

RANCH HORSE CLASSES

GENERAL RULES

The Ranch Horse classes are designed to show the overall ability of the horse to perform skills necessary to those of the all-around ranch horse.

- When possible, it is recommended that this competition be held outside and in an open space which simulates ranch terrain. The use of natural obstacles is also encouraged.
- The scores should be totaled after each run and the score should be announced on the public address system, if possible. Score sheets shall be posted after each class to allow riders to evaluate their performance.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

- Current PHAA point system will apply and awarded per individual class.
- Each individual class is eligible for all PHAA titles and awards.
- Year-End High-Point Ranch Horse Award - In addition to the above awards, an overall high-point award will be presented in each division (open, amateur, youth, etc.) to the horse earning the most points overall in all four classes combined. Horses must earn at least one point in each individual class to be eligible for the Year-End High-Point Ranch Horse award.

CLASSES

The following individual Ranch Horse classes may be offered in open, amateur, youth divisions:

- Ranch Pleasure
- Ranch Trail
- Ranch Cow Work
- Ranch Reining
- All riders in the competition shall comply with and follow rules of attire, equipment, class procedures, patterns, judging, and conduct for the class as posted by show management.

Ranch Horse Apparel and Equipment.

- No hoof polish.
- No braided or banded manes and no artificial hair extensions.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit.
- Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

Ranch Riding (formerly Ranch Horse Pleasure)

The purpose of Ranch Riding should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuvers requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Offered as an all age class for open, amateur and youth, and for horses three years of age or older.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

- Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional manoeuvres, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.
- Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
- The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Western Performance Gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- No time limit
- One of the suggested four patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included.

Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment

- No hoof polish.
- No braided or banded manes and no artificial hair extensions.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch.

Ranch Riding Penalties - A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

- One (1) point penalties
- Too slow/per gait
- Over-Bridled
- Out of Frame
- Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
- Split log at lope

Three (3) point penalties

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

Five (5) point penalties

- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
- Each refusal

Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates maneuvers
- Incomplete maneuvers

5. Zero (0) score

- Illegal equipment (including hoof black, braided or banded manes or tail extensions)
- Willful abuse
- Major disobedience or schooling