - Not performed  
7 - Fairly Good 3 - Fairly Bad
12. In the case of a fall of horse and/or rider the competitor will be eliminated.
13. If during the test (between the time of entry and the time of exit at A) the horse leaves the arena (all four feet outside the fence or line marking the arena perimeter) the competitor is eliminated.
14. Resistance of the horse which prevents continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds results in elimination.
15. In case of ties the competitor with the highest marks received under Collective Marks shall be declared the winner. When the scores for Collective Marks tie, the judge may be required to decide on the winner after review of both score sheets.
16. In most cases, it is acceptable for a competitor to enter and work in the perimeter area surrounding the arena (not within the arena itself) immediately prior to his/her ride and after the final salute of the previous competitor.

## 4-H HORSE EDUCATION CONTESTS

1. Contestants are allowed to enter a maximum of two contests (Public Speaking, Individual Presentation, Team Presentation, Horse Bowl, Hippology, or Judging).
2. Eligibility of teams and individuals are to be determined by any procedure that the state deems to be appropriate. Team members and individuals must be enrolled in 4-H in the state they represent. Their eligibility must be certified by the State 4-H Leader or Equine Specialist.
3. Recording devices, such as tape recorders, video cameras, movie cameras, picture cell phones, etc. are not to be used during any education contest, excluding horse judging. Recording devices, phones, etc. are not permitted by contestants during the horse judging contest at any time.

4. Cell phones must be turned off while in a contest room.
5. Photographs will be permitted only before or after a presentation or speech. Speeches and presentations should be original, and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to: copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual; using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. Competitor's resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be disqualified, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction. If another contestant, coach, or parent can provide proof of plagiarism, they must present their findings, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the contest, to their state program representative. The state representative will then communicate the protest to show management and the executive committee will review the protest and make a ruling.

## **HORSE JUDGING CONTEST**

OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of the Horse Judging contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge of judging conformation and performances classes of a variety of breeds and disciplines. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

1. A team will consist of three or four members. Where four members judge, the lowest score will be dropped before determining team scores.
2. Hats will not be allowed during the contest.
3. Contestants shall not wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal their identity or that of the state they represent. However, matching coats, blazers, etc. are permissible.
4. While the contest is in progress, there will be no talking or conversation between contestants or any other individuals. Violating this rule may result in disqualification. All questions should be directed to group leaders. The contest coordinator shall have full authority to disqualify contestants violating this rule. Group leaders should bring these violations to the attention of the contest coordinator.
5. Classes to be judged are as follows:
  - A. Up to four halter classes; to be chosen from American Quarter Horse, Morgan, Appaloosa, Arabian, Palomino, American Paint, Hunters In-Hand, or Saddlebreds, Pony breeds (stock or hunter type).
  - B. Four to six performance classes; to be chosen from Western Pleasure, Ranch Reining, Working Western Rail, Ranch Riding, Hunter Under Saddle, Gaited (Trotting) Pleasure, Non-Trotting Pleasure, Western Riding, Hunter Hack, Hunt Seat Equitation, Horsemanship, Gaited, Showmanship, Equitation, or Trail.
6. All classes will be judged based on Southern Regional rules and scored accordingly. Hunter Hack will be judged as 70% fence work, 30% rail work.

9. All horses will be judged as sound for halter and as they go in performance classes. All tack and attire will be considered legal.

8. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for non-reason classes and 17 minutes will be allowed for reason classes.

Four sets of oral reasons will be given.

Resource materials may be carried during the contest but are not permitted in the reasons room.

10. Contestants should not use notes while giving oral reasons. The use of notes will result in the following scores:

- a. Students who simply read their written notes should receive a score of "15"
- b. Students who use their notes should receive a score of "20"
- c. Students who don't use any notes, but have an incomplete set of reasons should receive a score no higher than "25."
- d. Students who don't use any notes, but have an incomplete set of reasons should receive a score no higher than "25."

## **HORSE BOWL CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of Horse Bowl contests is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects, to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting, where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. We hope that this competition will provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators.

### **TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

Each state may enter two (2) teams of four (4) or five (5) contestants. One team member will be designated as an alternate if five (5) are entered.

### **REFERENCE BOOKS**

1. [ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF EQUINE TERMS](#), by New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Dogwise Publishing ([www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
2. [HORSE ANATOMY](#): A Coloring Atlas, by Robert A. Kainer & Thomas O. McCracken Dogwise Publishing ([www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
3. [FEEDING AND CARE OF THE HORSE](#) (2nd edition), by Lon D. Lewis Wiley ([www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)), 9200 Keystone Crossing, Ste 800, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 877-762-2974
4. [HORSE INDUSTRY HANDBOOK](#) (9th edition), by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC ([www.ayhc.com](http://www.ayhc.com)), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005 \*Visit website for continued updates

5. [THE HORSE](#) by J. Warrant Evans, et al., 3rd edition. Waveland Press, Inc., 4180 IL Route 83, Suite 101, Long Grove, Illinois 6004. (www.waveland.com) (847) 634-0081
6. [HORSE SMARTS: AN EQUINE REFERENCE & YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE](#), by AYHC AYHC (www.ayhc.com), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005 \*Visit website for continued updates

## QUESTION TYPES

1. REGULAR QUESTIONS are worth two (2) points during one-on-one competition, when only one member of each team may respond. The regular question is worth one (1) pt. during OPEN questions, when any member of either team may respond. These questions count toward individual and team scores. All incorrect answers receive a (-1) deduction.
2. TOSS-UP QUESTIONS are worth one (1) pt. and are open for response to any member of either team. The toss-up question is used in the OPEN part of the match. If there is a correct answer to the toss-up question, a bonus question will be attached. Toss-up questions are generally a little more difficult than a regular question, and may have two or three required answers. All answers are required to be correct. The points will count toward individual and team scores. All incorrect answers receive a (-1) deduction.
3. BONUS QUESTIONS will be worth (3) points. They are attached to a correctly answered toss-up question, in the OPEN part of the match. When multiple answers are required, (3) POINTS will be awarded if ALL of the required answers are correct. No points will be awarded or taken away if there is less than the required number of answers, or if there are no correct answers. No part of the bonus question will be repeated, nor will any additional information be given to the contestants relative to the question. These points will count toward team scores only.
  - A. A bonus question attached to an unanswered or incorrectly answered toss-up question will be transferred to the next regular open question (which becomes the new toss-up question), until a correct answer is given.
  - B. The team should allow the moderator to read the complete question. The team will be given ten (10) seconds to confer. The acknowledger will call time at the end of ten (10) seconds. The team captain or designee must then start giving the required number of answers within five (5) seconds. Team members may give answers to the captain/designee during the 30-second answering period.
  - C. If the match ends with an unanswered bonus question, the bonus question will not be utilized.
4. ONE-ON-ONE QUESTIONS - Regular questions shall be addressed to only one member of each team, beginning with the contestants in the #1 chairs (nearest to control operator) on either team and progressing with subsequent questions going to the contestants in the #2 chairs, #3 chairs, #4 chairs, respectively, until the one-on-one questions are completed. There will be an equal number of one-on-one questions per contestant per match.
  - A. The moderator shall clearly indicate the start of one-on-one play by announcing

the chair number of the contestants' eligible to respond, prior to reading the question.

B. Toss-up/Bonus questions will not be used during One-on-One Competition.

5. RESPONSE PENALTY - If any contestant, other than the designated contestants, responds to a one-on-one or regular question, that contestant/team will lose two (2) points.

A. A contestant that responds more than twice to a one-on-one or regular question directed to another contestant will be replaced at the panel by the team alternate. If an alternate is not available, the remainder of the match will be played with less than a full team, and all one-on-one questions normally addressed to the eliminated contestant will be addressed to the contestant in the opposite numbered chair. This contestant may return to further matches in the contest. A third such penalty will disqualify them from the competition. The (-2) point penalty will continue to apply for 2nd and 3rd offense.

## **READING AND ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS**

1. The moderator will read all questions - identify the type and number of question and designate the chairs eligible to respond when necessary. Five seconds will be allowed for starting a response. If an answer is not given or wrong, the moderator will give the correct answer, and the next question read. If the answer given is the same as or means the same as the expected answer, it will be accepted. If the answer is different than the expected answer, it will be referred to the judges' panel for decision.
2. Once a contestant activates a buzzer, they must be ACKNOWLEDGED before they can answer the question. After they have been acknowledged, the contestant has five (5) seconds to start a valid answer. First answers will be considered valid answers. It is the responsibility of the acknowledger to determine if an actual answer was started within the 5-second time limit.
3. An acknowledgement penalty of one (-1) point will be deducted from contestant's score and the team for answering a question before being acknowledged. The first answer given will be accepted as the official answer, including multiple response questions. Repeating the question will not be considered the initiation of the answer. If a question is read to completion, the judges may ask the contestant to explain, expand, be more specific, or clarify the answer.
4. If a question is INTERRUPTED during the reading of it, the moderator will stop reading as soon as a buzzer is activated. The contestant responding has five (5) seconds AFTER BEING ACKNOWLEDGED, TO BEGIN THE ANSWER. If the answer given is correct for the way the question was written, it will be accepted. If the answer given is correct for only the portion of the question heard, but wrong for the way the question was written, the answer will not be accepted. If the question was interrupted, the judges will not be allowed to ask for any type of clarification of the answer given.
5. The judges' panel will be allowed to verify an answer, or the validity of a question. If verification cannot be made, the question will be replaced.

## **PLAYING TEAMS AND ALTERNATES**

1. Only four (4) contestants shall be seated at the panel at any one time. Seat position must be declared prior to competition and youth must remain in this seat for the

duration of the entire contest. The only exception is when an alternate replaces a seated player during a match or the competition. See #2 below.

2. During any match, only one (1) alternate may be replaced at the panel when:
  - A. The moderator, team captain, team coach deems it impossible for one of the seated members to continue.
  - B. The captain/coach of a team requests the replacement of a team member.
3. The team member removed from a match becomes ineligible to return to that particular match. The team member removed and the replacement member are both eligible to participate in further matches. A five-member team is strongly recommended.
4. Members removed from the game table for disciplinary reasons, may not come back to any more matches in the competition.

## **DOUBLE ELIMINATION**

1. TEAMS - Each team will play in a pre-numbered position, according to the position number drawn by the team captain.
2. A total of two losses will automatically eliminate a team from the competition.

## **INDIVIDUAL SCORES**

1. Scores will be kept for each individual contestant, with the high 10 individual contestants to receive special recognition.
2. Only those contestants who have participated in three or more matches will be considered for the top individual awards.
  - A. The high three match scores for each individual will be used in cases where individuals participate in more than three matches.
3. Ties for individual awards will be broken on the basis of:
  - A. First tie breaker: high average score for the entire contest
  - B. Second tie breaker: high individual match scores.
  - C. Third tie breaker: Total number of points earned in the contest.

## **SCORE KEEPING**

1. The point value of correct/incorrect responses, bonuses, penalties are as follows:

Correct answer – One-on-one question	2
Correct answer - Open question	1
Toss-up question - All answers required	1
Bonus question - All required answers required	3

Bonus question - All incomplete answers, no answers or incorrect answers	0
Team Participation- 4 correct answers	2
All incorrect answers	-1
Response penalty - No answer started in 5 seconds	-2
Response penalty- Contestant not acknowledged	-1
Response penalty- Out of turn	-2
Response penalty- Out of turn second time in same match	-2; Eliminate from match
Response penalty- Out of turn third time in contest	-2; Eliminate from contest
"Official" protest not upheld	-1

2. During the second half of the match, all regular/open questions will be worth one (1) point, open to all members seated at the game table. All toss-up questions will be worth (1) point and all bonus questions will be worth three (3 pts.) if the number of required answers given are correct.

## TEAM PARTICIPATION BONUS

1. In order to encourage full team participation, each team member will have a bonus card at the game table. When a team member gives a correct response to a one-on-one, regular, or toss-up question, that member will turn his/her card around to face the score keepers. A bonus worth two (2) points will be awarded to the team when all four bonus cards face the score keepers. The value of the question (1 or 2 pts.) will also be added to the score of the individual who answered the question, thus making that question worth three (3) or four points depending on the value of the question.

Example: The score keeper will add four (4) pts. to the team score [two (2) pts. for correct answer to a one-on-one question and two (2) pts. for the team bonus]. The contestant will receive the value of the question on his/her individual score and the team will receive both the individual points and the bonus points on the team score.

- A. When an alternate comes to the game table, if a bonus card is showing for that chair, it must be forfeited (turned around) and earned by the contestant coming into the game.
- B. When a team bonus has been earned once - the bonus cards will be turned around and the team has an opportunity to earn it again. A team may earn this bonus as many times as possible within a match.

## **TIME OUTS**

1. The team captain, coach or any staff member may call for a "time out" for clarification of a rule, score, to seat an alternate, or to allow for any unexpected problem. "Time outs" may be called only after a question has been answered and before the next question starts.

## **HOLDING ROOMS**

1. All teams, alternates, and coaches must remain in the designated holding area until it is their turn to play.
2. After their round match is played, they must go to an appropriate designated area, until the conclusion of the round in progress.
3. After the round is completed, all teams/alternates and coaches (not eliminated from the contest) must return to the designated holding area to await their next match.
4. All coaches in the holding area are responsible for supervision of the teams. These rules are a matter of ethics and require the cooperation of all team members and coaches.

## **CONTEST PROCEDURES**

1. Teams are assembled and seated at their respective panels, with the designated team captain seated in the #1 chair, nearest to the middle or the moderator. Each contestant is given the opportunity to check the equipment.
2. All team members will have a participation bonus card facing the contestant. They will be blank to the score keepers until that contestant gives a correct response to a question. At that time the card will be turned around to face the scorekeepers.
3. The designated set of questions for each round is opened by the moderator and verified with the judges' panel and referee before starting the game. Prior to reading a question, the moderator will announce the number, type of question and the contestants eligible to respond. Each succeeding question will be read in this manner until all of the questions for that match are read. The correct answer will be given for all unanswered questions or wrong answers.
4. Contestants, who respond to a question, will receive the appropriate points applied to a particular question. Appropriate penalties will be deducted as warranted.
5. If the time (five (5) seconds) in which to answer a question elapses without a contestant activating a buzzer, there shall be no loss or awarding of points to either team. After the response time has elapsed, the answer will be given, and the next question read.
6. If the buzzer is activated and an answer is not started within the 5 second allowable time, there will be a minus two (-2) pt. penalty imposed against the contestant who activated the buzzer and his/her team.
7. If the judges elect to not use a game question, it must be replaced by another question so that the total number of questions to be asked will remain equal in each match.

## **INFORMATION SOURCES**



1. No source of information is infallible. At times there may be answers given that are in agreement with the recommended reference books, which in fact are erroneous or out of date. Every effort is made to eliminate such questions, however, in the event one slips in, the judges may agree to:

- A. Accept the answer and give an explanation of the correct or up-dated information, for future use of the question.
- B. Accept only the correct answer.
- C. Replace the question to the appropriate contestants.

## **MATCH TIES**

- 1. In the event of a match tie, it will be broken with five (5) tie breaker questions. If a tie remains the first team to earn a point (or because of a loss of a point by the other team, has a (1) point advantage) will be declared a match winner based on the scores.
- 2. Tie Breaker points do not get added to individual, team, or team bonus scores. They are used to break match ties only.

## **TEAM PLACINGS**

- 1. Team awards will be based on the predetermined procedure of play.
- 2. Every team will participate in a minimum of two matches
- 3. The rank of teams will be determined on the basis of their position within the double elimination bracket. After two losses, the teams eliminated in the same round will be placed on the basis of the higher scores in the eliminating round: fifth (5th place) to the highest score, sixth (6th place) to the next highest score and so on.

## **DOUBLE ELIMINATION - TEAMS TIE BREAKERS**

- 1. 1st Tie Breaker – Total average of all games played in double elimination games.
- 2. 2nd Tie Breaker – Highest match score in double elimination games.
- 3. 3rd Tie Breaker – Total score of the top two matches in double elimination games.

## **EQUIPMENT FAILURE**

- 1. It shall be the responsibility of the moderator to assure each contestant that all equipment is operating correctly at the start of each match. Back-up units will also be available.

2. If the device being used ceases to function during a match or is believed to be malfunctioning, a "time out" may be called by any contestant, the staff, or by either coach.
3. If after checking it and it is determined that there is an equipment malfunction/failure the faulty part(s) or unit will be replaced and play resumed.
4. Scores accumulated up to the point of the "time out" shall stand and all further points awarded during the remainder of the match added to or subtracted from this total.
5. If both judges or one judge and the moderator deem it advisable, points awarded for the two (2) questions asked immediately prior to determination of the equipment failure, may be recalled and two (2) additional questions used.
6. Under no conditions shall there be a replay of match in which there was an equipment failure.

## **TRANSCRIBING QUESTIONS**

Transcribing contest questions by any means during the competition is prohibited. There will be no hand-written, typing, recording, computer use, etc. in the contest rooms. Affiliated teams will be eliminated from the competition for violation of this rule.

## **RECORDERS AND CAMERAS**

Recording devices such as tape recorders, video cameras, movie cameras, picture cell phones, etc. are not be used during the competition.

CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF WHILE IN A CONTEST ROOM.

PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE PERMITTED ONLY BEFORE OR AFTER A MATCH.

## **PROTEST/VERIFICATION OF QUESTIONS AND/OR ANSWERS**

1. Verification of a question and answer is permissible
2. ONLY PROTESTS THAT ARE MADE IN A COURTEOUS, RESPECTFUL MANNER WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED.
3. Protests must be made before the reading of the next question.
4. An "official" protest of a question or the answer to a question may be called for by a team captain or the official team coaches. The judges and moderator will consider the protest. Their decision in all cases will be final.
5. If an "official" protest is acknowledged, play will be stopped, and the designated officials will consider the protest and make a decision. A (-1) point penalty will be assessed if the protest is not upheld.
6. To sustain a protest, at least two members of the designated judges panel must agree, to keep or replace a question, or to determine the validity of an answer.

7. If the protest is sustained by the officials, the moderator and/or the score keepers will take one of the following actions:
  - A. If the question is determined by the officials to be a poor question, it will be replaced and open to a specific chair on each team or to all contestants seated at the game table, depending on the type of question (one on one or open).
  - B. If the answer to the question received a call for verification, the designated judges' panel will determine the validity of the answer. Points will then be awarded or subtracted as appropriate.
  - C. If a question was protested after an answer is given, the designated judges panel will determine the validity of the protested question. If the validity of the question is allowed, points will be awarded or subtracted as appropriate. If not, the questions will be replaced.
8. All protests/challenges will be acknowledged by the contest staff.

## **ABUSE OF THE PROTEST PROVISIONS**

1. In this competition, every effort will be made to be fair and courteous and understanding to the contestants and the coaches.
2. Abuse of this protest provision by any contestant, or coach, will result in one or more of the following:
  - A. Dismissal of team coach from the contest area.
  - B. Dismissal (or replacement) of any contestant from the competition.
  - C. Dismissal of an entire team from the competition, with forfeiture of points or standing.

## **SPECTATORS, PARENTS AND VISITORS**

1. Spectators, parents and visitors may not protest any question, answer or procedure during the contest.
2. Any contestant, coach, family member, friends or spectators, exhibiting UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT, BEHAVIOR OR ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO THE CONTEST, will be subject to dismissal from the immediate contest area.

## **GAME OFFICIALS AND EQUIPMENT**

**MODERATOR:** The moderator shall assume the responsibility for reading questions and will acknowledge the chairs that are eligible to respond to One-on-One and open questions, before the question is read. The moderator will accept all answers that are the same or mean the same as the expected answer to the question. Any answers different than the expected answer will be referred to the judges' panel that will make the decision to accept or reject the given answer. Occasionally, the moderator may also be designated as the 3rd judge.

**JUDGES' PANEL:** The judges' panel will consist of two people, three if possible. One

person will be a knowledgeable horse person. If possible, one will be a veterinarian. The 3rd judge could be a Horse Show Judge, or the moderator may be designated as the 3rd judge. It is especially important for the judges to give reasons for not accepting an answer, because the intent of this competition is to make it a unique learning experience for young people of High School grade levels. These young people have made a very strong commitment to this program, and above all, we want to be fair and honest with them. This is an excellent opportunity to further educate them along these lines. The judge's responsibility will be to rule jointly on the acceptability of any question or answers to all questions. In the event of a challenge to a question/answer, with two judges, either both judges or one judge and the moderator must agree on the acceptability or rejection of any question and/or answer. When there is only one judge, both the judge and the moderator must agree on actions to be taken.

If an answer was not clearly heard, the contestant may be asked to repeat the answer. If a question was read to completion, and the answer given is different than the one expected, if it is technically or logically correct you may accept the answer. If the answer given is "in the ball park", the judges may request the contestant to be more specific, expand, explain, or clarify the answer. If the question was interrupted, the judges may not ask for any kind of clarification. The answer is either correct or incorrect according to the way the question was written.

All answers given must be correct for the way the question is written. An answer may be correct for a portion heard of a question that was interrupted, but wrong for the way the question was written. The judges may not ask any questions, and the answer will be counted as a wrong answer. If the answer is correct for the way the question was written, it will be accepted.

All of the game questions will have a reference code and page number. The required reference books will be available to look up information or to verify answers.

**TIME KEEPERS & CONTROL OPERATOR:** The time keeper will monitor all time intervals and designate when the time of response has been exceeded, and will handle all controls of the game equipment. It is strongly recommended that neither the moderator nor a judge be used as a timekeeper. Since the timekeeper has controls that verify whose light is on, the same person could also become the acknowledger. It will also be that person's responsibility at the beginning of the match, to assure that each contestant's equipment is working properly.

**TIME ALLOWED:**

- To start response to a question - 5 seconds
- To start answer after acknowledgement - 5 seconds
- For team to confer on a bonus question - 10 seconds

**CONTEST CHAIR:** The contest chair will have final authority over ALL procedures protests.

**SCORE KEEPERS:** At least three or four individuals shall be used to keep accurate team and individual scores. There will be visual score keepers/ who will record the team scores on a blackboard, overhead projector or flip chart. Table score keepers (at least two) will keep a written record of the official team and individual scores. The visual scores will be set up so

that they are visible to the table score keepers, the contestants and moderator and spectators, if possible. The written record of the scores must match the visual scores and will be the official records of all individual and team scores. A special score sheet will be available for the table score keepers, plus a special sheet for tabulating individual scores.

## **EQUIPMENT**

1. Game Panels- An appropriate device will be used which will provide a clear indication of the first contestant to respond to a question.
2. Time Recorders- A stopwatch, control panel timer, or other appropriate time device will be used.
3. Signal Device - This signal device shall be used by the time keepers and shall have a distinctly different sound for each side, or a device that has a distinct sound and lights that indicate the contestant that is responding when his/her buzzer is activated. Backup units will be available, in the event of malfunction or failure.
4. Score Keeping Devices- Two devices will be used. A blackboard, a flip chart, overhead projector, or electronic light display, will be used to maintain team scores that are visible to the contestants and score keepers and if possible to the spectators. Special score sheets will be provided for keeping the written official individual and game scores for each match of the contest.

## **AWARDS**

Awards will be announced and presented to the top ten individuals and teams.

## **HIPPOLOGY CONTEST**

**OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the Hippology contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of equine science and management, and in particular, the practical application of this knowledge and skill. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

## **CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

Each state may enter only two (2) teams of three (3) or four (4) members. Each team phase score (Written, Judging, and Stations) will be calculated by adding the top three individual scores from that phase. In the event of a tie for the third high score in a phase for a team, only one team member's score will count. The team problem phase will be determined by combining team problem scores.

The overall high point teams will be calculated by adding the individual phase team scores plus the team problem score.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

Reference Material: All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

1. [ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY OF EQUINE TERMS](#), by New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Dogwise Publishing ([www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
2. [HORSE ANATOMY](#): A Coloring Atlas, by Robert A. Kainer & Thomas O. McCracken Dogwise Publishing ([www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)) 403 S Mission St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 800-776-2665
3. [FEEDING AND CARE OF THE HORSE](#) (2nd edition), by Lon D. Lewis Wiley ([www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)), 9200 Keystone Crossing, Ste 800, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 877-762-2974
4. [HORSE INDUSTRY HANDBOOK](#) (9th edition), by the American Youth Horse Council AYHC ([www.ayhc.com](http://www.ayhc.com)), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005 \*Visit website for continued updates
5. [THE HORSE](#) by J. Warrant Evans, et al., 3rd edition. Waveland Press, Inc., 4180 IL Route 83, Suite 101, Long Grove, Illinois 6004. ([www.waveland.com](http://www.waveland.com)) (847) 634-0081
6. [HORSE SMARTS: AN EQUINE REFERENCE & YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE](#), by AYHC AYHC ([www.ayhc.com](http://www.ayhc.com)), 1 Gainer Rd, McDonald, NM 88262, phone: 817-320-2005 \*Visit website for continued updates
7. [DOVER SADDLERY](#) - Apparel, tack, and horse care items, for the English rider. Request catalog or visit [www.DoverSaddlery.com](http://www.DoverSaddlery.com) or call 888-234-6942
8. [SCHNEIDER SADDLERY](#) – Apparel, tack, and horse care items for the Western and the English rider. Request catalog or visit [www.sstack.com](http://www.sstack.com) or call 800-365-1311
9. Other: Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feeds utilized in horse rations.

## THE CONTEST

1. Examination Phase – approximately 200 points-This phase of the contest will include:
  - A. A written exam - The written exam will include 100 questions. Contestants will be given 50 minutes to complete the written exam.
  - B. Projected slides to be identified. There will be 50 slides that could include topics such as breed, color, color patterns, activity, proper appointments, anatomy which may include external, skeletal internal organs, parts of the gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed anatomy of the lower limbs.
2. Station Phase – approximately 200 points- This phase will consist of 10 stations with questions worth 2 points apiece, all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Contestants will be given 2 minutes per station. Examples of stations which may be used include:
  - A. Identification of:

- (1) Various types of saddles (actual or pictured) and parts of saddles
  - (2) Tack, bits, bridles, horse shoes and parts of shoes.
  - (3) Tools, equipment and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
  - (4) Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms and methods of preparation
  - (5) Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle chart and/or damage caused
  - (6) Blemishes and unsoundnesses
  - (7) Ages of equines based on teeth
- B. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc. to assess horse health.
- C. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.
3. Judging Phase – approximately 200 points- Contestants will be required to place at least four classes consisting of conformation and performance classes. The judging portion will be held in conjunction with the horse judging contest the next day. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or movie classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.
4. Team Problems – approximately 200 points- All teams will be presented with the same two problems, one prepared problem and one impromptu problem. For the prepared team problem, the team will be given 10 minutes to discuss the prompt and 7 minutes to present to the judge followed by up to 3 minutes of questions from the judge. For the impromptu team problem, the team will have 7 minutes to discuss and present their response to the judge. Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Each member of each team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation.

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standing.

Examples of possible team problems might include:

- A. Balancing a horse's ration.
- B. Farm management recommendation for specific, (i.e., breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc) horse operations.
- C. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose)
- D. Recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing horses for specific uses
- E. Behavior problems-causes, management of and corrections.
- F. Training & conditioning programs: equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, problem avoidance.

- G. Breeding and/or leasing contracts-specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- H. Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9-11 year old beginner 4-H'ers-where, how long, how much information, hands-on experiences, reinforcement, testing evaluation.
- I. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment will be considered.
- J. Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.

## **AWARDS**

1. Awards will be presented to:

The top ten individuals in the examination/ID phase, in the station phase, in the judging phase, and overall.

The top five teams in the examination phase, in the station phase, in the judging phase, and in the team problem (no individual awards) phase

The top ten teams overall

## **Tie Breaking**

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order may be used.

## **TEAM PRESENTATION CONTEST**

1. OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of the Team Presentation contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.
2. Working orders will be drawn and posted in advance of the contest. Working order may be changed to accommodate 4-H members when conflicts arise with the Horse Show classes.
3. May be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All presentations must take place in a classroom setting.
4. A team will consist of two members. Team work should be demonstrated.
5. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. (No live animals may be used.)



6. Ten to 15 minutes will be allowed for each demonstration, with a penalty of 1 point per judge subtracted for each minute or fraction of a minute over or under the time limits.
7. The following equipment will be provided for Team and Individual Presentations (in each room): one easel, one table, one power cord, a PC (not a MAC), and a projector. Projection will be onto the wall. A clicker to forward the slides will NOT be provided.
  - A. It is at the competitor's risk if the provided equipment fails to work during their presentation. The competitor may choose to use their own equipment.
  - B. Competitors with digital presentations must upload their files the evening before the contest to test their presentation on the PC provided. See the schedule for the time and location of presentation uploads. The Order of Go will also be posted at this time.
8. Once an individual or team has started their presentation (in this case it is after they have been introduced by the superintendent), they may not receive assistance from any coach, parent, audience member, or other person, which includes, but is not limited to, the stroking of any key on a computer or other audio visual device. The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification. Time will continue to be kept during the equipment malfunction.
9. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
  - A. Presentation Format (15 pts)
    - (1) Presentation followed a logical order
    - (2) Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic
    - (3) Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic
    - (4) Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points
  - B. Materials/Visual Aids (15 pts)
    - (1) Materials and equipment were carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized
    - (2) Visual aids were of high quality and easily visible
    - (3) Content of the visual aids was pertinent to the topic
  - C. Knowledge of Subject Matter (25 pts)
    - (1) Facts and information presented were accurate
    - (2) High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject
    - (3) Approved practices were presented or used
  - D. Delivery (25 pts)
    - (1) Presenter(s) were neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation
    - (2) Presenter(s) spoke directly to and looked at the audience and maintained strong eye contact
    - (3) Presentation pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)
    - (4) Presenter(s) displayed enthusiasm while presenting
    - (5) Presenter (s) had good voice control and quality
    - (6) Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used
    - (7) If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the presentation
    - (8) Presenter(s) seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation
    - (9) Presenters worked together as a team and contributed equally to the presentation [If a team presentation]
  - E. Credit and Content (10 pts)
    - (1) Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources

- (2) Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
- (3) Content was appropriately related to the equine industry

F. Questions (10 pts)

- (1) Presenter(s) handled questions easily and with confidence
  - (2) Presenter (s) were thoughtful in responses and thoroughly answered questions correctly
  - (3) Presenter (s) response(s) to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic presented
10. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
  11. Contestants may use notes. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge or judges.
  12. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
  13. Questions will be asked by judges only.
  14. Speeches and presentations should be original, and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to: copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual; using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. Competitor's resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be disqualified, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction. If another contestant, coach, or parent can provide proof of plagiarism, they must present their findings, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the contest, to their state program representative. The state representative will then communicate the protest to show management and the executive committee will review the protest and make a ruling.

## **INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION CONTEST**

Same rules and score card as for Team Contest.

Exceptions:

1. This is an individual contest.
2. Presentations should be 9-12 minutes in length. One point per judge will be deducted from the score for every minute or fraction of a minute under or over the time limits.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

1. OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of the Public Speaking contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.
2. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. Speech will take place in a classroom setting.

3. Seven to 10 minutes will be allowed each speaker. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) under 7 minutes or over 10 minutes.
4. Contestants may use notes. Notes must be printed or written on paper or note cards. Electronic devices, such as tablets, are not to be used by contestants during their speeches. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the three judges.
5. Speeches and presentations should be original, and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to: copying parts of a speech or presentation previously presented by another youth or individual; using text, phrases, photos or diagrams from an article, video, book, movie or other published work without giving credit to the author. Competitor's resource citation should be specific, accurate and honest. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be disqualified, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction. If another contestant, coach, or parent can provide proof of plagiarism, they must present their findings, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the contest, to their state program representative. The state representative will then communicate the protest to show management and the executive committee will review the protest and make a ruling.
6. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
  - A. Speech Format (20 pts)
    - (1) Speech followed a logical order
    - (2) Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic
    - (3) Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic
    - (4) Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points
  - B. Knowledge of Subject Matter (25 pts)
    - (1) Facts and information presented were accurate
    - (2) High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject
    - (3) Approved practices were discussed
  - C. Delivery (25 pts)
    - (1) Speaker was neatly and appropriately dressed
    - (2) Speaker spoke directly to and looked at the audience and maintained strong eye contact
    - (3) Speech pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)
    - (4) Speaker displayed enthusiasm while presenting
    - (5) Speaker had good voice control and quality
    - (6) Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used
    - (7) If notes were used, it was done without detracting from the speech
    - (8) Speaker seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized speech
  - D. Credit and Content (20 pts)
    - (1) Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
    - (2) Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
  - E. Content was appropriately related to the equine industry. Questions (10 pts)
    - (1) Speaker handled questions easily and with confidence
    - (2) Speaker was thoughtful in responses and thoroughly answered questions correctly
    - (3) Response to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic

7. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
8. Questions will be asked by the judges only.
9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
10. One (1) podium will be provided for each contestant.

## **COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS**

All speeches and presentations must take place in a classroom setting.

Speeches and presentations should be original and constructed and delivered by 4-H'ers. Plagiarism, in any form, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Copying from other sources:** Copying parts of speeches, presentations, or any other work created by another individual.
- **Misuse of AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools:** Using AI tools to generate entire sentences, paragraphs, or significant portions of the work.
- **Improper citation:** Using text, phrases, photos, diagrams, or any other material from articles, videos, books, movies, or other published sources without proper attribution to the original author.

Competitors are required to:

- **Cite sources accurately and completely:** All resources used must be cited specifically and honestly.
- **Submit a Works Cited page:** A hardcopy of the Works Cited/References page must be submitted at check-in.
- **Include essential information:** The Works Cited page must include the contestant(s)' name(s), the title of their speech or presentation, and be clearly labeled in the header.

**All sources used must be listed, including but not limited to:** websites, books, articles, interviews, and any other relevant materials. If contest officials confirm plagiarism, the contestant will automatically be disqualified, with a notation on the scorecard to reflect such infraction. If another contestant, coach, or parent can provide proof of plagiarism, they must present their findings, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the contest, to their state program representative. The state representative will then communicate the protest to show management and the executive committee will review the protest and make a ruling.

## **TEAM PRESENTATION CONTEST**

1. **OBJECTIVES:** The primary objective of the Team Presentation contest is to provide, in a friendly but competitive setting, an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their knowledge and

understanding of a specific equine-related topic, and present that topic to an audience. It is hoped that this contest will generate new friendships and be a rewarding experience for the contestants.

2. Working orders will be drawn and posted in advance of the contest. Working order may be changed to accommodate 4-H members when conflicts arise with the Horse Show classes.
3. May be a demonstration or illustrated talk. All presentations must take place in a classroom setting.
4. A team will consist of two members. Team work should be demonstrated.
5. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. (No live animals may be used.)
6. Ten to 15 minutes will be allowed for each demonstration, with a penalty of 1 point per judge subtracted for each minute or fraction of a minute over or under the time limits.
7. The following equipment will be provided for Team and Individual Presentations (in each room): one easel, one table, one power cord, a PC (not a MAC), and a projector. Projection will be onto the wall. A clicker to forward the slides will NOT be provided.
  - A. It is at the competitor's risk if the provided equipment fails to work during their presentation. The competitor may choose to use their own equipment.
  - B. Competitors with digital presentations must upload their files the evening before the contest to test their presentation on the PC provided. See the schedule for the time and location of presentation uploads. The Order of Go will also be posted at this time.
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9. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
  - A. Presentation Format (15 pts)
    - (1) Presentation followed a logical order
    - (2) Introduction was adequate and drew attention to the topic
    - (3) Main discussion was well organized and adequately covered the chosen topic
    - (4) Summary was brief and clearly reiterated the key points
  - B. Materials/Visual Aids (15 pts)
    - (1) Materials and equipment were carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized
    - (2) Visual aids were of high quality and easily visible
    - (3) Content of the visual aids was pertinent to the topic
  - C. Knowledge of Subject Matter (25 pts)
    - (1) Facts and information presented were accurate
    - (2) High level of preparation was shown as evidenced by the amount and depth of information provided about the subject
    - (3) Approved practices were presented or used
  - D. Delivery (25 pts)
    - (1) Presenter(s) were neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the presentation
    - (2) Presenter(s) spoke directly to and looked at the audience and maintained strong eye contact
    - (3) Presentation pace was consistent and appropriate (not too fast or too slow)
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- (5) Presenter (s) had good voice control and quality
- (6) Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used
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- (8) Presenter(s) seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation
- (9) Presenters worked together as a team and contributed equally to the presentation [If a team presentation]

E. Credit and Content (10 pts)

- (1) Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
- (2) Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate
- (3) Content was appropriately related to the equine industry

F. Questions (10 pts)

- (1) Presenter(s) handled questions easily and with confidence
- (2) Presenter (s) were thoughtful in responses and thoroughly answered questions correctly
- (3) Presenter (s) response(s) to questions indicate a deeper knowledge and understanding of the topic presented

- 10. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
- 11. Contestants may use notes. Excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge or judges.
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6. Consideration and points on the score card will be:
  - A. Speech Format (20 pts)
    - (1) Speech followed a logical order
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  - B. Knowledge of Subject Matter (25 pts)
    - (1) Facts and information presented were accurate
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  - C. Delivery (25 pts)
    - (1) Speaker was neatly and appropriately dressed
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    - (6) Words were pronounced correctly and proper word choice was used
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    - (8) Speaker seemed to choose words at the times they were spoken as opposed to a memorized speech

D. Credit and Content (20 pts)

- (1) Information was obtained from reputable and/or equine research based information or sources
- (2) Credit was given to the sources of information if it was appropriate

E. Content was appropriately related to the equine industry. Questions (10 pts)

- (1) Speaker handled questions easily and with confidence
  - (2) Speaker was thoughtful in responses and thoroughly answered questions correctly
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- 7. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.
  - 8. Questions will be asked by the judges only.
  - 9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their speech. This will not be counted in the allotted time.
  - 10. One (1) podium will be provided for each contestant.