

RANCH HORSE DIVISION INFORMATION FROM AQHA HANDBOOK 2015

SHW416. RANCH HORSE PLEASURE. The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure 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 and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

- **SHW416.1** For horses three years of age and older, offered as a **junior**, **senior** or all-age open division class, and as an all age class for **Level 1** (Novice) and higher, as an all age class for amateur, (including Select) and youth.
- **SHW416.2** No horse may cross enter, a western pleasure and ranch horse pleasure class at the same show regardless of division (youth, amateur, Select or open).

(** At our Blue Ribbon Horse Shows, rule SHW416.2 may or may not be enforced.)

SHW417. Class requirements:

- **SHW417.1** Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- **SHW417.2** The required maneuvers will include the walk, **trot**, and lope both directions: and the extended **trot** and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.
- **SHW417.3** Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, **trot**, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
- **SHW417.4** The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- **SHW417.5** The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- **SHW417.6** No time limit.

- **SHW417.7** One of the suggested patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of his/her own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.
- **SHW417.8** The use of natural logs is encouraged.
- **SHW417.9** Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
- **SHW417.10** Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

SHW418. Ranch Horse Pleasure Apparel and Equipment

- **SHW418.1** No hoof polish.
- **SHW418.2** No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
- **SHW418.3** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- **SHW418.4** Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- **SHW418.5** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

SHW419. Ranch Horse Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

- **SHW419.1** One (1) point penalties
 - Too slow/per gait
 - Over-bridled
 - Out of frame
 - Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
 - Split log at lope
- **SHW419.2** Three (3) point penalties
 - 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

- **SHW419.3** Five (5) point penalties
 - Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 - SHW419.4 Placed below horses performing all maneuvers
 - Eliminates maneuver
 - Incomplete maneuver
- **SHW419.5** Zero (0) score
 - Illegal equipment **including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions**
 - Willfull abuse
 - Major disobedience or schooling
- **SHW419.6** No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score.
- **SHW419.7** No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

SHW550. VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE. The versatility ranch horse class demonstrates the performance, versatility and conformation of the American Quarter Horse as a working ranch horse. One or multiple judges may be used. However, when multiple judges are used, only one judge per class is permitted. Judges must be chosen from the Versatility Ranch Horse Approved Judges list.

- **SHW550.1** No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.
- **SHW550.2** No hoof polish
- **SHW550.3** No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
- **SHW550.4** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- **SHW550.5** Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- **SHW550.6** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- **SHW550.7** Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized.
- **SHW550.8** Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.