

NWHF Western Ranch Show Class Descriptions

Ranch Rail Pleasure

This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized, and in fact, riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. The ranch rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should demonstrate a relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadence stride at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and a natural head carriage. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.

Horses to be shown both directions of the arena at a Walk, Trot, Extended Trot, Lope and Extended Lope. Walk Trot horses will be shown at the Walk, Extended Walk, Trot and Extended Trot.

Ranch Riding

This class aims to evaluate the horse's versatility, attitude, and movement while engaged in ranch-related activities outside the confines of a traditional arena setting. 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 shall be ridden with light contact without requiring undue restraint. A full drape of rein will be penalized. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Horses are to be shown on a Required Pattern Provided by show management .

The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back. Optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 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. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge. Emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness. No time limit. Sitting at the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable. Walk Trot Horses will be provided with a Walk Trot Pattern. Exhibitors automatically begin the run with a score of 70 points and + or - score per maneuver may be awarded. Exhibitors may ride multiple horses.

Ranch Trail

The purpose of the Ranch Trail class is to test the ability of the ranch horse to maneuver through situations and obstacles which may be encountered on a ranch, and in everyday ranch work. The horse should be judged on correctness, efficiency, and maneuvering skills. Credit will be given to the horse that is well broke and that negotiates the obstacles with style, expression, and some degree of forward movement, providing carefulness is not sacrificed.

The Ranch Trail class will consist of a minimum of six (6) obstacles and no more than Twelve (12) obstacles. The course shall be returned to its original design after each horse has worked. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course, walk trot class will be walk and trot only with potential extensions of all gates for both divisions. Exhibitors will start with a score of 70 and + or - score per obstacle may be awarded. Exhibitors may show multiple horses.

Ranch Horse Conformation

The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve American Ranch Horse type selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. The ideal ranch conformation horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail. Horse to be shown in a Flat Nylon, Leather Halter or Rope halter of conservative color with appropriate lead. NO Knotted Rope halters allowed

Western Pleasure

Horses to be shown at the walk, jog, lope or gaits appropriate to the breed being shown both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. The judge may ask for extended gaits. Horses may be asked to back up either on the rail or in the line up. To be judged on performance, conformation, manners and appointments suited to western pleasure.

Halter Horse

Must be serviceably sound and shown in hand at the walk and trot. Judging of each horse will be based on conformation, movement, type, quality, substance, presence and manners. The type of halter used must be suitable to the breed shown. Halter must be made of Flat Nylon or Leather with suitable lead. Rope Halters without nose band knots are allowed. All Halters must be of Conservative color, clean and functional.

Western Horsemanship

This class is judged on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in order while holding proper equitation. This is a pattern class with multiple maneuvers. Exhibitors will work individually on Pattern. Exhibitors automatically begin with a score of 70 points and a + or - per maneuver may be awarded from that Score. This is a pattern class. Exhibitors may show one horse only

In Hand Trail

Horses are required to work over and through obstacles while being led in hand. A minimum of (5) maximum of (10) obstacles required. Horses start with a score of 70 and a + or - score per obstacle may be issued. Exhibitors may show multiple horses in the same class.

Western Trail

Horses are required to work over and through obstacles at the walk, jog and lope. A minimum of (5) and maximum of (10) obstacles are required. Horses start with a base score of 70 and + or - score per obstacle may be issued. Exhibitors may show multiple horses in the same class

Showmanship

All Horses must be serviceably sound and shown in hand at the walk and trot. Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute with their horse, a set of maneuvers and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. Horses will use quarters for set up and inspection. This is a Pattern Class. Exhibitors may only show one horse in this class.

Halter Color classes (solid and multi)

In halter color classes horses are to be judged 40% on the natural color of the horse coat, 40% coat condition, 15% Manners and 5% conformation. In Halter color classes, horses are to be circled both ways of the ring at the walk, in order to allow the judge to judge coat color and manners. Horses will then be lined up, head to tail in the center of the arena for the judge to inspect coat condition, conformation.

Miniature Horses and Pony classes

These classes will show under the same description as their bigger counterparts with the exception that these classes will have a height restriction of 48 inches and below.

- Halter Miniature Horses and Ponies
- Halter Miniature Horses and Ponies Showmanship
- In Hand Trail Miniature Horses and Ponies
- Halter Solid Color Miniature Horses and Ponies
- Halter Multicolor Miniature Horses and Ponies

Miniature Horses and Ponies Driving

This Class to be judged on Manners, Movement and suitability of cart to harness. To be shown at a Normal Walk, Trot and Extended Trot both ways of the arena and may be asked to back. Headers are allowed and encouraged.

Non Pro Classes

These classes are open to NON PROFESSIONALS only. Non Pro classes are for those exhibitors that DO NOT accept remunerations for any equine training, coaching or lessons.

Hunter In Hand Miniature Horses and Ponies

Hunters are not scored mathematically by faults nor by time. b) Hunters are judged on style and form over fences, manners, way of going and pace in that order. c) Judge must penalize unsafe jumping (i.e. charging, refusals) and poor form over fences. d) Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving the ring is permissible. e) Ponies/Horses must be serviceably sound. Exhibitors who are not disqualified from the class must jog for soundness past the judge (either individually after completing their course or as a group after all exhibitors have jumped) before final placings are awarded. f) The following faults are minor faults and are scored by the judges based on severity: light touches against an obstacle, hesitation before jumping (not a refusal), excessively slow or fast pace, changes of gait for 1–2 strides, kicking, spooking or shying. The following faults are major faults: circling while on course, knockdown of any part of an obstacle, and refusals. Horses with major faults are not to be placed above horses with clean rounds or minor faults only. g) Causes for Elimination in Hunter Classes • Three (3) refusals • Off Course • Fall of horse or exhibitor • Jumping of obstacle by exhibitor • Carrying a whip • An unsound horse. There will be a minimum of 4 fences and a maximum of 6 fences.

English Pleasure

Horses to be shown at the walk, trot, canter or gaits appropriate to the breed being shown both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. The judge may ask for extended gaits. Horses may be asked to back up either on the rail or in the line up. To be judged on performance, conformation, manners and appointments suited to English pleasure.

English Equitation

This class is judged on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in order while holding proper equitation. This is a pattern class with multiple maneuvers. Exhibitors will work individually on Pattern. Exhibitors automatically begin with a score of 70 points and a + or - per maneuver may be awarded from that Score. This is a pattern class. Exhibitors may show one horse only

18 and Over Non Pro classes

These classes are for Non Professionals age 18 and Over only, age is determined as of January 1st of the current show year.

17 & Under Classes

These classes are for youth exhibitors 17 year old and under Over, age is determined as of January 1st of the current show year

Beginner Non Pro classes

These classes are open to NON PROFESSIONAL Beginners. Beginner classes are for those exhibitors that have not won 8 first place ribbons at any show. 1 horse classes will not count.