

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

1-4 Showmanship Classes:

Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The haircoat should be clean, well brushed and in good condition. The clipping and trimming to be done to breed or discipline standards. Horse/Pony may be braided, banded, may be roached or full. Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute a set of maneuvers prescribed by the pattern with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. All exhibitors work individually. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop and turn 90° (1/4 turn), 180° (1/2 turn), 270° (3/4 turn), 360° (full turn) or any combination or multiple of these turns. The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor. The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse. When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the core in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle and should never leave the head of the horse. The exhibitor is required to use the Quarter method when printing the horse. The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. The position of the exhibitor should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse and should always allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position. When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. Exhibitor's going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designed, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring these faults.

5. Horse in Hand

Not open to alternate gait breeds. Entrants to be led into the ring wearing appropriate halter or bridle. Animals will be judged individually, while standing and at a walk and trot on the line. Horses are to be judged on type, quality, presence and conformation and the way of going according to the breed type.

6. Pony in Hand

Not open to alternate gait breeds. Entrants to be led into the ring wearing appropriate halter or bridle. Animals will be judged individually, while standing and at a walk and trot on the line. Horses are to be judged on type, quality, presence and conformation and the way of going according to the breed type.

7. Model Championship

Horse or Pony must have entered in Class 5 or 6.

8. Quarter Horse Halter (AQHA Registered)

Entrants to be led into the ring wearing appropriate halter or bridle. Animals will be judged individually, while standing and at a walk and jog on the line. Horses are to be judged on type, quality, presence and conformation according to the breed type. AQHA Registration papers are required.

9. Alternate Gait Model

Entrants to be led into the ring wearing appropriate halter or bridle. Animals will be judged individually standing. Horses are to be judged on type, quality, presence and conformation. The breeds of gaited horses are Astrcon, Florida Cracker Horse, Icelandic, Mangalarga Marchador, Missouri Fox Trotter, Paso Fino, Peruvian Paso, Racking Horse, Rocky Mountain Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, Tennessee Walker, Marwari Horse and Campolins and Standardbreds that pace and Saddlebreds that slow gait or rack.

10. English Walk-Trot Equitation 11 years of Age & Under

Open to English riders not cantering. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date. Header is optional at line-up.

11. English Walk-Trot Pleasure 11 years of Age & Under

Open to English riders not cantering. To be judged on way of going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/trot mount. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date. Header is optional at line-up.

12. English Walk-Trot Equitation 12-17 Years of Age

Open to English riders not cantering. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date.

13. English Walk-Trot Pleasure 12-17 Years of Age

Open to English riders not cantering. To be judged on way of going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/trot mount. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date.

14. English Walk-Trot Equitation Adult - Open

Open to English riders 18 years and older not cantering/loping. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date.

15. English Walk-Trot Pleasure Adult - Open

Open to English riders 18 years and older not cantering/loping. To be judged on way of going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/trot mount. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter or jumping on the same show date.

16. Youth Walk-Trot English Pleasure Championship

Must have entered Class 14 or 16

17. Alternate Gait Pleasure

Open to Western and English riders. To be judged on the horse's manner, performance and way of going as shown by the rider. To be shown at walk, and a lateral movement instead of a diagonal movement (the trot) when performing a two-beat gait. Open to alternate gaited horses. The breeds of gaited horses are Astrcon, Florida Cracker Horse, Icelandic, Mangalarga Marchador, Missouri Fox Trotter, Paso Fino,

Peruvian Paso, Racking Horse, Rocky Mountain Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, Tennessee Walker, Marwari Horse and Campolins and Standardbreds that pace and Saddlebreds that slow gait or rack.

18. Green Horse Walk-Trot

Green horse or pony allows the steed to compete on entry level field with equines of the same level of experience of competition in an under-saddle class. To be shown at walk, trot/jog or alternate gait both ways of the ring and may be asked to back. This class does not limit the horse from entering a canter/lope class. This class is judged as a pleasure class.

19. Western Walk-Trot Equitation 11 Years of Age & Under

To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Ride may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

20. Western Walk-Trot Pleasure 11 Years of Age & Under

Open to riders not loping. To be judged on way going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/jog mount. To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

21. Western Walk-Trot Equitation 12-17 Years of Age

To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Ride may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

22. Western Walk-Trot Pleasure 12-17 Years of Age

Open to riders not loping. To be judged on way going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/jog mount. To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

23. Western Walk-Trot Equitation Adult

To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Ride may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

24. Western Walk-Trot Pleasure Adult

Open to riders not loping. To be judged on way going, manners and performance as a suitable walk/jog mount. To be shown at a walk and jog both ways of the ring. Rider may not enter any class asking for a canter/lope on the same show date.

25. Youth Walk-Trot Pleasure Championship

Must have been entered in class 21 or 23

26. Lead Line Equitation - Open

Open to English and Western riders 8 years of age and under. To be shown at a walk and trot/jog or alternate gait on an attached lead demonstrating the rider's control of the horse/pony. Rider may be asked to turn to the left and right. Judged on the rider's performance. Stallions are prohibited. An adult, 18 years of age or older, shall be required to lead entry. Handlers and riders shall be properly attired with no farm/stable logos. Entryway compete only in lead line classes.

27. Lead Line Pleasure - Open

Open to English and Western riders 8 years of age and under. To be shown at a walk and trot/jog or alternate gait on an attached lead demonstrating the rider's control of the horse/pony. Rider may be asked to turn to the left and right. Judged on the horse/pony as a pleasure class with manners and suitability of the mount emphasized. Stallions are prohibited. An adult, 18 years of age or older, shall be required to lead entry. Handlers and riders shall be properly attired with no farm/stable logos. Entryway compete only in lead line classes.

28. Adult Walk-Trot Pleasure Championship

Must have been entered in class 18 or 26

29. Walk-Trot Equitation Championship - Open - Pattern

Must have been entered in class 13,15,17,21,23,25

Open to riders of any age, to be judged on the rider's form and handling of their horse. Individual performances are required by a posted pattern.

30. Ranch Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot (rider cannot enter WTC Class)

(See Class #36 description)

31. Walk-Trot Friends & Family Pleasure (Two riders/horse or pony) - Open

Open to two family members or friends. To be shown first way of the rangy one family member or friend, and the second way by second family member or friend.

32. Walk-Trot Trail (rider cannot enter WTC Class)

Open to English and Western riders. Class to consist of showing individually through a course of obstacles set up either in or outside the ring. Course to be made up of tests to simulate possible encounters while trail riding. Test may require negotiating a gate, carrying objects, riding through water over logs or simulate brush, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, ground tie and dismounting from either side or other similar obstacles. Walk, trot/jog are required as part of the course.

33. Trail Horse or Pony

Open to English and Western riders. Class to consist of showing individually through a course of obstacles set up either in or outside the ring. Course to be made up of tests to simulate possible encounters while trail riding. Test may require negotiating a gate, carrying objects, riding through water over logs or simulate brush, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, ground tie and dismounting from either side or other similar obstacles. Walk, trot/jog and canter/lope are required as part of the course.

34. Ranch Horse Trail

There are not mandatory obstacles. The course is to be set up at the discretion of the show management and/or judges. Obstacles should be constructed of safe material and test the horse and rider's skills. Suggested obstacles include, but are not limited to:

1. Side pass (over obstacles is optional) May be elevated to 12" maximum
2. Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in straight line, curved, zigzag, raised or combination. The space between poles/logs is not required to be measured to be as obstacles on a trail are random. Care shall be taken to design the course with safety in mind when determining the gait at which the obstacles will be maneuvered.
3. Rider over wooden bridge. Minimum width shall be 36" wide and at least 6 feet long. Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.
4. Open passing through and closing gate. Contestants must work the gate moving forward through it. Gate may also work on foot from the ground.
5. Water hazard (ditch or small pond) No metal or slick bottom boxes shall be used.
6. Carry object from one part of area to another. Only objects that might reasonable be carried on a trail may be used.
7. Backing obstacles
8. Pick up a slicker while mounted, put on and take it off. A Dismount and ground tie (hobbles not allowed). May remount with a mounting block.
9. Drag an obstacle. Horse should stand quietly during the preparation and then pull or drag in control. Strongly recommended to have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the time.
10. Live animals or objects representing live animals may be used on the course if they are representing animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting but shall not be in an attempt to spook a horse.
11. Rope a steer head. The object is not to judge the ability of the exhibitor to rope but the patience and willingness of the horse in allowing the rider to complete the task at hand.
12. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox
13. Trot through cones
14. Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments
15. Pick up feet
16. Walk through brush
17. Lead at a walk or trot
18. Rocking moving bridges are optional if constructed in safe manner.

35. Ranch Riding Walk-Trot (Pattern)

See #36 for description and class requirements (same requirements but no lope)

36. Ranch Riding (Pattern)

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

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers and scored based on 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot and lope in both directions, extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction, stops and backs.
3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360° or more, a change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a pole or poles, or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

5. The overall cadence and performance of the gait should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on free-flowing and ground-covering forward movement for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
6. No time limit.
7. One of the suggested patterns may be used; however, a judge may utilize a different pattern if all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of his or her own patterns it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.
8. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
9. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
10. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit. Hands must not be changed. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.

RANCH CLASS APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT

Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged.

1. Hoof polish is discouraged.
2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
4. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.

PENALTIES

- * **ONE-POINT PENALTY**
Too slow per gait. Over-bridled. Out of frame. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less. Split leg at lope.
- * **THREE-POINT PENALTY**
Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides. Break of gait at lope. Wrong lead or out of lead. Draped reins. Out of lead or cross cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads. Trotting more than 3 strides when making simple lead change. Severe disturbance of any obstacle.
- * **FIVE-POINT PENALTY**
Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc) for each refusal. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- * **PLACED BELOW HORSES PERFORMING ALL MANEUVERS**
Eliminates maneuver. Incomplete maneuver.
- * **ZERO SCORE**
Illegal equipment (including braided or banded manes or tail extensions). Willful abuse. Major disobedience or schooling. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score, No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

37. Novice Equitation

English and Western riders who have not won a year end championship in equitation. To be shown in appropriate attire and tack for seat they are riding. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their horse. To be shown at a walk, trot/jog and canter/lope both ways of the ring. May be asked to back. No age limits.

38. Ranch Rail Pleasure

This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized. Open to horses three years of age and older. Horses may cross enter western pleasure classes. The ranch 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 rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider.

39. Road Hack

Open to English riders of any age. To be shown at a walk, trot, extended trot and canter both directions of the ring. Hand gallop required with no more than 8 horses to gallop at one time. To be shown with a loose rein without loss of contact. Must stand quietly and back readily. Martingales are not permitted. To be judged on the horse's performance, substance and manners. Excessive speed to be penalized.

40. Dressage Suitability

Open to English and Western riders. Classes are held in the main ring. Judge stands in the middle and asks exhibitors to walk, trot and canter both directions on the rail. Transitions to the canter must be done through the trot. Judge is looking for horse's purity of gaits; clear 4 beat walk, clear 3 beat canter with an air suspension phase, clear 2 beat trot with an air suspension phase. General impression: how obedient the horse is, and does it look like a "dressage horse" (ex. Softy, attentive ears, relaxed tail, soft mouth, swinging back).

41. Quarter Horse Western Pleasure (AQHA Registered)

Open to Registered AQHA horse with papers judged as a pleasure class to the AQHA standard.

42. Youth Western Pleasure (17 Years of Age and Under)

Open to Western riders. To be judged on the horse's manner, performance and way of going as shown by the rider. To be shown at walk, extended walk, jog, extended jog and lope both ways of the ring. Must be asked to back. Should be ridden with a reasonable loose rein without loss of contact.

43. Open Western Horsemanship (Pattern)

This western horsemanship class is to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise, confidence and maintaining a balanced functional and fundamentally correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. Good hands are paramount, Exhibitors are always to be on the correct lead. Arms are to be in a straight line with the body, with the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. A junior horse ridden two-handed in an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal may be exhibited. When riding a senior horse only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Reins to be held above the horn and as near to it as possible. The position of the exhibitor's free hands optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with the exhibitor's body straight at all times. Exhibitor may hold Roman to keep it from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16" (40.64 cm) from the reining hand. Bracing against horn will be penalized. The exhibitor should sit in the saddle in a balanced, relaxed manner, with his/her back straight, shoulders even and arms close to the body. The stirrups should be just short enough to allow the heels to be lower than the toes. Knees should be slightly bent, and weight be directly over the balls of the feet. Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot and turned out just slightly. Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrups which vary on western saddles. He legs must maintain contact with the horses to give aids to the horse. Position in motion: Exhibitor should sit to the jog/trot and extended trot and not post. At the lope, he/she should be close to the saddle. All movements of the horse should be governed using imperceptible aids and the shifting of the exhibitor's weight is not desirable. An exhibitor is penalized if he/she loses a stirrup, uses two hands on the reins except when riding a junior horse in an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal, changes hands on the reins, or touches any part of the saddle with his or her free hand.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT MUST BE COMPRISED OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Walk, job, trot, lope in a straight line, curved or circle, or any combination of these gaits and patterns such as figure eights, etc
2. Stop
3. Turn on the haunches or forehand
4. Side pass
5. Simple lead change
6. Flying lead change
7. Counter canter
8. Ride without stirrups
9. Extended gaits

RANCH CLASS APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT

Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged.

1. Hoof polish is discouraged.
2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
4. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.

PENALTIES

- * ONE-POINT PENALTY
Too slow per gait. Over-bridled. Out of frame. Break of gait at walk or job for 2 strides or less.
Split log at lope.
- * THREE-POINT PENALTY

Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides. Break of gait at lope. Wrong lead or out of lead. Draped reins. Out of lead or cross cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads. Trotting more than 3 strides when making simple lead change. Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

* FIVE-POINT PENALTY

Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc) for each refusal. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

* PLACED BELOW HORSES PERFORMING ALL MANEUVERS

Eliminates maneuver. Incomplete maneuver.

* ZERO SCORE

Illegal equipment (including braided or banded manes or tail extensions). Willful abuse. Major disobedience or schooling. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score, No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

44. Open Western Pleasure

Open to all Western riders. To be judged on the horse's manner, performance, and way of going as shown by the rider. To be shown at walk, extended walk, jog, extended jog and lope both ways of the ring. Must be asked to back. Should be ridden with a reasonably loose rein without loss of contact

45. Youth Western Equitation (17 Years of Age and Under)

Open to riders under 18 years of age to be shown at walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring. To be judged on rider's form and handling of horse/pony. Western tack and attire required. May be asked to back. Individual workouts may be required.

46. Novice Pleasure

English and Western horse or ponies, who have not won a year end championship in open or any breed pleasure class. Shown at the walk, trot/jog and canter/lope. To be shown in appropriate attire and take for seat they are riding.

47. English Pleasure

Open to all types of English tack. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. May be asked to back. To be judged on the horse's manners, performance and way of going. Martingales are not permitted.

48. Open Pleasure Pony

To be shown at a walk, trot/jog and canter/lope both ways of the ring. May be asked to back. To be judged on the pony's manners, performance and way of going. Martingales are not permitted.

49. Open Adult Equitation

Open to both English and Western riders 18 years of age and older. To be shown and judged on rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Judge may require individual performances .

50. Bridle Path

Open to English riders of any age. To be shown on a reasonably loose rein but without loss of contact, at a flat-footed walk, easy trot and canter both directions of the ring. Must stand quietly and back readily. Emphasis is placed on actual suitability of mount to purpose.

51. Open Adult Pleasure

Open to both English and Western riders 18 years of age and older. To be shown as English/Western Pleasure class. To be judged on the horse's performance, manners and way of going

52. Youth English Equitation (17 Years of Age and Under)

Open to all English riders aged 17 and under. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Riders may be asked to walk collectively without stirrups May be asked to back. To be judged on the rider's form and ability to handle their mount. Individual workouts may be required.

53. Quarter Horse Hunter Under Saddle (AQHA Registered)

Open to a registered AQHA papered horse judged as a pleasure class. Judged to AQHA standards.

54. Open Hunter Under Saddle

Open to horses and ponies. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and may be asked for extended trot and to back. To be judged on the horse's manners, performance and way of going. Martingales are not permitted.

55. Youth English Pleasure (17 Years of Age and Under)

Open to riders under 18 years of age riding either English or Western. To be shown as English/Western Pleasure class. To be judged the horse's performance, manners and way of going.

56. Pleasure Championship

Open to English and Western riders who have entered in class 41, 46 or 47. Points will go back to original class with seat type shown in the champion class. The class should display the balance required of a pleasure horse or pony, which exhibits good confirmation.

57. Equitation Championship (Posted Pattern)

Open to English and Western riders who have entered in class 41, 48 or 54. To be judged on the rider's form and handling of their horse. Individual performances are required by a posted pattern.