

# **Meridian Riding Club**

## **Ranch Riding Show Rules and Information**

### **Grounds Rules and Expectations –**

- All Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Helmets are required for riders 17 years old and under.
- All horse manure, shavings and straw are to be removed before leaving. Hay on ground is allowed to be left behind.
- If your horse digs holes, you are required to fill holes in before leaving.
- Pens and Highlines are allowed with tree savers.
- No running outside of arena or in the trees. Outside of arena and practice arena remain at a walk.
- There are two wash and watering areas, one on each side of arena.
- There are blue garbage cans around the property. Make sure to not leave garbage/food wrappers behind when leaving. Leave no trace! Please keep MRC nice for everyone.

### **General Ranch Show Rules –**

- Appropriate attire is a long sleeved collared shirt, jeans, belt, boots and hat or helmet. Chaps or chinks are optional. Spurs are allowed.
- Western saddle and tack. Breast collar and back cinch allowed. NO bling or excessive silver on tack. Silver on saddles will not count against the exhibitor but shall also not earn any credit.
- Exhibitors will be provided with a rider number. The number will be a set of two. Rider must place number on each side of the saddle pad. For In-Hand classes the exhibitors must place number on their back. If exhibitor is riding or showing multiple horse, the exhibitor must ensure the correct number for the horse/exhibitor combination is present when entering the arena.
- Riders and exhibitors may cross enter class divisions, that they meet criteria and qualifications for.
- NO Training Aids (draw reins, tie downs, neck stretchers, ect.)
- Split reins can be used or Romels are allowed. NO Loop/barrel reins.
- Riders wanting to show two handed must do so in a non-shanked snaffle bit.
- NO Twisted wire bits and NO crops.

- Following AQHA guidelines, no mane bands, fake tail extensions or hoof black shall be used. The horse should have a natural appearance. Silver on saddles will not count against the exhibitor but shall also not earn any credit.
- NO Unsportsmanlike behavior. Disrespecting fellow competitors, show officials and volunteers, or the Judge will result in a disqualification.
- Meridian Riding Club and show officials have the right to remove any competitor or spectator from the grounds if deemed necessary.
- Additional question should be directed to the Show Chairman.

### **Registration/ Add-on and Scratches of Classes –**

- Pre-Registration will be posted two weeks prior to show date and remain open until the day before the show at noon.
- All pre-registrations must be completed online at [www.meridianriding.com](http://www.meridianriding.com), payment is accepted as credit, debit, Cashapp, and PayPal through the registration process.
- Registrations are accepted on the day of the show.
- Show office will close 30 minutes prior to show start time. Once the show has started the office will reopen.
- Open checks are allowed and must be set up at the Show office before the start of the show. Open checks must be closed before the completion of the show.
- Add-ons can be done at the gate before each class by providing your exhibitor number to the gate person. Add-ons will be considered as an open check and follow the same guidelines.
- Scratches are non-refundable, they may be transferable to a different class or division in the show office prior to entering arena.
- A refund may be issued, upon request, if there is a documented medical/ or veterinary reason.
- If a show is cancelled or rescheduled for any reason, exhibitors will be contacted directly to offer a transfer credit for a different date or a refund.

### **Classes –**

- Ranch Conformation: The Ranch Conformation a halter class. Focusing on balance, structural correctness, and movement. Judge will be looking for presentation, behavior, and correct conformation. You will be asked to walk your horse towards the judge and then trot away into the head to tail lineup. You will then set your horse up for inspection.
- Ranch Rail: The Ranch Rail class is a rail class in which you will be asked to demonstrate the requested gaits both regular and extended. Focus on the horse promptly responding to rider cues and transition smoothly. Announcer will call out

instructions from the Judge. The exhibitor can post or stand during the extended trot.

- Ranch Reining – The Ranch Reining class is an individual pattern class. Reining is a demonstration of agility, control, and precision on reining maneuvers. Exhibitors will be asked to complete large/small circles, spins, stops, rollbacks, and lead changes.
- Ranch Trail: The Ranch Trail class tests the horse's ability to handle obstacles and tasks commonly encountered during everyday ranch work. Emphasis on a horse's willingness and efficiency while performing tasks. A walk through will be allowed before the first class. No horses on course during walk through. Patterns will list maneuvers and specific directions.
- Ranch Riding: The Ranch Riding class is a pattern class with multiple maneuvers that demonstrate the horse and exhibitors ability to navigate as a team and perform functions one would see in a working ranch horse.

### **Divisions –**

- In-Hand - A horse division in which the horse is shown without a rider and presented by a handler. In-hand division classes are judged on conformation, movement, and presentation.
- Green Horse/Rider W/T & Green Horse/Rider: This class is open to non-professional riders of all ages in their first year of showing in ranch classes. It is designed specifically for riders and equines new to the Ranch Riding discipline. A Green Rider must not have won any ranch classes in the past year and have never won a ranch buckle.
- Youth 18 & Under: Limited to exhibitors 18 years and under as of the first show in the series. For series points the exhibitor starting in a youth division may continue to show in the youth division for the remainder of the series.
- Novice: A novice exhibitor is a rider with limited ranch showing experience. They have never trained, given lessons, or assisted in training an equine. A qualifying Novice Rider must not have won any ranch classes more than three times within the past two years and have never won a ranch buckle.
- Open: Division is open to all horses and exhibitors of any age and experience level.

### **Patterns –**

- Ranch Reining, Ranch Riding, and Ranch Trail are pattern classes. Each class will have a designated pattern. Patterns will be posted on Facebook and available on the Meridian Riding Club website at [www.meridianriding.com](http://www.meridianriding.com)

### **Scoring –**

- Pattern classes will have maneuvers listed with the pattern. Each maneuver is scored by the judge (-1 1/2 Extremely Poor, -1 Very Poor, -1/2 Poor, 0 Correct, +1/2 Good, +1 Very Good, +1 1/2 Excellent) with zero being average. Exhibitors start with a score of 70 and at the end of the pattern a score is tabulated by the scribe for final results.
- Disqualifications are determined by the Judge and are final. Exhibitors may reference the class scoring sheet in the office. If exhibitor has questions regarding disqualification for learning purposes they may ask the Show Chairman.

### **Points, Daily Highpoint, and Series Awards –**

- Judge will award 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> place in each class, points will be calculated based on placings. Points per placing as follows - 1<sup>st</sup> Place = 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 4 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 3 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points, 5<sup>th</sup> place = 1 point.
- Division points are calculated per division, if you are in multiple divisions then you will have multiple division points.
- Highpoint for the day goes to the exhibitor with the highest accumulated points in each division.
- Buckles and Series Highpoint Awards – Awards for Buckles will be given to the Highpoint winner for the series in each division: In-Hand, Youth 18 & under, Green Horse/ Rider, W/T Green Horse Rider, Novice, and Open Division. Conformation Series Highpoint winner will be awarded Trophy Show Halter. To be eligible you must attend all shows in the series.