

HRC Versatility 2026 Class List & Rules

Rules

1. Exhibitors must be checked in by 10 am. (If only competing in obstacles, please complete them while others are completing the main ring classes)
2. Horse and Rider combinations may only compete in **one** division.
3. Classes may be **combined** when class size warrants it.
4. During the obstacle portion, exhibitors are allowed 3 attempts per obstacle. The judge is allowed to ask you to move on. A bell may be used to signal to the exhibitor to move on. If this signal is ignored, the exhibitor will be disqualified and asked to leave the course. A maximum time will be announced for the obstacle portion. Exhibitors must complete the course in this amount of time, they will be judged only on obstacles completed in this time and they will be asked to exit at the end of the time allowed. At the completion of the event there may be time for the exhibitors to school on obstacles that were challenging.
5. Helmets are encouraged for all ages but are mandatory for ALL junior riders.
6. Leadline - Exhibitors must be 4 and over and able to safely stay in saddle for both the walk and the trot as no side-walkers will be allowed. Handlers that lead the horse must be adults with proper footwear. **Leadline exhibitors should complete their obstacle course immediately after their Leadline Ranch Pleasure Class. They will be given preference at obstacle course.**
7. To qualify for year end awards, horse and rider combination must compete in at least 2 versatility events. **Day end and year end division ties will be decided by the division's obstacle scores.**
8. All seats are welcome however exhibitors should make sure that their tack and attire are neat, presentable and appropriate.
9. Tack should all be of the same seat and in good working condition. **There are no age restrictions for bits and headstalls. Bitless style bridles are allowed with the exception of a mechanical hackamore. All horses may be ridden in snaffles or curbs as well as two-handed. Gag bits, martingales and tie-downs are not permitted. Whips are not allowed for any unmounted classes.**

Main Ring – starts at 9 am

1. In Hand Halter (all in at same time)
2. Leadline Halter (all in at same time) (Leadliners must be accompanied by an adult for safety reasons)
3. Junior Walk/Trot Halter (all in at same time)
4. Senior Walk/Trot Halter (all in at same time)
5. Junior Walk/Trot/Canter Halter (all in at same time)
6. Senior Walk/Trot/Canter Halter (all in at same time)
7. In Hand Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)

Break for under saddle warmup

8. Leadline Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)
9. Junior Walk/Trot Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)
10. Senior Walk/Trot Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)
11. Junior Walk/Trot/Canter Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)
12. Senior Walk/Trot/Canter Ranch Pleasure (all in at same time)

The following classes are first come first serve after the completion of class #12.

13. In Hand Working Ranch Pattern
14. Junior Walk/Trot Working Ranch Pattern
15. Senior Walk/Trot Working Ranch Pattern
16. Junior Walk/Trot/Canter Working Ranch Pattern
17. Senior Walk/Trot/Canter Working Ranch Pattern

Obstacle/Trail Ring – starts at 9 am – first come first serve

18. In Hand Obstacle/Trail
19. Junior Walk/Trot Obstacle/Trail
20. Senior Walk/Trot Obstacle/Trail
21. Junior Walk/Trot/Canter Obstacle/Trail
22. Senior Walk/Trot/Canter Obstacle/Trail
23. Leadline Obstacle/Trail

Class Descriptions

Halter Classes – all horses in class in ring at same time. This class focuses on well-mannered individuals that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement appropriate for the horse's breed standard. Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Silver is discouraged on halter or lead. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time until the judge is reached, then trot away from the judge to a cone. Horses will line up head to tail for inspection.

Ranch Pleasure Classes – all horses in class in ring at same time. Class should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working 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 the horse should not be shown on a full drape of reins. Gaits should include the walk, (extended walk for walk/trot riders), trot, extended trot, and the canter/lope and its extension for walk/trot/canter riders. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Working Ranch Horse Pattern – horses complete the pattern one at a time. Riders can go in any order. The pattern class measures the ability of the horse to perform basic handling/reining maneuvers. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

Obstacles/Trail - The horse/rider 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. Exhibitors' horsemanship will be taken into account when scoring. While speed and time do not play a factor in scoring, there will be a maximum time that the exhibitors must complete the course in so that we can move the day along.

Possible Obstacles: The obstacle course will include no less than six and no more than twelve obstacles. The horse may be asked to walk, trot and canter/lope (WTC division only) during the course.

- Gate - Opening, passing through and closing the gate.
- Mount/Dismount - The horse shall remain quiet while the rider dismounts. The horse should remain still and quiet as the rider remounts, leaving a loose rein. Exhibitors have the option of using a mounting block to remount.
- Log drag - Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance, either in a straight line or around a set pattern.
- Water hazard - The horse should show willingness to cross a small area of water.
- Ground tie (contestant's option) – The horse shall remain in place while the rider dismounts and performs a task.
- Put on and remove slicker - Rider approaches slicker, removes slicker from holder, puts on slicker and replaces slicker to holder.
- Remove, carry and replace item – Requires the exhibitor to carry or remove an item such as mail from a mailbox, or a bucket.
- Bridge – Horse shows willingness to walk across obstacle designed to simulate a bridge.
- Crossing obstacle – While mounted the horse would walk over obstacle no more than 18" in height.
- Ride over at least four logs – Walking only if laid at odd angles. Laid flat and in measured distances of: Trot overs 2'6" to 3'6" or Lopec overs 6' to 7'
- Stationary steer – This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge will give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the contestant makes the swing and throws at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized, but missing the stationary steer will not be penalized.
- Back
- Sidepass
- Cowboy Curtain/Tunnel

HRC may add additional obstacles if they choose.