

RANCH HORSE DIVISION INFORMATION FROM AQHA HANDBOOK 2020

SHW416. RANCH RIDING. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

SHW416.1 For horses three years of age and older, offered as a Level 1, junior, senior or all-age open division class, and as an all age class for Level 1 youth, youth, Level 1 amateur, Select amateur and amateur.

SHW416.2 No horse may cross enter, a western pleasure or walk/ trot western pleasure and ranch riding class at the same show regardless of division (youth, amateur, select or open). Show management may run AQHA ranch riding and versatility ranch horse ranch riding concurrently if held within a full versatility ranch horse show. If held concurrently, AQHA ranch riding rules (SHW416- 419.8) will apply.

(At our Blue Ribbon Horse Shows, rule SHW416.2 WILL NOT be enforced. **)**

SHW417. Class requirements:

SHW417.1 Each horse will work individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and a minimum of three optional maneuvers. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2.: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

SHW417.2 One of the 15 approved patterns must be used. 132 © 2020 AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

SHW417.3 The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, (SHW334 Ranch Riding) with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

SHW417.4 No time limit.

SHW417.5 The use of natural logs is encouraged.

SHW417.6 Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

SHW417.7 Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

SHW418. Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment

SHW418.1 No hoof polish.

SHW418.2 No braided or banded manes/tails 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. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

SHW418.6 It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

SHW418.7 When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

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

SHW419.1 One (1) point penalties Too slow (per gait) Over-bridled (per maneuver) Out of frame (per maneuver) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

SHW419.2 Three (3) point penalties Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead Wrong lead or out of lead Draped reins (per maneuver) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change Severe disturbance of any obstacle

SHW419.3 Five (5) point penalties Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

SHW419.4 Ten (10) point penalty Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)

SHW419.5 (OP) Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

Eliminates **or adds** maneuver

Incomplete maneuver

Repeated blatant disobedience

Use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)