

Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association  
2026 Class Description

**Halter** – All halter classes will be judged on conformation first, (except for Color and Performance halter classes). Halter Color is a fun class for horses to represent color breeds such as **Paint, Pinto, Appaloosa, Palamino, Buckskin and Dun** and horses are judged 80% on color and 20% on conformation per the judge's discretion.

1. Color class will consist of Paint, Pinto, Buckskin, Dun, Appaloosa and Dun. Must

have color/pattern/characteristics as defined by registry.

2. Non-Color class will consist of horses without the above color breed characteristics and enter the "non-color" halter class.

**Performance Halter** – the judge primarily evaluates the movement and the way of going of the horse, with regards to type, and conformation is secondary. All horses will be examined at the walk and jog as each one is led to directly to and away from the judge and additionally at the jog from a direct side angle. After jogging, 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. Must be shown in a leather halter (silver optional) and a chain can be used under the chin or hanging from the halter. 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/Pony Halter** – Judge will view the ideal Miniature horse and Pony as a small, well-balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full-size light breeds. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility, and alertness. For miniature horses, the mature animal should not exceed

39 inches tall, and Ponies shall not exceed 43 inches tall. Horses to be exhibited in the same as halter (described 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. 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 a reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

**Two & Under** – The purpose of a lungeline class is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners, expression, attitude and conformation to become competitive under saddle. Therefore, the purpose to this class is to reward; A. Quality of movement; B. Manner, Expression and Attitude; C. Conformation suitable to future performance; D. The horse should be judged by its suitability as a future performer under saddle in mind. This class should define what it means to be a ridden in under saddle disciplines. No chains permitted in the Two & Under lungeline class.

This class consist of two parts:

A. A conformation inspection

B. A lunging demonstration lasting 90 seconds. Time will not begin until the horse reaches this perimeter. When the “begin’ signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 90 seconds to present the horse at all three gaits in both directions. Signal will be given at the halfway point. At the end of 90 seconds, the signal will be given to end the demonstration.

**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 reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint. The 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.

**Obedience** – Riders are on the rail. The judge will give all requests which can include but not limited to walk, jog, lope, stop, backing (with or without reins), reverse, extension of gaits, side pass, pivots, counter lope, lead changes and/or any other elements regarding the riding discipline.

**Trail** – (Pattern) all trail classes are judged on the performance of the horse and rider (with emphasis on manners, response to rider, and quality of movement) as they negotiate several obstacles within a specific pattern. Obstacles include but not limited to walk overs, jog or lope overs, step overs, side pass, square, gate, back through, bridge, mailbox, serpentine, jog around, jog throughs and pivots.

**In-Hand Trail** – (Pattern) This class is designed to provide exhibitors an opportunity to showcase horses too young to show under saddle, such as 2 & under. The obstacles should be the same as in trail (above) without lope overs. May be shown in leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter.

**Miniature Horse/Pony In-Hand Trail** – (Pattern) This class is for the Miniature horses and Ponies. Obstacles should be the same as in hand trail (above) without canter. Also, may include a jump (maximum of 12 inches high). May be shown in leather halter (silver optional) and chain may be used under chin or hanging from the halter.

**Miniature Horse Hunter/Jumping class** –

**Hunter class** – This class is designed for Miniature horses to navigate a course of 6 to 8 fences, usually in-hand (no riding). They will be judged on movement, style, and manners. This class focuses on smooth, consistent gaits (trot or canter) over jumps typically 12-24 inches high.

**Jumper Class** – This class is designed to test the horse's ability and agility, requiring them to navigate a course of jumps on a leadline. Typically judged on speed and accuracy and fewest faults. There will be a minimum of 4

jumps and a maximum of 6 jumps.

**Course set up** -Course will be set with jumps at a minimum of 20 feet apart. In and out jumps will be counted as two jumps and must be 10 feet between. A start gate of two cones at least 4 feet apart will be set at least 15 feet from the first and last jump. Failure to start and finish at the designated start “gate” will be a disqualification. The jumps will range 12 inches to 24 inches. In case of a tie a jump off will be required, the jumps will then change from a minimum of 12 inches to a maximum of 30 inches. The jump off will be done over the original course, will be timed by stopwatch and the horse with the fastest time and the fewest faults will be declared the winner.

**Miniature Horse/Pony Pleasure Driving** – Pleasure driving is a horse show class, which features miniature horses and or ponies hitched to a two or four wheeled show cart. Horses are driven at the walk and two speeds of trot, generally designated as a regular trot or “park” gait and an extended “strong” trot or “road” trot. 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.

**Mini Horse/Pony Reinsmanship** – Entries are judged on the ability and skill of the driver. Judging consists of 75% on handling of reins and whips, control, posture, and overall appearance of the driver. 25% on the condition of the harness and vehicle and neatness of the attire. All drivers may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a simple figure 8. If additional work is required, beyond a simple figure 8, the pattern will be posted. They are required to back. To be shown at the walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot.

**Mini Horse/Pony Obedience Driving** – This class is designed to test the horse’s responsiveness, calmness and precision, rather than speed or flashy movement. Key requirements include flawless transitions (walk, trot, halt), obedient backing, standing perfectly still and possibly navigating obstacles or

cones with accuracy. Obedience driving commands may focus on consistent verbal cues, such as “Step up” (walk), “Trot”, “Easy”, (slow), and “Whoa/Stand (stop), “Speed up” (Cluck), “Side Pass” (Gee over, right), (Haw over, left). Key turning commands include “Gee” (right) and “Haw” (left).

**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 the “Bling”. Proper ranch riding equipment emphasizes functional, working Western gear, including a plain leather saddle (no silver), a well-fitted head stall with simple bit, snaffle or bosal, and durable reins. With a curb type bit, you are required to ride one handed, with the snaffle or bosal you are required to ride with two hands (unless you free a hand to open a gate or rope a calf). In the ranch classes, it is acceptable for any horse of any age to be ridden two-handed in a bosal or snaffle. Even though Breast collars and back cinches are common, they are not required. Protective boots or legs wraps are allowed in all classes except **Ranch conformation**. Optional equipment of Rope or Riata (coiled and attached to the saddle), and hobbles (attached to the saddle). Tie downs, nosebands, or any kind of training equipment (including mechanical hackamore) is **NOT** allowed (unless you are schooling and are required to flip your number upside down). Free flowing and natural mane is desired, trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears are discouraged.

**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 (dally once or no dally is acceptable), carry an object from one location to another, dismount and pick up all 4 feet (if requested it would be at the end of the pattern), or any reasonable obstacle that one might encounter on the ranch. You might 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 riders' cues on more difficult obstacles. Execution of obstacles should demonstrate confident team of horse and rider acting as partners in a calm, yet purposeful way. The rider must show in proper ranch attire (see above).

**Ranch Rail** – The purpose of the ranch rail class is to demonstrate a well-trained, relaxed and soft horse that you wouldn't mind sitting on for a full day's work on the ranch. The horse's expression should be bright and attentive, curious but not spooky or dull looking. Emphasis is on natural (natural head carriage and tail set) 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. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch rail horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are the primary considerations. The rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire (shown above).

**Ranch Riding** – (Pattern) – The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction. The optional maneuvers are side pass; turns of 360 degrees or more; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over poles, spins, roll backs or other reasonable maneuvers a ranch horse could perform.

**Ranch Horse Conformation** -Ranch horse conformation classes evaluate a horse's structural, balance, and critically, "form-to-function" suitability for ranch work. It emphasizes natural appearance, soundness and movement over specialized, artificial, or over-fitted traits. Horses are shown in a natural, working, or ranch-appropriate, functional state. The horse should be as natural as possible, for example, trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears, mane

banding/braiding and tail extensions are discouraged. If 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 class.

**Leadline Halter, Equitation and Trail** – All leadline classes are available to children up to the age of 8. Western attire and western saddle are required, with matching attire of the “rider” and “leader” being recommended but not required. Leadline riders **MUST WEAR A HELMET**. A halter is required under the bridle for riding classes. Leadline Equitation and Leadline Trail are walk only, in Leadline Halter the leadliner will be required to jog a short distance on foot. Leadline trail pattern will be geared towards the rider’s ability. It is optional as to whether the leadliner or the “handler” works the gate or mailbox for safety purposes. “Rider” participants in the leadline class cannot enter any other “riding” classes.

**Leadline Halter** – In this safety-oriented youth class, handlers are permitted to assist the child with leading and presentation for inspection. The child remains the primary lead, with the handler providing support as necessary for safety and positioning. All leadline classes will be judged and placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> place. Please note, the leadliner will be required to jog their horses a short distance for this class only.

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