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CHAPTER WS WESTERN DIVISION

SUBCHAPTER WS-1 GENERAL

WS101 Eligibility

Horses may be of any breed or combination of breeds 14.1 hands and over. Junior exhibitor classes are open to horses and ponies. Stallions are prohibited in junior exhibitor classes. Horses must be serviceably sound, in good condition and of stock horse type. A full mane is not required. Entries may be judged for soundness and conformation before entering the arena. Any horse showing evidence of altered tail carriage may be penalized.

WS102 Instructions to Riders

1. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class. Hand to be around reins. When ends of split reins fall on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. *When using a romal, the rider's hand must be closed around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top. When split reins are used and ends of split reins fall on the same side as reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. When using a romal or when the ends of split reins are held in the hand not used for reining, no finger between the reins is permitted. The position of the hand not being used for reining is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment. Rider can hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held with at least 16 inches of slack rein between the hands. The hand must be above or slightly in front of the horn and as near to it as possible.*
2. Two hands may be used on hackamore (Bosal) and Western snaffle reins. Hands should be held at approximately the elbow height when elbows are held at rider's side. The acceptable distance of the rider's hands from the pommel of the saddle should be a minimum of six (6) inches with a maximum of twelve (12) inches vertically. Hands should be held no more than riders shoulder width apart. Rider's hands should be steady with very limited movement. Both hands must be visible to the judge. Judges will penalize hand position that does not conform with the description above.

BOD 6/20/23 Effective 12/1/23

WS103 Conduct

1. If bridles are to be checked it is the sole responsibility of the judge(s) to do so. The judge may designate the steward to check bridles at the out gate. Riders must dismount.
2. A judge has the authority to excuse any horse from a class, due to lameness, at any time while being judged.
3. Any class with 50 or more entries must be divided. Awards and prize money must be given in each section; add-back money to be awarded according to number of horses in each section.
4. Classes which require individual performances shall have a draw performed by the competition management to determine the horses' order to perform. A systematic rotation of the starting list must be employed so that a complete cycle is made during the competition. This draw to be posted at the back gate, not less than one hour prior to that class. The draw must be adhered to except in the following cases:
 - a. If exhibitor is showing more than one horse, their horses shall be staggered to allow for changing horses.
 - b. No horse shall perform as the first horse in more than one class per competition unless there are more classes than horses.
 - c. An accident.
 - d. Multiple rings showing.
5. Courses or patterns for classes which require individual performance will be posted a minimum of one hour prior to the class. The posted pattern is to be followed unless a change becomes necessary due to safety considerations. In this case, the judge will meet with all exhibitors and explain the change. If a pattern or course is posted and publicly announced, the announcement shall be for the benefit of the audience and if

there is any discrepancy between the posted pattern and the announced pattern, the posted pattern is the pattern to be followed. If there is a discrepancy between the written pattern and the drawn pattern, the written pattern will take precedence.

6. All horses must leave the ring in a forward motion, no backing out of ring. A disqualified or eliminated competitor who continues to school excessively will be asked to leave the arena. Any delay or refusal will subject the competitor to further disciplinary action. No horse or exhibitor will be allowed to enter or show in any class in which they is not eligible. In individual performance classes, an off course will receive no score and no award (Exception: WS114). In classes where horses perform individually, they shall enter the ring one at a time, rather than work out of a lineup in the arena.
7. In the case of a first place tie in the Trail horse and Western Riding classes, tied horses must repeat part of the course or pattern.

WS104 Personal Appointments

1. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified.
2. Riders must wear a Western hat; long-sleeved shirt any type of collar, (exhibitors in National Show Horse, and Saddlebred divisions must wear a necktie, kerchief or bolo tie) trousers or pants and boots; (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes any type of collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps and spurs are optional unless riders are showing in trail or pleasure class (riders showing at an Arabian, Half Arabian, Morgan or National Show Horse competition must wear chaps). A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn. Whips are not allowed except with side saddle. (See GR1310.2 Dispensations). Protective headgear may be worn without penalty; not required to be of Western style. Refer to GR801.
3. A side saddle rider must wear an apron of closed or button type with belt under loops. It is suggested that an apron with waist band cut the same as chaps and double thickness, be used in classes where chaps are required.

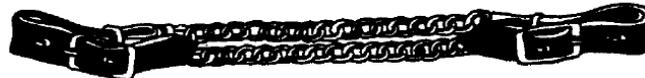
WS105 Tack

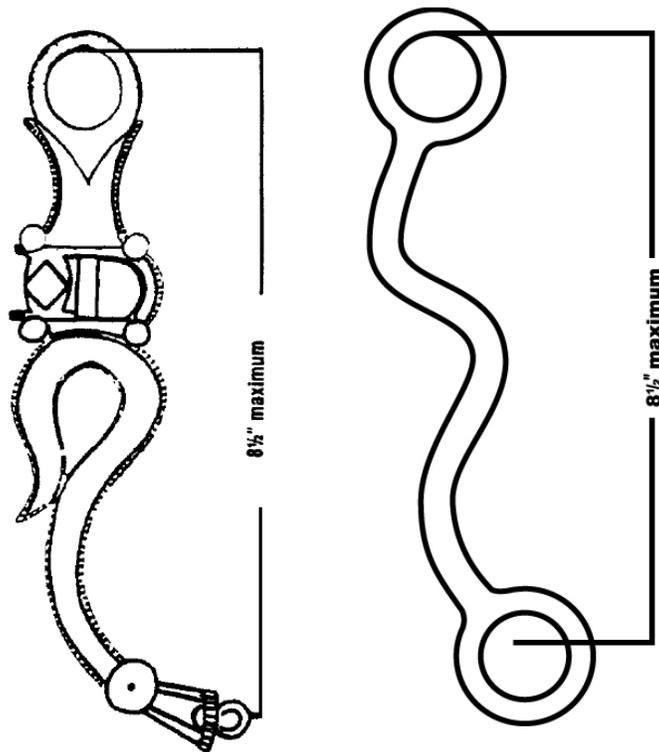
1. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Entries shall be shown with stock saddle but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A side saddle shall be considered permitted equipment. Breast collars are acceptable. Tapaderos are prohibited.
2. There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit is prohibited. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance.
3. Standard snaffle bits are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachment hooks. If a

curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. Closed reins (example mecate) on a snaffle bit are prohibited.

4. Hackamores are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., plastic, resin, glue, steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner). There must be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the nose and the bosal. The bosal will be no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at the cheek and will flex easily. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather.
5. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required and must be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width, lie flat against the jaw, and be free of bars, wire, and/or twists. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap, or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. A light lip strap is permissible. Hackamore bits, bosals, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited. A judge does not have the authority to add or to remove any of the standard equipment as specified above.
6. Bandages and boots of any type are prohibited. In the event of injury, the Judge may permit a protective bandage. In Working Cow Horse classes, the use of shin, bell boots and/or protective bandages on the front legs and standard sliding or rundown boots on the rear fetlocks are permitted.

SOME ACCEPTABLE CURB CHAINS





CORRECT METHOD OF MEASURING OVERALL BIT LENGTH. A VERTICAL LINE FROM THE UPPER MOST PART OF HEADSTALL SLOT TO THE REIN RING.

WS106 Amateur

Refer to General Rules, GR1306 regarding amateur status. When dividing by age of rider, no horse may compete in more than one age section of the same class (Exception: Arabian and Morgan Divisions).

WS107 Amateur Owners

To be ridden by Amateur Owners or an amateur member of the owner's family. In either case classes are restricted to riders who are no longer eligible to compete as a Junior Exhibitor. Leased horses are not eligible and multiple ownership is not permitted unless all owners are members of the same family. An Amateur who rides for a person outside of their family may not ride in a class restricted to Amateur Owners in the same competition. If a class is divided by age, the age split must be stated in the prize list.

WS108 Maiden, Novice, Limit

Ribbons won in classes at Federation Recognized Competitions and in classes at competitions recognized by any breed organization count in reckoning a horse's Maiden, Novice or Limit status (See GR136.)

WS109 Snaffle or Hackamore Horse

A snaffle or hackamore horse is a junior horse and may be shown in a ring snaffle or hackamore with two hands (both hands must be visible to the judge) and may also be shown in a bridle (one handed). A junior horse may be switched back and forth from a bridle to snaffle or hackamore (Arabians, Half Arabians, National Show Horses, and may not switch back and forth from a bridle to snaffle or hackamore with the exception of Arabian and Half Arabian classes within the Working Western subchapter).

WS110 Falls

A fall of a horse and/or rider in a working cow, trail, or western riding class will result in a score of zero. A fall in a Western Pleasure class will be cause for elimination (GR118). For definition of a fall in working cow classes see WS114, for pleasure, trail and western riding see GR122.

SUBCHAPTER WS-2 WORKING COW HORSE SECTION

It is the intent of the Federation Western Committee to comply with the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) rules and refer to Chapter 6 Broken Equipment, Chapter 18 Scoring, Chapter 19 Judging, Chapter 20 Patterns, Chapter 21 Pattern Description (Maneuvers) and Chapter 22 Judges Score Sheet regarding working cow classes held at licensed competitions. For further information regarding the conduct of Working Cow competitions, contact the NRCHA.

WS111 Working Cow Horse

The working cow horse class consists of two mandatory phases, the reined work and the cow work. (Exception: In the Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Division, only cow work is required in Working Cow classes but both phases are required in Reined Cow Horse classes.) Each phase will have equal bearing and the final placings will be determined by the total of both scores. In cases of ties for first place the entry with the highest cow work score will prevail. If the cow work scores are identical, the tied entries for first place will work off with an additional cow work. All ties for other than first place will remain tied for points and prize money purposes and riders will flip for ribbons. Horses receiving a zero score in one phase and a score in the other are eligible for placing. Horses receiving a zero in both phases or a no score in either or both phases are ineligible for placing.

WS112 Tack

See WS105 regarding tack, or for an Arabian restricted class see AR144 (Western Pleasure Section-Appointments).

WS113 Broken Equipment

For broken equipment refer to the current copy of the NRCHA rulebook, Chapter 6 Broken Equipment.

WS114 Scoring

Refer to the current copy of the NRCHA rulebook, Chapter 18 Scoring.

WS115 Judging

For Herd Work, Reined Work, and Cow Work refer to the current copy of the NRCHA rulebook, Chapter 19, Judging. It is recommended that the appropriate NRCHA judges score card is used in scoring these classes.

WS116 Hackamore/Snaffle Bit Horses

A Hackamore/Snaffle Bit horse is not more than five years old. Horses shall enter arena and work in the same manner as prescribed for bridle classes.

WS117 Green Cow Horse

A green cow horse is a horse of any age that is in its first or second year of showing in Working Cow classes, excluding snaffle bit futurities or hackamore classes.

WS118 Class Specifications

1. Refer to NRCHA, Chapter 19 Judging
2. Championship. To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section.
3. Hackamore/snaffle bit classes (first and second year) are open to horses not more than five years old. To be shown with hackamore/snaffle bit only.

WS119 Patterns

Refer to the current copy of the NRCHA rulebook, Chapter 20 for Patterns and Chapter 21 for Pattern Description (maneuvers).

SUBCHAPTER WS-3 TRAIL HORSE SECTION

WS120 Working

1. Trail horses are required to work over and through obstacles. No horse may enter the trail course area until the course and the judge are ready. Riders will be permitted to inspect the course on foot during the Judge's instructions prior to the start of the class. Tests which may be required are negotiating gate, carrying objects from one part of arena to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, riding down into and up out of ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, sidepassing, and performing over any reasonable conditions encountered along the trail. However, unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguishers, perforated plywood in water boxes, animals, haybales or unsafe elements shall not be used. Course to include a minimum of six obstacles. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse. Rider's hands shall be clear of horse to avoid cueing. Horses to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacle. Judges are encouraged to advance on to next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Two or more horses may be entered by the same exhibitor and the same rider may elect to show more than one horse. Obvious unsoundness must be disqualified with no prize awarded. Rail work shall not be required.

WS121 Green Trail Horse

A Green Trail Horse is a horse of any age that has not been shown in Trail Horse classes prior to December 1 of the previous year.

WS122 Conduct

1. Management may select a particular scoring system or allow the judge to use a system of their choice. (See WS124 for optional systems.)
2. 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 efficiency, 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.
3. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.

4. 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 at least 30 feet, lope right and left lead) somewhere between and or over obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score.
5. The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.
6. Refer to WS126 for mandatory obstacle dimensions.
7. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk.
8. If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, 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. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
9. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and the course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.
10. Recommended that a course should be no longer than 2 minutes per horse.
11. Recommended to have at least 30 feet between obstacles, when arena is big enough to permit it. Not recommended for walkovers/bridge/back through combinations.
12. No Time Outs will be allowed.

WS123 Definitions

1. **KNOCKDOWN:** When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position by horse and rider.
2. **REFUSAL:** Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. **Balking:** Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a riders command.
 - b. Evading or running past an obstacle.
 - c. Each complete loss of the gate.
 - d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates any unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle. Negotiating an obstacle in a manner that does not constitute elimination, but is not in accordance with course directions.
3. **OFF COURSE:**
 - a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - b. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side
 - c. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the Judge.
 - d. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
 - e. Not following the correct line of travel. (i.e. The drawn pattern and Judge's instructions)

WS124 Scoring Procedures (This scoring system is optional)

1. The prescribed Score Sheet may be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.
2. Scores to be announced following the conclusion of each work and before the next horse begins the course.
3. Score Sheets may be posted.
4. For method of breaking ties, see AR223.2f. In the event of a further tie, refer to the order of the judges cards (i.e. #1, #2, #3)
5. All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.
6. Judge(s) may review official video on No Score, Zero, and 5 point penalties only. (Video Review is solely the judge(s) decision.)
7. In the case of a displaced obstacle not being corrected the judge may grant a re-ride.

8. 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 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:
9. The following deductions will result:
 - a. 0-SCORE
 1. Use of more than one finger between the reins.
 2. Use of two hands (exception in Snaffle Bit or Hackamore classes designated for 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.
 3. Performing the obstacles other than in specified order.
 4. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
 5. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
 6. Touching the horse on the neck to lower the head, or use of free hand to instill fear or praise.
 7. Fall to the ground by horse or rider.
 8. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
 9. Failure to ride correct line within or between obstacles.
 10. Failure to work an obstacle in any manner other than how it's posted on course - Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.
 11. Third refusal on course.
 12. Cueing horse in front of cinch.
 - b. ½ POINT
 1. For each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.
 - c. 1 POINT
 1. Each major hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle - Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space - Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
 2. Split pole in lope-over (pole between two front or two hind feet at lope).
 3. Out of lead.
 4. Break of gait (including to correct a lead).
 - d. 3 to 4 POINTS (depending on severity)
 1. Stepping outside the confines of: an obstacle (back through, side pass, box) Knocking down an elevated pole, jump, cone, barrel, plant or obstacle.
 - e. 5 POINT (Any entry with a 5 point penalty as listed below cannot place over another entry that completes the course without a 5 point penalty)
 1. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
 2. First refusal, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away- Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
 3. Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
 4. Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead or gait, if designated.
 5. Failure to complete obstacle.
 6. Second refusal, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away.
 7. Severely disturbing an obstacle.
 8. Falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle (bridge or water box).
 - f. NO SCORE
 1. Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care and custody of horses within the state or country where a Federation trail class is being held.
 2. Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.
 3. Use of prohibited equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains.

4. Use of prohibited bits, bosals or curb chains.
5. Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands.
6. Use of whips.
7. Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
8. Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor.
9. The judge may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition pertaining to both the horse and/or rider. This may include the exhibition of an animal which is clearly not in a fit or sound condition.
10. The use of abusive equipment, and/or the use of abusive showing techniques by the rider.
11. The exhibition of a horse that has a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area (those areas reasonable to believe the injury may have been caused by the rider or equipment) must be considered abuse regardless of how the injury was caused.
12. While each judge is required to disqualify a horse exhibited in the manners described above, it should be noted that in every case the exhibitor should be given the benefit of any doubt, should any doubt exist.

WS125 Trail Course Designers

1. A trail course designer must be employed at every show. Their name must appear in the prize list.
2. The trail course designer may not show in any trail class in which they design. The trail course designer may judge or be an official, but shall not field any horses or pupils in classes which they design.
3. At a competition that changes judges each day, if the trail course designer is one of the judges, they must judge on the first day.
4. The trail course designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day.
5. The trail course designer must be a Federation member and must be available to the trail arena at all times during the trail classes.

WS126 Dimensions of Trail Obstacles

All elevated poles must be in a pole holder, e.g. trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type supports. The judge has the right to alter the course.

1. WALK-OVERS
 - a. Single Poles: Maximum height 16"
 - b. Multiples: Maximum height 10"
 - c. Minimum width between poles 20" to 24" or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. No rolling poles.
2. JUMPS
 - a. Mounted: Maximum height 24"
 - b. Lead Over: Maximum height 18"
 - c. Minimum width between standards of a jump: 4 feet
 - d. Combinations: 12 feet for one stride; 6 feet for a no stride
 - e. Box Jumps and L Jumps: Poles must be at least 12 feet long.
3. CVALETTI
 - a. Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles)
 - b. Lope overs: 6 to 7 feet apart or multiples thereof - 6 feet is preferable for most horses.
4. BACK THROUGHHS
 - a. On ground: 28" between Min.
 - b. Elevated: 30" between Min.
 - c. Barrels: 32" between Min.
5. SIDE PASSES

- a. Single pole: Up to 24" high
 - b. Slots: Never closer than 24" wide (space is measured between poles).
6. SERPENTINES (jog arounds)
- a. Pylons 6 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should not be less than 3 feet to either side of the pylons.
 - b. If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser.
7. GATE
- a. Approximately 60" high with latch available at that height.
8. Bridge -Suggested (not mandatory) dimensions:
- a. minimum of 36" wide
 - b. minimum of 6' long
 - c. no higher than 12"
9. ANY OTHER MANEUVERS: Figure horse's wheelbase at five feet front hooves to back hooves.
10. Unacceptable obstacles
- a. Animals
 - b. Hides
 - c. PVC pipe
 - d. Dismounting
 - e. Rocking or moving bridges
 - f. Water box with floating or moving parts
 - g. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
 - h. Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll

WESTERN TRAIL SCORING GUIDELINES

| TRAIL | GOOD | MINOR FAULTS | MODERATE FAULTS | MAJOR FAULTS | NO SCORE/ 0 SCORE |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Walk Jog Lope (on the course) | See Western Pleasure Chart | | | | |
| CONTROL OBSTACLES Gates Back throughs Side Passes Turns on the forehand or rear Serpentines | Smooth Good position Responsive to aids | Slant side passes Slow response Poor head position | Stepping outside the confines of back through, side pass, or box Knocking down an elevated pole, jump, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle | Refusals Letting go of gate Failure to complete obstacle Severely disturbing an obstacle | See WS124.9a and .f for infractions resulting in a "0 score" or "no score." Any of these infractions result in no award for the class. Three refusals on course |
| AGILITY OBSTACLES Jumps Walk overs Trot or lope-overs Bridge Tires | Attentive Careful Willing | Major hit of pole, cone or obstacle Front and hind feet in single strided slot Skipping over or failing to step into required space Split pole in lope over Out of lead Poor jumping form Too hesitant | Break of gait | Refusals Failure to complete obstacle Severely disturbing an obstacle Falling or jumping off of or out of an obstacle (bridge, water box) | |
| CALMNESS Water Plastic Brush Plants Carrying objects Dally and drag | Steady going Alert Careful but willing | Tense over obstacles Nervous when carrying objects | | Refusals Dropping slicker or object Severely disturbing an obstacle Falling or jumping off of or out of an obstacle (bridge, water box) | |

| | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|
| GENERAL | | | | Blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, striking) Failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait, if designated | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|

SUBCHAPTER WS-4 PLEASURE HORSE SECTION

WS127 Working

In all classes in this section, horses are to be shown at a flat footed four-beat walk; free moving easy riding two-beat jog, and three-beat lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Extended gaits may be called for by the judge. Entries shall be penalized for being on the wrong lead. Special emphasis shall be placed on the walk. Horses may be asked to back at judge's discretion. All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at any gait requested by the judge.

WS128 Green Pleasure Horse

A green pleasure horse is a horse that has not been shown in any pleasure horse class prior to December 1 of the previous year, excluding pleasure futurities.

WS129 Class Specifications

1. A junior horse may be shown in a hackamore or a ring snaffle and may be ridden with two hands or may be shown in a bridle one handed.
2. All classes are to be shown at a walk, jog-trot and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. To be judged on performance 60%; conformation 30%; appointments 10%.
3. Pairs are to be judged as a matched pair with performance to count 60%; appointments 30%; conformation 10%.
4. Championship. To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section.

WESTERN PLEASURE

| PLEASURE | GOOD | MINOR FAULTS | MAJOR FAULTS | ELIMINATION |
|--------------|--|---|---|--|
| WALK | Ground covering Flat footed Good attitude | Slow Disinterested Not attentive | Nervous Jogging Not walking | |
| JOG | Easy riding Good motion Consistent Steady | Too slow Too fast | Not performing a two-beat jog Failing to jog both front and back Hard or rough riding | |
| LOPE | Easy riding Good motion Consistent Steady | Too slow Too fast | Wrong lead Pulling Not performing a three-beat lope Hard or rough riding | |
| EXTENDED JOG | Easy riding Good motion Consistent | Inconsistent speed | Breaking gaits Pulling hard or rough riding No increase in speed | |
| BACK | Proper flexion Readily responsive Back in straight line | Hesitant Not backing straight | Throwing head Gaping Pulling not backing Rearing | |
| GENERAL | Smooth Steady Easy riding Proper flexion & balance Good attitude | Over or under flexion Sour ears Switching tail Inconsistent speed Out of balance Poll too high or too low to throw horse out of balance Improper or incomplete appointments | Throwing head Bad mouth Constant bumping the bit Gaping Constant breaking of gaits Obvious schooling | Two hands on reins (exception: snaffle/hackamore horses) or fingers between closed reins or more than one finger between split reins Kicking prohibited equipment Lameness Cueing horse in front of cinch Fall of horse or rider Bleeding mouth |

SUBCHAPTER WS-5 WESTERN RIDING HORSE SECTION

WS130 Working

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.

WS131 Credit

Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits, and the horse's ability to change leads precisely and easily rear 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 at both the jog-trot and lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.

WS132 Patterns

1. The judge will select one of the four patterns to be performed. The judge is responsible for the pattern being correctly set.
2. 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 nor more than 50 feet on the sides with 5 markers. 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 foot 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.

WS133 Scoring

Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Scoring guidelines to be considered: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2; -1 1/2 extremely poor, - 1/2 poor, 0 average, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

Effective 02/01/24

WS134 Penalties

An exhibitor shall be penalized for:

1. Five Points
 - a. Out of lead beyond the next designated area (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two five-point penalties)
 - b. Blatant disobedience including kicking out, biting and bucking
2. Three Points
 - a. Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet of the designated area
 - b. Break of gait at the lope
 - c. Simple change of leads
 - d. Out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change or area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area
 - e. Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
 - f. In pattern one and three failure to start the lope within 30 feet after crossing the log at the jog
 - g. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
3. One Point
 - a. Break of gait at walk or jog up to two strides
 - b. Hitting or rolling log
 - c. Out of lead more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers
 - d. Splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope
4. One-Half Point
 - a. Tick or light touch of log
 - b. Hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change
 - c. Non-simultaneous lead change (Front to hind or hind to front)
5. Disqualified—0 Score
 - a. Prohibited equipment
 - b. Willful abuse
 - c. Off course
 - d. Knocking over markers
 - e. Completely missing log
 - f. Major refusal—stop and back more than 2 strides or 4 steps with front legs
 - g. Major disobedience—rearing, schooling
 - h. Failure to start lope prior to end cone in patterns #1 and #3
 - i. Four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads
6. Credits
 - a. Changes of leads, hind and front simultaneously
 - b. Change of lead near the center point of the lead change area
 - c. Accurate and smooth pattern
 - d. Even pace throughout
 - e. Easy to guide and control with rein and leg

- f. Manners and disposition
- g. Conformation and fitness

WS135 Off pattern

A horse that goes off pattern is disqualified. Off pattern is any of the following: An incomplete pattern, incorrect order of maneuvers, knocking over markers, passing wrong side of marker or missing the log.

WS136 Faults

1. The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly:
 - a. Opening mouth excessively or raising head on maneuvers.
 - b. Anticipating signals or early lead changes.
 - c. Stumbling.
 - d. Any unnecessary aid given by the rider, such as: unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, quirting, or jerking of the reins.

WS137 Class Specifications

To be judged on performance with emphasis on manners 70%; appointments, equipment, neatness (silver not to count) 10%; conformation 20%. Horses to shown in standard Western equipment.

SUBCHAPTER WS-6 RANCH SECTION

WS138 General Rules

1. Tack/equipment

Refer to WS105 for Tack and Equipment rules except as seen below

- a. In Ranch classes involving Cows, the use of shin, bell boots, and/or protective bandages on the front legs and standard sliding or rundown boots on the rear fetlocks are permitted
- b. Braiding or banding of the mane is prohibited
- c. Tail extensions are prohibited
- d. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged
- e. Trimming of bridle path, fetlocks, facial hair, and ears is permitted but a horse left in a natural state will not be penalized.
- f. Clear Hoof Polish is permitted
- g. Tongue Tying is prohibited
- h. Competitors are encouraged to use a breast collar and a rear cinch
- i. Romal reins are allowed in all classes, including Ranch Cutting. When riding with a romal, a get down rope may be used. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the exhibitor or tied to the saddle. The get down can be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. A get down rope may also be attached to a bosiloto defined as a noseband typically of braided rawhide used with a headstall or hanger and worn under the bridle. The diameter of the noseband is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or less.

2. Attire

Refer to WS104 for Attire rules

3. Class definitions

- a. Open: Open to all exhibitors
- b. Junior Exhibitor: See GR128 for age definition
- c. Adult (senior): See GR101 for age definition
- d. Amateur: See GR105 and GR106 for age definition and eligibility rules

- e. Green Horse: Horse must not have been shown in any ranch class in any prior year (this includes showing in a snaffle bit or hackamore). The horse may be shown using one or two handed with any permissible bit but may not switch back and forth upon entering the arena.
- f. Green Exhibitor: Open to any exhibitor who has not trained a ranch horse for remuneration, has not won a World, Reserve World, Grand National or Reserve Grand National title in a ranch class. The exhibitor does not have to own the horse being shown. The horse may be shown multiple times with different exhibitors but is limited to being shown 3 times per class. An exhibitor may show either one or two handed with any permissible bit but may not switch back and forth upon entering the arena. Entry may execute either a flying lead change or a simple lead change. A simple lead change is defined as a break to a trot for one stride (2 steps with front feet). The intent is to have an introductory class for new ranch exhibitors. Classes may be subdivided by age of exhibitor status (Open/Amateur/Non-Pro) if desired by Show Management.
- g. Non-Pro: A Non-Pro is defined as a person who has not received direct (money) or indirect (goods or services) remuneration for training or showing astride in any equine discipline or giving instruction on showing or training of a performance horse. An exhibitor may be of any age and the exhibitor does not have to own the horse being shown.

4. Horse/Class restrictions

- a. There is no restriction on the number of horses an exhibitor may show in a class
- b. No horse may be shown more than once per class in Ranch classes except for Green Exhibitor classes, see WS138.3f.
- c. All horses may be shown in one class (ie. Stallion, mares, and geldings).
- d. Substitution of exhibitors: Competition management may only allow substitutions in the case of injury.
- e. The exhibitor in a championship class does not have to be the same as the exhibitor in the qualifying class, with the exception of Recognized Affiliate or Federation championship, final, or world competition where the exhibitor must be the same.
- f. Horses may be shown one-handed in a bridle or two-handed in a Hackamore or Western Snaffle reins in any Ranch Class regardless of age
 - 1. Exception: see breed chapter for breed restricted classes
- g. No time outs are permitted within Ranch classes.
- h. Age (horse) restricted classes are allowed.
- i. Horses must be three (3) years or older to show in Ranch classes
- j. Green Exhibitor and Green Horse classes may be run concurrently
- k. Touching or holding the saddle horn with either hand must not be penalized in any class.

5. Order of Go Process

- a. The order of go will be drawn in a random manner (computer/electronically)
 - 1. Exhibitors with multiple horses will not be shown back- to- back where the total number of horses entered permits. When the number of horses in a class permits, exhibitors with multiple horses must be drawn with a minimum of two (2) horses between runs.
 - 2. No horse is permitted to perform as the first horse in more than one class (go-around/section) per competition unless there are more classes than horses. The number drawn will be that exhibitors order of go. No changes with the exception of extraordinary circumstance as determined by the judge(s) and steward(s).
- b. The order of go will be posted at least one (1) hour before the start of the class.
- c. When specified patterns are required, patterns for each class must be posted at least one (1) hour prior to the start of the class. The posted pattern is to be followed unless a change becomes necessary due to safety reasons. If a pattern or course is posted and publicly announced and there is a discrepancy between the posted and the announced pattern, the posted pattern is to be followed.
- d. The use of video footage for Judge's review is permitted when available.

6. Scoring Process

SCORING SYSTEM: Unless otherwise listed for a specific class, each horse/exhibitor team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/exhibitor 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, and +1 1/2 excellent). Plusses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/exhibitor team when performing the various maneuvers. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

7. Licensed Officials

A Federation licensed Arabian, Morgan/Roadster/Saddlebred, or Western judge must officiate Ranch classes. A judge licensed by the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA), or judges licensed in a non-affiliated breed for western classes (i.e. AQHA, APHA, ApHC, etc.) may officiate Ranch classes with a Guest Card.

A. Exception: See MO201 for Morgan working western requirements.

8. Shoeing regulations

- a. A single pad per hoof is only permitted for therapeutic reasons.
- b. See breed chapter for shoeing regulations regarding breed restricted classes

9. Gaits

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse with a natural topline and a bright, attentive expression, as a representation of their breed and conformation as a working ranch horse. The following terminology applies:

- 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 natural 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. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
- d. Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
- e. 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 a natural topline with a bright, attentive expression.

WS139 Ranch Horse Riding

1. Eligibility

a. 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 show on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse shall have a natural head carriage at each gait.

b. Open to horses three (3) years of age or older. Classes may be restricted to junior exhibitor, senior, amateur, or held as all-age open division.

2. Class Specifications

a. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2.: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

b. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction, as well as stops and back.

c. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

d. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

e. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in WS141 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.

f. One of the suggested patterns may be used (found on the Federation website), however a judge may utilize a different pattern, as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of their own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.

3. Conduct

- a. There is no time limit.
- b. The use of natural logs is encouraged.
- c. Posting or standing in the stirrups at the extended trot is acceptable.

4. Penalties

- a. A contestant must be penalized each time the following occur:
 1. One (1) point penalties:
 - a. Too slow/per gait
 - b. Over-Bridled
 - c. Out of Frame
 - d. Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less
 - e. Splitting log or rail at lope
 2. Three (3) point penalties:
 - a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
 - b. Break of gait at lope; wrong lead or out of lead
 - c. Excessive draped reins
 - d. Severe disturbance of any obstacle
 - e. Out of lead for more than 2 strides when changing leads
 - f. Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
 3. Five (5) point penalties:
 - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
 4. Zero (0) score:
 - a. Prohibited equipment including, but not limited to, hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions
 - b. Willful abuse
 - c. Major disobedience or schooling
 - d. Lameness
 - e. Eliminates or adds maneuver
 - f. Incomplete maneuver
 - g. Off Pattern
 - h. More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins
 5. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or rails but deduction may be made in maneuver score.
 6. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

WS140 Ranch Horse Cow Work

1. General Information

- a. The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition, the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Holding the saddle horn is permitted.
- b. There is a time limit per horse/exhibitor team to perform the work and the time begins when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the area. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.
- c. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons.
- d. Judges will give credit for what they have seen.
- e. Only the judge may award a new cow to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor

accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately.

- f. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.
- g. Exhibitors in the Ranch Horse Cow Work cannot compete in both the Ranch Horse Cow Work, Reined Cow Horse or Working Cow Horse class at the same show with the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross-enter Ranch Horse Cow Work and Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes.

2. Conduct

- a. Exhibitors in Ranch Horse Cow Work are allotted one minute and thirty seconds to complete the work. The announcer will announce when there are thirty seconds remaining. At one minute and thirty seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time, but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; boxing the cow at the opposite end of the arena; and, then driving the cow past the middle marker again. 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.
 - 1. Part One- Boxing the Cow: The exhibitor 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 exhibitor shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate the horse’s ability to drive and block the cow.
 - 2. Part Two- Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of the Arena: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the exhibitor shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of the corner, the horse shall be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the arena. The exhibitor will then stop and release the cow and move the horse toward the center of the arena to set the cow up for boxing on the opposite end of the arena.
 - 3. Part Three- Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena: The exhibitor will regain control or “hold” the cow at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse’s ability to “hold” the cow.
 - 4. Part Four- Drive the Cow Back Down the Fence: Past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. The cow should be driven back down the same side of the fence.

b. Credits and Penalties

- 1. 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.
- 2. During the “Boxing” portion of the run, credit will be given for the horse’s expression and its “cow sense” (i.e. making moves with little exhibitor assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.
- 3. Credit will be given during the “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.
- 4. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
 - i. One (1) Point Penalties:
 - 1. Over-bridled (per maneuver)
 - 2. Out of frame (per maneuver)
 - 3. Loss of working advantage
 - 4. Driving cow down the opposite fence (changing sides)
 - 5. Working out of position
 - 6. Slipping rein
 - 7. Failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired
 - ii. Three (3) Point Penalties:
 - 1. Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage
 - 2. Losing a cow while boxing
 - iii. Five (5) Point Penalties:
 - 1. Spurring in front of the cinch
 - 2. Blatant disobedience
 - 3. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise

- iv. Ten (10) Pont Penalties:
 - 1. Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)
 - 2. Off Pattern
- v. Zero (0) Score:
 - 1. Turning tail
 - 2. Repeated blatant disobedience
 - 3. Schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow
 - 4. Schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded
 - 5. Use of two hands (except for junior horses 5 years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore)
 - 6. More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins
 - 7. Improper western attire
 - 8. Fall of horse/rider
 - 9. Failure to attempt any part of the class
- vi. No score
 - 1. Lameness: Abuse; Prohibited equipment
 - 2. Disrespect or misconduct
 - 3. Leaving arena before run is complete

WS141 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure

1. General Information
 - a. The ranch horse rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the exhibitor and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft and quiet in the bridle and yield to contact from the rein. The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage comfortable for the horse at each gait.
 - b. In all gaits, movements of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.
 - c. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the exhibitor. Light contact should be rewarded and horse must not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
2. Eligibility
 - a. Open to horses three (3) years of age or older. Classes may be restricted to junior exhibitor, senior, amateur, or held as all-age open division.
 - b. Horses may cross-enter with any other pleasure class at the same competition.
3. Class Specifications
 - a. Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at all qualifying gaits. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
 - b. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot, not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three (3) strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized.
 - c. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues and when cues are applied correctly, it could be a credit earning situation.
 - d. A ranch horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on their own must be considered a lack of control.
 - e. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized, and exhibitors are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required.
4. Penalties
 - a. An exhibitor must be penalized for:
 - i. Too slow a gait

- ii. Over-bridled
 - iii. Out of frame
 - iv. Break of gait
 - v. Wrong lead, out of lead, or cross-cantering
 - vi. Draped reins
 - vii. Trotting more than two strides when taking lead
 - viii. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 - ix. Schooling
 - x. Spurring in front of cinch
 - xi. Use of either hand to instill fear/ praise
- b. A disqualification will be given for Lameness

WS142 Ranch Horse Trail

1. General Information

- a. The Ranch Trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/exhibitor team is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive, and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural appearance from head to tail in all maneuvers.
- b. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. Hobbles are allowed.

2. Conduct

- a. The trail course should be posted at least one (1) hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for the exhibitors are helpful and encouraged.
- b. The ranch trail course will include no less than six and no more than ten (10) obstacles. The horse must be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. Walk can be part of the obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must cover at least 35 feet and be scored with the approaching obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific in the pattern, at least 50 feet and scored with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor. The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.
- c. When setting courses, management will be mindful not to trap a horse/exhibitor team or eliminate it by making an obstacle overly difficult. All courses and obstacles should be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee will have the option of setting up the course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is encouraged wherever available with appropriate terrain. Each single-performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on the class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four (4) minutes or less.
- d. If mounting/dismounting is required in the pattern, a safe mounting step must be provided. Use of a ground tie maneuver in a pattern is only to be used if there is an appropriate arena enclosure. Use of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) is allowed but only where there is appropriate livestock containment equipment.
- e. The judge or judges must walk the course and should alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, unnavigable, or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the obstacle cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class.

3. Eligibility

- a. Open to horses three (3) years of age or older. Classes may be restricted to junior exhibitor, senior, amateur, or held as all-age open division.
- b. Horses may cross-enter with any other Trail class at the same show.

4. Class Specifications

- a. All entries will be judged upon entering the arena and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. The exhibitor has the option of eliminating any obstacle in the pattern; however, this will result in being

“off pattern” (OP) and the horse/exhibitor team may not place above others who have completed the pattern entirely. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three (3) refusals or at any time for safety concerns.

- b. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.
- c. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2.: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

5. Credits and Penalties

- a. Credit is given to horse/exhibitor teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to exhibitor’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle.
- b. Exhibitors will not be penalized for touching/holding the saddle horn during extended gaits (extended trot, extended lope) or while working obstacles where exhibitor safety is a concern.
- c. Penalties are accessed as follows:
 - i. One (1) Point Penalties:
 - a. Over-bridled (per maneuver);
 - b. Out of frame (per maneuver);
 - c. Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log or rail, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle;
 - d. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less;
 - e. Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot;
 - f. Skipping over or failing to step into required space;
 - g. Split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified;
 - h. One (1) or two (2) steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance;
 - ii) Three (3) Point Penalties:
 - a. Wrong lead or out of lead;
 - b. Draped reins;
 - c. Break of gait at lope;
 - d. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides;
 - e. Three to four steps on mount/dismount or ground tie;
 - iii) Five (5) Point Penalties:
 - a. Spurring in front of cinch;
 - b. Blatant disobedience;
 - c. Use of either hand to instill fear/praise;
 - d. Knocking over, stepping out of, or falling off an obstacle;
 - e. Dropping an object required to be carried;
 - f. 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal;
 - g. Letting go of gate;
 - h. Five (5) or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie;
 - iv) Ten (10) Point Penalties:
 - a. Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse’s tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver);
 - b. Off pattern;
 - c. Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate;
 - v) Zero (0) Score:
 - a. Repeated blatant disobedience;
 - b. More than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins;
 - c. Use of two (2) hands (except for junior horses five (5) years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore);
 - vi) Off-Pattern (OP):
 - a. Breaking pattern;
 - b. 3rd refusal;
 - c. Failure to dally and remain dallied;
Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly;
 - vii) Disqualification (DQ):
 - a. Lameness;

- b. Abuse;
 - c. Leaving working area before the pattern is complete;
 - d. Prohibited equipment;
 - e. Disrespect or misconduct;
 - f. Improper Western attire;
 - g. Fall of horse/exhibitor;
- h. Mandatory obstacles and maneuvers.
 - a) Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs or rails). Walk, trot, or lope may be used, but only one gait is required.
 - i) Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five (5) logs or rails no more than ten (10) inches high and spacing between 26 to 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zig-zagged, or raised.
 - ii) Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five (5) logs or rails no more than ten (10) inches high. The space between logs or rails/poles should be 36 to 42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
 - iii) Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five (5) logs or rails no more than ten (10) inches high. The space between logs or rails should be six (6) to seven (7) feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
 - b) Opening, passing through, and closing a gate: Use a gate that will not endanger horse or exhibitor and requires minimum side passing.
 - c) Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least six (6) feet long.
 - d) Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30 inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.
 - e) Side-pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side-pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.
 - f) Drag an object: For Open and Amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in Junior exhibitor classes. Drag may be a complete figure-eight or another shape and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag.
- i. Optional Obstacles
 - a) A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 24 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle
 - b) A live or stuffed animal which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse
 - c) Carry object from one part of the arena to another
 - d) Remove and replace materials from a mailbox
 - e) Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart
 - f) Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments
 - g) Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head
 - h) Step in and out of obstacle
 - i) Put on slicker or coat
 - j) Stand to mount with mounting block
 - k) Walk through water obstacle
 - l) Open gate on foot
 - m) Pick up feet
 - n) Walk through brush
 - o) Ground tie (Hobbles are allowed)
 - p) Rocking or moving bridges with a 2-inch maximum rocker/lift centered under the bridge
- j. Prohibited Obstacles
 - a) Tarps
 - b) Water obstacles with slick bottoms or a water box with floating or moving parts
 - c) PVC pipe used as a jump or walk-over
 - d) Tires
 - e) Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
 - f) Logs or rails elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner

WS143 Ranch Reining

1. General Information
 - a. The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner.
 - b. The ideal Ranch Reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
2. Eligibility
 - a. Open to horses three (3) years of age or older. Classes may be restricted to junior exhibitor, senior, amateur, or held as all-age open division.
 - b. Show Management has the discretion to prohibit the cross-entering of Ranch Reining with Reining by the same horse/exhibitor combination at their show, but the prohibition must be clearly stated in the prize list.
3. Class Specifications
 - a. Horses will be shown individually. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins (except for junior horses five (5) years & under wearing snaffle bit or hackamore), using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.
 - b. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns found in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section of the AQHA Handbook.
4. Credits and Penalties
 - a. To rein a horse is not only to guide them but also to control their every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely.
 - b. Any movement on their 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.
 - c. The horse/exhibitor 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/exhibitor team more exciting and a pleasure to watch.
 - d. Penalties
 - i. One-half (1/2) Point Penalties: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides; Delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; Failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback; Over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.
 - ii. One (1) Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Out of lead in the circles, figure eights, or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over- or under-spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn; Slipping rein.
 - iii. Two (2) Point Penalties: Break of gait; Freeze up in spins or roll-backs; Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; Failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position; Trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.
 - iv. Five (5) Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands per maneuver (Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the exhibitors' free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the rein hand is considered use of two hand and a 5-point penalty will be applied); More than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.
 - v. Ten (10) Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off pattern; Inclusion of maneuver (e.g., over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.).
 - vi. Zero (0) Score: Leaving arena before pattern is complete; Repeated blatant disobedience.
 - vii. No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or exhibitor.

WS144 Ranch Working Cow

1. General Information

- a. The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition, the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
 - b. Holding the saddle horn is permitted.
2. Conduct
- a. There is a time limit per horse/exhibitor team to perform the work and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.
 - b. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons. Only the judge may award a new cow to an exhibitor to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. One whistle will terminate the work, two whistles will award a new cow.
 - i. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work.
 - ii. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately.
 - iii. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.
 - iv. Judges will give credit for what they have seen.
 - c. Exhibitors in the Ranch Working Cow must not compete in both the Ranch Working Cow and the Ranch Horse Cow Work or Limited Reined Cow Horse at the same show on the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross enter Ranch Working Cow and Working Cow Horse and Reined Cow Horse.
3. Class Specifications: Exhibitors in the open, amateur, and Junior exhibitor divisions are allotted three (3) minutes to complete the work. The announcer will announce when there is one (1) minute remaining. At three (3) minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three (3) parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.
- a. Part One – Boxing the Cow: The exhibitor will ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow must 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 exhibitor must aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate their horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.
 - b. Part Two – Fence Work: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end of the fence.
 - c. Part Three – Roping or Circling: The amateur and junior exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or junior exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open exhibitors must rope the cow.
 - i. To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow.
 - ii. In the roping portion of the class, two (2) throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two (2) maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is permitted so long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied or dallied. If exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for tracking and rating and will be assessed the appropriate penalty.
 - iii. To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements.
4. Credits and Penalties
- 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. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its cow sense (i.e., making moves with little exhibitor assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.
- c. Credit will be given during Fence Work for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow.
- d. If Roping, credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow exhibitor the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from – 1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points.
- e. If Circling, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points for each direction.
- f. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
 - i. One (1) Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and junior exhibitor classes.
 - ii. Two (2) Point Penalties: Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within three (3) feet from the end fence before being turned; any prohibited catch, or failure to catch if roping in amateur and junior exhibitor classes.
 - iii. Three (3) Point Penalties: Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in Open class.
 - iv. Five (5) Point Penalties: Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; a prohibited catch or failure to catch when roping in Open class.
 - v. Ten (10) Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off-Pattern.
 - vi. Zero (0) Score: Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class (includes failure to attempt to rope in the Open class); repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, complete loss of rope in Open class; complete loss of rope in amateur or junior exhibitor classes once committed to roping; use of two (2) hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins.
 - vii. No Score: bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor. Note: If the Open exhibitor runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 5-point penalty for failure to catch. Exhibitors may still earn credit for tracking/rating, control/position, and speed/degree of difficulty.

WS145 Ranch Cutting

1. General Information:
 - a. This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. A Ranch Cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. The objective will be to cut one or two cows, based on the division, from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back exhibitors and two herd holders.
2. Conduct:
 - a. Show management may supply two (2) herd holders and two (2) turn back riders or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, they may use the horse that they are competing on or use a different horse.
 - b. Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses should be appropriate Ranch Horses for this task.

- c. For Open and Amateur division competition there will be a two-minute time limit. Each exhibitor must work two (2) head and has the option of ending their run before the two-minute limit or working the full two (2) minutes.
 - d. For junior exhibitor competition, there will be a one and one-half minute time limit. Each exhibitor may work one (1) or two (2) cows and has the option of ending their run before the one and one-half minute time limit or working the full one and one-half minutes. Working two cows does not assure extra credit to the run.
 - e. Time will begin when an exhibitor crosses a time-line just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The exhibitor will then separate quietly their cow from the herd.
 - f. Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.
3. Credits and Penalties:
- a. Ultimate credit will be given to the horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up, and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd. The horse will be judged on its performance and natural ability. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion but should display natural ability.

Penalties should be assessed as follows:

- i. One (1) Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Losing working advantage; Toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; Working out of position.
- ii. Three (3) Point Penalties: Cattle picked up or scattered; Spurring on shoulder; Pawing or biting cattle; Back fence; Hot quit.
- iii. Five (5) Point Penalties: Horse quitting cow; Losing cow; Changing cattle after a specific commitment; Failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; Blatant disobedience; Use of two (2) hands (per cow) except for junior horses five (5) years and under wearing a snaffle bit or hackamore; More than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (per cow).
- iv. Ten (10) point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Turn tail; Failure to cut two cows in Amateur or Open division.
- v. Zero (0) Score: Repeated blatant disobedience.
- vi. No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or exhibitor; Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena.

WS146 Ranch Versatility

- 1. General Information:
 - a. A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with their conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if they were going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion.
 - b. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm reflecting the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
 - c. 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.
 - d. The overall manners and responsiveness of the Versatility Ranch Riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are of major consideration.
 - e. The ideal Versatility Ranch Riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
 - f. No horse may cross enter Western Pleasure and Versatility Ranch Riding at the same show regardless of the section (Open, Amateur or Junior exhibitor). However, horses may cross-enter Versatility Ranch Riding and Ranch Horse Riding.
- 2. Class Specifications
 - a. Horses will be shown individually at three (3) gaits; walk, trot, and lope in each direction of the arena. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop, and back.

- b. The selected pattern must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. The pattern may be set outside or inside an arena. If the class is held inside an arena, the course must be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. One of the suggested patterns for Versatility Ranch Riding may be used from the current AQHA Handbook in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section. The judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required gaits and maneuvers are included.
3. Credits and Penalties
- a. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope.
 - b. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized.
 - c. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation.
 - d. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
 - i. One (1) Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less.
 - ii. Three (3) Point Penalties: Wrong lead or out of lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at lope; Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides.
 - iii. Five (5) Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two (2) hands per maneuver; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; More than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.
 - iv. Ten (10) Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver) breaking pattern; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Repeated disobedience.
 - v. No Score: Lameness; Abuse, prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse/exhibitor.

WS147 Ranch Conformation

1. General Information: The purpose of Ranch Horse Conformation is to preserve the ranch type and conformation best suited to the function of a natural ranch horse. Selection is based upon well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the ranch ideal that possess the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement. The ideal ranch horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail.
2. Conduct: To be eligible to compete in the ranch horse conformation class the horse must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one riding class in the Ranch division at that show. Horses must be at least three (3) years of age. Horses in each division may be shown together as one class or divided into Open, Adult (Senior), Amateur, Junior exhibitor, Non-Pro, or in any combination deemed appropriate by show management. All stallions must be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares must be examined for over-shot and under-shot mouth. The exhibitor will mouth the horse for this examination. If examination reveals that a horse is a cryptorchid or has an over-/under-shot mouth, the judge shall not use such horse in the final placings of the class.
3. Appointments: Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Any horse shown in the ranch horse conformation class may not be shown with a lip cord/chain, however a lead shank with an attached chain may be used under the chin.
 - a. No whips, nor any other attention getting devices (i.e., treats, candy) are permitted.
 - b. For rules regarding correct western attire refer to WS104.
4. Class Specifications:
 - a. Each horse enters the arena and walks towards the judge. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. No hard stand-up is permitted. The judge(s) shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

- b. Exhibitors may qualify and show more than one horse in ranch horse conformation classes. Once a horse has entered the arena and been trotted for the judge, a designated handler may hold the horse in line-up while that exhibitor shows additional horses.
- c. Any person designated as a handler must also be an exhibitor at the same show.
- d. Back tag with horse's entry number remains with the horse.