



MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2019 Description of Classes

HALTER - All halter classes will be judged on conformation first, (**except** for the Color and Performance Halter classes). **Halter Color** is a fun class for horses that represent color breeds such as **Paint, Pinto, Appaloosa, Palomino, and Buckskin** and horses are judged 80% on color and 20% on conformation per the judge's discretion. Horses **without** these color breed characteristics, including breeding stock horses, shall enter the "**non-color**" halter classes. In **Performance Halter** the judge primarily evaluates the movement and way of going of the horse, with regards to type, English or Western, and conformation is secondary. All halter horses will be examined at the walk and jog as each one is led directly to and away from the judge and additionally the jog from a direct side angle. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear. May be shown in English attire with a plain leather halter or bridle, or in Western attire with a leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter. If English or Western is not specified in the class title you may dress in either style depending on your preference and what might be characteristic for your horse's breed. When your halter class is held after your riding class (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

MINIATURE HORSE HALTER - Judge will view the ideal **Miniature Horse** as a beautiful, small, will balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full sized light breeds. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility and alertness. Movement is strong, natural and athletic. **At AMHA Miniature Horse Shows**, the mature animal **should not exceed 34 inches tall, 4H Miniature Horse Shows allow 38 inches** (measuring at base of the last hair of the mane). Horses to be exhibited the same as **Halter** (above).

SHOWMANSHIP – (Pattern) – Showmanship classes shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter, not on the horse's conformation. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse

that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. When showmanship classes are held after riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

ENGLISH PLEASURE – The judge evaluates a horse’s movement and way of going as a hunter type. Rein contact is required, and horses should move with impulsion. The gaits are flat, smooth and very efficient, with nice reach at the trot. Extended trot, hand gallop, and lead changes may be required, and horses may be asked to back. (This class is also known as “hunter under saddle”).

ENGLISH EQUITATION – The judge evaluates the rider’s equitation and riding position. Shown at walk, trot, and canter, with extension of one or more gaits. Lead changes may be required and both sitting and posting trot may be included. Riders may be required to back and/or pivot.

ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE – Similar to English Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and “favorite gait” of the rider’s choice, may be required to back.

WESTERN PLEASURE – The western pleasure horse should be a pleasure to ride with free, natural movement and should appear calm and relaxed. Horses will be shown at the walk, jog and lope on a reasonable loose rein, without undue restraint. Judge may ask for extension of the walk, jog and/or lope (rider should sit the extended jog) and horses may be asked to back. Horses moving with inadequate forward motion, at a four-beat lope or with the tip of the ears sustained below the level of the withers shall be penalized.

HORSEMANSHIP (Pattern) – The judge evaluated the rider’s western equitation, riding position, and effectiveness of riding ability while completing a pattern. Shown at walk, jog and lope, with extension of one or more gait (rider should sit the extended jog). Lead changes may be included. Riders may be required to back and/or pivot. No rail work is performed unless required by the judge.

WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE – Similar to Western Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive, and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and “favorite gait” of the rider’s choice (rider should sit the extended jog), may be required to back.

OBEDIENCE – Ridden English or Western. Riders are on the rail. May include walk, trot/jog, canter/lope, extension of all gaits, pivots, side pass, backing with or without reins, halt, counter

canter/lope, lead changes, gait transitions, and other elements which may be requested at the discretion of the judge.

TRAIL WARM UP – This **practice session of approximately 7 minutes** on the trail course and is intended to give you and your horse a chance to see and maneuver the obstacles before you show your class. More than one rider may be on the course at the same time, however the number of riders/exhibitors on the trail course, at any one time, will be limited for safety by the Trail Ring Steward. There are no set times for trail warm up, and availability will be at the discretion of the Trail Ring Steward to keep the trail classes running smoothly. Please be considerate and do not monopolize an obstacle. You will be asked to move on if others are waiting to work the obstacle. Once you leave the course, your warm up session is completed. Additional warm up sessions can be purchased at the show office. This class is not judged.

TRAIL (Pattern) – All trail classes are judged on the performance of the horse and rider/exhibitor (with emphasis on manners, response to rider, and quality of movement) as they negotiate a number of obstacles within a specific pattern. Obstacles include, but are not limited to, walk overs, trot or jog overs, canter or lope overs, step overs, side pass, square, gate, back through, bridge, mailbox, serpentine, jog around, jog through, and pivots. May be shown in English attire or Western attire depending on the class.

MINIATURE IN HAND TRAIL (Pattern) – This class was originally designed to provide exhibitors an opportunity to showcase horses too young to show under saddle, such as yearlings and 2-year-olds. However, at this show this class is for the **Minis**. Obstacles should be the same as in **Trail** (above) and will be geared towards the mini in hand. Also, may include a jump (maximum of 12 inches high). May be shown in leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter.

MINIATURE HORSE JUMPING CLASS – There will be a minimum of four fences and a maximum of six fences. The course will be posted at a minimum of two hours before the class. The fences can range in height from twelve to twenty-four inches (in the jump-off this will change to a minimum of twelve to a maximum of thirty inches). Jumpers are judged on accumulated faults only, unless there is a tie, in which case there will be a jump-off. Ties in a Jumper class must be jumped-off. The jump-off will be held over the original course. The height of the jumps shall be increased not less than one inch and not more than six inches in height. The jump-off will be timed by a stopwatch and the horse who has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump off round will be declared the winner.

RANCH HORSE TRAIL (Pattern) – Same as **Trail** (above) except the obstacles may also include more challenging elements such as throw a rope, walk over or through brush, side pass over a log, drag a log

(no dally), carry an object from one location to another, dismount and pick up all 4 feet (if requested this would be at the end of the pattern), or any reasonable obstacle that one might encounter on a ranch. You may also be asked to visibly extend all three gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable). Transitions should be precise and immediate. 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. Execution of obstacles should demonstrate a confident team of horse and rider acting as partners in a calm, yet purposeful way. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire (see below for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

RANCH RAIL PLEASURE – The purpose of the ranch rail pleasure class is to demonstrate a well-trained relaxed and soft horse that you wouldn't mind sitting on for a full day's ranch work. His expression should be bright and attentive, curious but not spooky or dull looking. Emphasis is on natural (natural tail set and head carriage that fits the horse) and forward movement at walk, jog, and the extended jog is acceptable). The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch pleasure horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See below for details).

RANCH RIDING – Formally "Ranch Horse Pleasure" (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 of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement, are the primary considerations of the judge. Required gait/elements may include walk, jog, and lope, visible extension of all three gaits (sitting, standing or posting at the extended jog is acceptable), lead changes (simple or flying changes are acceptable), stop, back, change of direction, side pass, and walk, jog, or lope overs. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (see below for details).

RANCH REINING (Pattern) – The Ranch Reining class is a pattern class which measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers while maintaining a good attitude. These maneuvers include stops, spins, rollbacks, circles, backups, hesitate, "run" downs, and lead changes (posting diagonal change for walk/jog division). To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Correctness is favored over speed as deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of, control and therefore a fault. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude,

and authority of performing various maneuvers. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (see below for details). Only horses 5 and under can be ridden two-handed in a bosal or snaffle.

RANCH HORSE CONFORMATION – Judged on conformation with **form to function as top priority**. Is this a horse that can perform ranch duties? The ideal standard in evaluating ranch horses in conformation should include but is not limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the “appearance of “agility and durability. The horse should possess eye appeal and show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch. **Horse should be clean and well-groomed yet should be shown as naturally as possible**. For example, trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears is discouraged. Mane banding/braiding and tail extensions are discouraged. Halters should be plain leather, rope, or nylon. When your conformation class is held after your riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

LEADLINE EQUITATION AND TRAIL – Leadline equitation and trail are for ages 6 and under. Western attire and saddle is suggested and matching western outfits of “rider” and “leader” is recommended but not required. Helmets are strongly suggested for the “riders”. These will be **WALK ONLY** classes. Leadline equitation will not actually be judged, although the judge may interact with the participants and all youth participants receive a prize. Leadline Trail **will** be judged, and the pattern will be geared towards Leadline ability. “Rider” participants in the Leadline class cannot enter any other “riding” classes.

PLEASURE DRIVING – Pleasure driving is a horse show class, which features horses, ponies, and miniature horses hitched to a two or four wheeled show cart. Horses are driven at a walk and two speeds of trot, generally designated as a regular trot or “park” gait and an extended “strong” trot or “road” gait. Horses are expected to demonstrate required gaits in each direction, as well as back readily, and stand quietly. All gaits should be performed in a smooth, relaxed, balanced manner, consistent with the conformation type of animal. To be judged on manners, quality, performance, conformation, and suitability.

PROPER RANCH ATTIRE – Western boots, cowboy hat, (or protective head gear/helmet), jeans, and a long sleeve shirt. Chaps or Chinks are suggested but not mandatory. Basically “Ranch” style is Western without “bling”. Think of what would serve a purpose on the ranch. Regarding your saddle and equipment, again, think of what would serve a purpose on the ranch. A properly fitted flank cinch and breast collar are not required (but they sure would be useful if you need to rope a calf or trot up to the top of that mountain). Protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages are allowed in all classes except conformation. Optional equipment also includes rope or riata (coiled and attached to the saddle) and hobbles (attached to the saddle). Tie downs, nosebands, or any kind of training equipment is **NOT**

allowed (unless you are schooling and at the discretion of the judge). With a curb type bit, split reins or romal reins are equally acceptable. Of course, with curb type bit, you must ride with one hand whereas with snaffle or bosal, you must ride with two hands (unless you free a hand to open the gate or rope a calf). Only horses 5 and under can be ridden two-handed in a bosal or snaffle. Free flowing mane and “natural” is desirable”. Trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears is discouraged.

***Please note – these descriptions include all gaits expected for all divisions; however, walk/trot/jog riders will be limited to walk/trot/jog/intermediate gaits only. All patterns will be available on line at our website MRVHA.com, posted at the show grounds the day of the show and available in the show office.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT :

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