

**2022**

**Southern  
Stockhorse  
Rules and  
Regulations**

**Articles of Incorporation of  
Southern Stockhorse  
Association of NC, Inc.**

# **Articles of Incorporation of Southern Stockhorse Association of NC, Inc.**

## ***ARTICLE I***

### **Sec. 1 NAME**

a. This organization shall be known as Southern Stockhorse Association of NC, Inc, a nonprofit organization that is maintained by dues and revenue resulting from club activities and gifts.

### **Sec. 2 AUTHORITY**

a. These By-laws are the rules and regulations governing Southern Stockhorse Association of NC, Inc.

b. The affairs, activities, and business of the club shall be conducted in the manner hereinafter described.

c. It shall be a condition of membership that every member be governed by these By-laws in the conduct of all affairs, activities, and business of Southern Stockhorse Association of NC, Inc, also known as SSA.

### **Sec. 3 PURPOSES**

a. Aid and encourage exhibiting, use and perpetuation of, promote and coordinate horseshow activities; promote and encourage exhibiting of horses in open classes; coordinate and cooperate with qualified judges for open shows; and in devising and adopting horse show rules, regulation and standards.

b. Cooperate with other organizations with similar interest in stock horses.

c. Formulate publicity and educational programs and other activities in the interest of owners, horse associations, clubs, and enthusiasts, for the purpose of stimulating popular interest in the stock horse.

## ***ARTICLE II***

### **Meetings, Elections and Voting**

a. Notice of annual membership meetings shall be in writing via the newsletter, website and may indicate the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

b. Any SSA member in good standing and was a previous year member is eligible to run for a position on the board. Any member may nominate themselves or any other member with prior consent of other member. Any member nominated from the floor must provide prior consent to being nominated. Annual voting to take place at the annual membership meeting.

c. For voting purposes, a quorum of 2/3 majority vote of the board of directors is required. The majority vote rules unless otherwise stipulated in these By-laws. The following forms are acceptable: written ballot or show of hands. Only votes from identified voters will be accepted. All votes will be kept confidential.

## ***ARTICLE III***

### **Sec. 1 OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

The officers of the SSA shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These offices are to be elected by the membership. Each officer is a member of the Board of Directors

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of SSA. He or she shall act as Chairman of the Board of Directors and as executive head of SSA in enforcing the provisions of these By-laws. The President shall perform all the duties customary to the office.
- b. The Vice President shall report to the President and shall, in the absence or disability of the President, perform all the duties of the President. The Vice President shall also be responsible for regular meeting sites and programs.
- c. The Secretary shall record minutes of business and board meetings and provide the minutes to the board of directors at each meeting. The Secretary shall also keep such records and files as may be required for a period of five years.
- d. The Treasurer shall receive, collect, and deposit in the name of Southern Stockhorse Association of NC all monies in a financial institution as designated by the Board of Directors. He or she shall pay all bills and expenses incurred by SSA. The Treasurer shall provide financial reports to the Board of Directors. He or she shall maintain books, records, ledgers, statements, and reports of the financial condition of SSA, including asset and liabilities, disbursements of its funds, and a dues list for a period of five years. They must make membership list available to the board upon request.
- e. An officer may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Directors.

## **Sec. 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a. The board of Directors of SSA shall consist of the officers, with a minimum of 4 additional Board of Directors.
- b. The Board's duties will consist of the formation of policies and plans to further the best interests of SSA. The Board shall have the power to transact business of SSA between membership meetings.
- c. The Board shall have the authority to appoint committees, designate agents, conduct audits, establish budgets, and authorize club expenditures. Voting on Board issues requires a majority rules vote. The Board shall conduct all business in a manner prescribed by these By-laws.
- d. In the event of the death or resignation of a member of the Board, the President will nominate someone to fill that position with approval from the board, as a replacement of said person to serve the unexpired term of the vacated position on the Board.
- e. A member of the Board may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the other members of the Board.

## **Sec. 3 MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The SSA shall be composed of an unlimited number of members.
- b. Membership shall be given upon payment of stipulated annual dues.
- c. Annual dues for each member shall be an amount determined at the beginning of each show season by the Board of Directors.
- d. Membership expires each year as of December 31.
- e. Each single membership entitles to that member, regardless of age, on vote in club affairs and in the election of officers.
- f. A family membership consists of no more than two adults living at the same address and their offspring under age eighteen (18) and/or elderly parents living with their adult offspring.
- g. Special membership privileges may be accorded to any person or persons by unanimous vote of the Board

- h. Only members are eligible to receive club subsidized benefits. Guests at club subsidized events must pay a fee that will be stated in the notification materials of that event.
- i. Any member may terminate his/her membership at any time by resignation in writing, delivered via standard mail or email. Dues will not be refunded.
- j. Members who, by any act or omission of any act, bring discredit or disfavor upon SSA or who willfully violate these Bylaws, or in any way by their actions prove harmful to the club, the objects, purposes, and policies of SSA or the members therein, shall be subject to expulsion from the club. This requires a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

#### ***ARTICLE IV***

Dissolution of Southern Stockhorse of NC, Inc Should Southern Stockhorse of NC, Inc be dissolved, any funds in the treasury or other property owned by the club shall be donated to another horse related non-profit organization(s), to be voted on at the final business meeting.

**Bylaws of  
Southern Stockhorse  
Association of NC, Inc**

## **Bylaws of Southern Stockhorse Association**

### ***Article I - NAME***

Pursuant to its Articles of Incorporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina, the name of this organization shall be Southern Stockhorse Association of NC, Inc. and it shall be a non-profit corporation.

### ***Article II - OBJECTS***

The objects of The Southern Stockhorse Association, Inc. shall be those stated in Article I Sec 3 of its Articles of Incorporation.

### ***Article III - LOCATION***

The principal place of business of the Association shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Directors may be residents of any state.

### ***Article IV - MEMBERS***

#### ***Section 1. Membership***

Membership shall be open to all persons who subscribe to the objects of the Southern Stockhorse Association, agree to abide by its rules and regulations, and who apply for membership.

Members of the Association shall be admitted, retained, reprimanded, fined, suspended or expelled in accordance with such rules and regulations as may, from time to time adopt.

#### ***Section 2. Classes of Membership***

- a. Family Members: consists of husband and wife, parent or guardian with children 21 or younger living at home.
- b. Individual Members
- c. Youth Members: youth members are those persons 18 years or younger. Age is determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- d. Memberships are non-transferrable.

#### ***Section 3. Dues***

Each Family, Individual and Youth Member shall pay annual dues to the Association. Annual dues shall not be prorated and shall be for the calendar year. Renewals of annual membership fees are due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and if not paid prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, the member shall be automatically dropped from the membership in the Association and will have to reapply.

#### ***Section 4. Application***

Membership in the Association is a privilege, not a right, and all applications shall promptly be referred to the Board of Directors. Application shall be made on completed forms and include payment. Application is approved or rejected by the Board of Directors. Whenever in these Bylaws the term member or members shall be used, unless otherwise specified, it shall mean a member(s) in good standing. A member in good standing is one whose dues are fully paid and whose rights are not suspended or revoked by disciplinary action.

### ***Section 5. Liability***

No member shall be personally liable for debts, liabilities or obligations of the Association, except as provided by law.

## ***Article V - CORPORATE POWER***

### ***Section 1. Powers of the Board of Directors***

a. Enumeration: The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal, and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, as they may deem expedient and necessary concerning the conduct, management and activities of the Association, including but not limited to the setting and collection of dues and fees.

b. Committees: The Board of Directors shall have the power to create and empower all committees both standing and special, from time to time, and to appoint their members. All committees, both standing and special, will be subordinate to the Board of Directors.

## ***Article VI - OFFICIAL RULE BOOK***

There shall be published a rule book, which shall be entitled the "Official Rule Book of the Southern Stockhorse Association" and shall be made available to every member free of charge and shall be printed in the following order: Foreword, Table of Contents, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, General Rules and Regulations, Show Rules, complete list of fees (subject to change depending on venue rates) and any other rules, regulations or information of the Association.

## ***Article VII - HORSE SHOWS***

The Annual Meeting shall ratify the criteria for approving and the policies for approved Southern Stockhorse Shows, and shall approve show rules, of which shall not be made a part of the Bylaws, but shall be published in the Official Rule Book of the Southern Stockhorse Association. When deemed necessary, the Board of Directors shall exercise their power, upon any of the above rules and policies, as per Article V, Section 1 (A).

## ***Article VIII - GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS***

The Annual Meeting shall approve general rules and regulations, which shall govern the members and the Association, on all matters not contained in these Bylaws, but shall be published in the Official Rule Book of the Southern Stockhorse Association. When deemed necessary, the Board of Directors shall exercise their power, upon any of the above rules and regulations, as per Article V, Section 1 (A).

# **General Rules And Regulations**

## General Rules

- All contestants must have a current membership to Southern Stockhorse Association to participate in the Versatility Classes.
  - Annual and Day Memberships available
  - Membership may be purchased day of show.
- The points awarded per class are based on a **one horse, one rider combinations**. Horse and rider combinations are the only combinations entitled to points. Contestants may show more than one horse in individual classes but that would be a new combination. **Points are not transferred from one combination to the other.** Each class will be placed 1st through 6th with 1st place receiving 6 points, 2nd receiving 5 points, etc. (see below). Point schedule listed below will be used regardless of the number of horses in a class.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 6 pts
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5 pts
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4 pts
  - 4<sup>th</sup> - 3 pts
  - 5<sup>th</sup> - 2 pts
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - 1 pt
- Should a tie occur with points at the end of the show, the winner will be determined by the combination that has the most “first places.”
- A person is considered an Amateur when he or she has not judged, trained or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous 5 years.
- A person is considered a Novice when he or she has not won a championship in any other association and/or has not accumulated 150 points in The Southern Stockhorse Association. Also, a novice is one who has not judged, trained or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous 5 years. **Further, novice riders who management deems not to be “novice” are subject to being moved to amateur status.**
- Novice contestants are eligible to show in Novice, Amateur, and Open Divisions. **Novice Entering in the Walk/Trot Division are not eligible to show in any lope classes.**
- Amateur contestants are eligible to show in Amateur, and Open Divisions
- Open contestants are only eligible to show in Open Division.
- Junior Youth contestants are only eligible to show in Jr. Youth Division. **Jr Youth Entering in the Walk/Trot Division are not eligible to show in any lope classes.**
- Senior Youth contestants are eligible to show in Senior Youth, Novice, Amateur, and Open Divisions.
- No youth may show or ride a stallion on the show grounds.

- Senior Youth Division is made up of youth 12-18 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. (Note: a youth younger than 12 may show in the Senior Youth Division. By changing divisions, they are no longer eligible to show in Jr Youth)
- Junior Youth Division is made up of youth 11 years of age and under as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- Select Amateur Division is made up of adults **50 years** of age and over as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This is a class within a class and will be ran concurrent with regular amateur classes.
- **If a contestant is deemed to be showing in an incorrect division, the contestant will forfeit all points earned in the incorrect division.**
  - Ex: Contestant gets paid to train horses, but is showing in the novice division. The contestant will be moved to the open division and will forfeit all points in the novice division.
  - Ex: Contestant enters Jr Youth division, but is determined to be not 11 years old or younger as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Contestant will be moved to the Sr Youth and will forfeit all points in the Jr Division.
- Contestants may show any aged horse in a snaffle bit or bosal. Contestants **may not ride** with two hands on the reins in any bit with shanks.
  - **Exemptions:**
    - **Contestants showing in speed events (barrels, poles) can show any bit with 2 hands on the reins.**
    - **Jr Youth may show with 2 hands on the reins with any bit with or without shanks.**
- Western attire is required (western hat, western boots or riding hard hat (helmet)). Show management can amend the rules under certain weather conditions. Short- sleeved western shirts are allowed.
- In all riding classes, contestants are required to show with a western saddle, bridle and reins. Horses may not be shown bareback and/or bridleless.
- No bare metal may be in contact with the horse's nose or forehead. Curb chains must be flat and either leather or chain.
- At no time will abuse or any inhumane treatment be tolerated. This includes any tack deemed to be harmful by show management or the judge.
- Any person that conducts themselves in any abusive, vulgar or inappropriate manner will be asked to leave the show grounds.

- *Any question of rules not stated in Southern Stockhorse Association rule book will revert to AOHA Official Handbook.*
- Any rule disputes will be settled by the Southern Stockhorse Board of directors with assistance from the judge.
- Alcoholic beverages are never allowed IN or AROUND the immediate arena area.
- *Equine Medical Substitution Rule: In the case of an equine is deemed not showable (by either lameness or death by licensed veterinarian) the contestant can request a medical substitution. Equine Medical Substitution is a (1) onetime substitution where the points accumulated from the previous horse/rider combination will be used with the substituted horse and rider. Once a horse has been deemed not able to be shown due to a medical substitution, the horse may not be shown at Southern Stockhorse for the rest of the year. Contestant may only make (1) medical substitution per year. If a horse is used as a substitute, any prior points with that rider combination are forfeited. Proof of lameness/death from a licensed veterinarian to be submitted with the medical substitution request to the board of directors. The board of directors must approve all medical substitutions before the substitution can be made and must be made before contestant shows. Substitutions must be approved 2 days before substituted horse can be shown.*

### High Point Challenge

- Participation in the High Point Challenge is voluntary must be declared **BEFORE** the first class of each division on Saturday morning and noted on contestants Entry Form.
- Once contestants have declared to compete in the High Point Challenge, *High Point Challenge Entry Fee is non-refundable.*
- Ties will not be broken

Southern Stockhorse Association will follow the following payout schedule.

### No. of entries Prize Money Percentage

1 No Contest

2-4 100%

5-8 65% 35%

9-12 50% 30% 20%

13-16 40% 30% 20% 10%

17-20 39% 29% 18% 8% 6%

21+ 38% 28% 17% 7% 6% 4%

## Class Descriptions and Rules

### Cutting

National Cutting Horse Association rules will be used for judging this class. All riders in the arena shall comply with the rules of equipment and conduct. Short-sleeved western shirts are allowed.

1. Judging will start when the contestant crosses the time line. Horse should approach herd with no hesitation, weaving or resistance. Contestant may enter either side of herd.
2. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will towards the animal. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal, and amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration.
3. The amount of time actually spent working cattle in 2½ minutes will have a positive effect on the total score.
4. Scoring is 60 to 80 with 70 being average.
5. Contestant must make one (1) deep cut out of the herd. The horse should work quietly, but alertly causing very little disturbance in the herd or the animal being brought out. Credit will be given for driving cattle, clearing the herd by a sufficient distance and setting up a cow while holding it in a working position as near to the center of the arena as possible.
6. After the cut is made the horse should display natural cutting ability. Contestant may handle the horse with reins; if the horse shows no resistance to the rider's cues, no penalty will be given. Horses must respond in a positive manner and be responsive to the rider. The horse should stop using its haunches and be free on the front end when moving across them self. Entry shall get off the cow as close to the middle of the arena as possible to show control of the cow.

### Stockhorse Cutting

This class is excellent for showing a young horse or tuning-up an older horse.

1. Judging will start when the contestant crosses the time line. Horse should approach herd with no hesitation, weaving or resistance. Contestant may enter either side of herd.
2. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will towards the animal. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal, and amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration.
3. The amount of time actually spent working cattle in 2½ minutes will have a positive effect on the total score.
4. Scoring is 60 to 80 with 70 being average.
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7. **No Penalty for Reined Cues**
8. **No Back Fence Penalty**
9. **Credit to be given for working tough cattle**

## **Beginner Lead-in**

Children 10 years and younger are lead in by an adult to be judged on their overall appearance and smile. There is ***no fee*** for this class. All children are welcome, please see the show office if you would like to participate in this class, but do not have a horse. There are many wonderful horses and owners willing to offer their services. All participants receive a ribbon.

## **Walk Trot**

Horse and rider will be shown on the rail at the walk and trot. Horses should be shown with ground covering manners. Reverse away from the rail when asked. Horses should be shown at natural gaits. The judge will be looking for the horse's ability to move at a working speed with its rider. Horses will be given credit for traveling with their heads held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. Credit will also be given for smooth transitions when asked for by the judge.

## **Ranch Riding (aka Ranch Pleasure)**

A superior ranch pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are a major consideration. Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horse's body if horse is soft, willing and free of resistance but should receive credit.

Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity).

A willing horse will not ring their tail or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hind quarters using it as a driving force for his body. The horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert; he should be mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. He should be shown on a reasonable loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion.

The judge will be looking for the horse's ability to move at a working speed with its rider. Horses will be given credit for traveling with their heads held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. Credit will also be given for smooth transitions when asked for by the judge. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility.

Horse and rider will be shown on the rail at the walk, trot and lope. Horses should be shown with ground covering manners. Reverse away from the rail when asked. Horses should be shown at natural gaits.

*Open* and *Amateurs* will be asked to walk, trot, extend the trot, lope, extend the lope, stop and back

*Novice, Sr Youth & Jr Youth* will be asked to walk, trot, extend the trot, lope stop and back.

## **Ranchmanship (Pattern)**

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. 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.

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.

The required gait 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. (Walk/Trot Divisions will have a walk/trot pattern)

The 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 log(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a horse to perform or encounter during ranch work.

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.

See ARHA Ranchmanship for more information and Judges Sheets.

## **Ranch Reining**

Ranch Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of the ranch horse to be reined willfully through all maneuvers of the patterns. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willfully guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely

Contestant should not be penalized for reining their horse through the pattern in a reasonable manner. Stops should be hard and deep as if needed to stop and go in the other direction. Stop should be square and done without resistance (it should be at the judge's discretion on what he/she considers an excessive slide. Excessive stops should be stops beyond 10 feet). Turn arounds should be those of a working horse. They should be correct and job efficient.

The judge will choose one of the approved patterns and it will be used by all exhibitors in each division.

### **SCORING**

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-Infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in 1/2 point increments from a low of  $-1\frac{1}{2}$  to a high of  $+1\frac{1}{2}$  with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty.

Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena and judging will cease after the last maneuver. Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored accordingly. Reined horses should be willingly guided or controlled with little resistance. Any movement on his own is considered a lack of control. Credit will be given for smoothness, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

***ANY BREAK IN THE DESIGNATED PATTERN IS AN AUTOMATIC ZERO SCORE.***

## **Conformation**

The purpose of this class is to preserve the stockhorse type by selecting the well-mannered individual in the order of their resemblance of the ideal working stockhorse. Conformation will be based on balance and structural correctness. Horses should be in good working condition without excessive fat

The judge shall make an individual examination for conformation, defects, soundness and way of travel of each horse at the walk and jog as it is led directly to and away from the judge and additionally the jog from a direct side angle. The judge may ask for further individual work he may feel is needed. Any deviation from correct leg conformation and way of going shall be penalized. The horse must move straight and true. The walk should be a natural flat-footed four beat gait. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length for the size of the horse. The jog should be square, balanced with straightforward movement of the feet.

B) After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front, and rear.

C) Single-judged shows the judge should line the horses to be placed in a head to tail order according to preference.

D) Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control by the handler will automatically be disqualified and excused. If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms (i.e.: rearing, backing, or falling into others, etc.) causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horses(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused. The decision of the judge(s) is final.

E) The fall of a horse being judged in conformation shall be cause for disqualification. A horse is considered having fallen when he or she is on their side with all four feet extended in the same direction.

All sexes will be shown together in each division.

## **Ranch Cutting**

This class is designed to show a horse's ability to separate a cow from the herd, hold that cow away from herd, then drive that cow away from herd and to pen it. This class is to be judged on the horse's natural cow ability, agility and to respond softly to the rider's cues to help rein horse into position to hold cow from herd, on the way to pen and to pen cow. Horse should display softness of handle and quietness in herd. Horse and Rider should work as a team, seeming effortless to work together.

1. Minimum number of cattle in the herd will be ten.
2. Objective will be to cut one designated cow from the herd and work the cow with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders. Board of Directors reserves the right to number or not number cattle. If cattle are number, a number will be called out when the contestant crosses the time line. If cattle are not number, contestant can pull their choice of cow out of the herd.
3. Cattle to be located at one end of the arena. A pen with wing will be located on the side fence near the far end of the arena. Wing will stretch to the inside of the arena. (see diagram) A marker will be placed in the arena with a variable distance of 20 to 40 feet from the side of the arena and corner of the pen.
4. There is a two and one half minute time limit. A whistle will be blown at the one-minute point in the run. Time will begin when a rider crosses a time line just prior to entering the herd. The cow's number is then called. The rider will then quietly separate his/her numbered cow from the herd. Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.
5. When satisfied that the horse has proven its cutting ability, the two herd holders and two turn back riders will move out of position to the sides of the arena and allow the contestant to drive the cow by them at the direction of the exhibitor. Turn back riders cannot assist exhibitor to pen cattle, however they can prevent the herd from scattering and can hold the herd if cow returns to herd. Show management may supply two herd holders, or exhibitors may supply their own herd holders. If an exhibitor is a herd holder, he or she may use the horse that they are competing on or use a different horse. The exhibitor must drive the cow between the marker and corner of the pen and continue to drive the cow into the pen.
6. Credit will be given to those horses who demonstrate excellence in their herd work, driving and setting up the cow to cut, working in the center of the arena, degree of difficulty of the

cow drawn, and their ability to drive and pen the cow within the 2 1/2 minutes. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

7. A contestant will be penalized if he fails to pen the cow before the end of the two and one-half minutes or if the cow returns to the herd. **Contestant must stop working when time expires.**
8. A contestant that does not perform all of the required elements cannot be placed over a contestant that completes all the required elements of the class. Horses will not be penalized for reining during cutting portion but should display horse's natural cow ability.
9. Herd holders may not help the contestant after he or she begins to pen the cow. **Helping a contestant will result in a penalty to the contestant.**

## **Boxing (Cow Work Only)**

The goal of this class is to introduce the rider to the "boxing" phase of the cow work. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. There will be no cross entering (i.e. if you enter boxing, you cannot enter the corresponding working cow horse class at any show including world shows.

Scoring will be on the basis of 60-80, with 70 denoting an average performance. The judge may blow the whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that time. Each work will be limited to 50 seconds.

Credits:

- maintaining control of the cow at all times
- maintaining proper position degree of difficulty
- eye appeal
- time worked

Penalties: Penalties should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows for the boxing/cow work

One (1) point

- loss of working advantage
- working out of position

Three (3) points

loss of control and cow leaves end of arena

Five (5) points

- Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at anytime
- Blatant disobedience defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking or obviously insubordinate

Score - 0

- Turn tail

- Balking Out of control
- Bloody mouth
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- Fall of horse or rider

## **Working Cowhorse (Cow Work Only)**

For the ideal cow work, each exhibitor should box the cow at the designated end of the arena a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow. Then the exhibitor should take the cow down the fence making at least one turn each direction on the fence. These turns shall be made past the center marker and before the corners of the arena. The judge may blow a whistle before time expires if he feels he has seen enough. If the whistle sounds, you must stop immediately.

Time starts when a single cow is released into the arena.

There is a 2 ½ minute time limit.

Scoring will be 50 to 100 with 70 being average.

1. **Boxing:** Working the cow on the end of the arena until such time as the exhibitor has proven the ability of the horse to hold the cow. The horse should exhibit superior cow sense and natural cow working ability without excessive reining or spurring. In the head-to-head working position, the degree of difficulty shall be considered.
2. **Turning on the Fence:** A good turn on the fence may be defined as when a cow, while being run down the fence on one side of the arena, is turned the other direction and held near the same fence while being run in a new direction. During the turn the horse should use himself in a controlled athletic manner, using his hocks to stop and drive out of the turn, while using his front end to balance and turn. The contestant must get at least one (1) turn in each direction. To be considered a turn, the exhibitor must be close enough to the cow to be the cause of the turn. The turn must be tight enough so as not to be considered just circling the fence. More than two (2) good turns in each direction should not result in extra credit but also should not be penalized, unless the cow is thereby too exhausted to circle correctly. One (1) turn each way may not necessarily result in extra credit if the horse and /or cow are out of control.

## **Ranch Roping**

The intent of this class is to show the ability of the horse and rider skill of handling cattle as if they were doctoring injured or sick cattle. Cattle should be handled as calmly and slowly as possible. The judge should judge this class as if the cattle belonged to him or her. Contestant does not have to separate their cow from herd and should not receive credit for separation from herd. When cow is separated from the herd there should be no excessive running or cutting of the cow.

This is a judged event with a 90 second time limit. The rope must be thrown and the contestant may throw only two loops. Any attempt by exhibitor to trap, snare, or collar cow by holding onto

the loop will be cause for disqualification. A second rope may be used, but the total number of loops thrown may not exceed two (2). If a second loop is used it must be recoiled. The Honda on the rope used must be of a factory plastic breakaway design.

Horse and rider must start from behind a starting line which will be located 1/3 of the arena length away from where ten (10) calves are held as a herd with each bearing a number 0 - 9. A random draw will be used to select the calf to be roped, which will be announced to the contestant when the horse crosses the starting line.

Each contestant may have the option of a herd holder. The herd holder may not cross the starting line. The sole duty of the herd holder is to assist in holding the cattle at the working end of the arena, any assistance from the helper will result in disqualification of the contestant.

The contestant must make a legal catch of the designated calf and dally up. A legal head catch is a loop that goes completely over the calf's head and Honda can be broken by any part of the calf's body, but must go over the calf's head first. When the calf breaks free from Honda, the Flag Judge will signal the end of the run.

In youth division classes only the youth exhibitor at their discretion may have their ropes tied to the saddle horn instead of dallying or they may dally.

After catching, it is desired for the horse to remain facing the cow until the Honda breaks. Turning away from the cow to make the Honda break quicker will receive a 5 point penalty.

#### CREDITS

- 1) Quietness in the herd.
- 2) Handling the cattle.
- 3) Position of the horse when cattle are roped.
- 4) Facing to cow.

#### SECTION X-2 DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- 1) Running into or over cattle.
  - 2) Schooling.
  - 3) Whipping or hitting horse with rope.
  - 4) Half of herd crossing starting line.
  - 5) Thrown from horse.
  - 6) Fall to ground horse and/or rider
  - 7) Excessive herd help.
  - 8) Loss of rope.
  - 9) Failure to make a legal head catch.
  - 10) Roping the wrong cow/number or multiple cows.
- 1 POINT PENALTIES a) Working out of position. b) Loss of working advantage. c) Holding cut too long without roping.
- 3 POINT PENALTIES a) Picking up cattle in herd. b) Breaking the Honda without a dally.

5 POINT PENALTIES a) 2 loop run (second loop). b) Loss of cow (re-cut in the herd). c) Excessive running/scattering of herd. d) Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing or striking. e) Horse turns tail.

## **Ranch Trail**

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

This class contains a course with a **minimum** of six obstacles and is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day's ranch work. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles are encouraged. The horse will be judged on three gaits - walk, trot, and lope - performed between obstacles.

**Contestants may make 3 attempts at an obstacle before being required to move onto next obstacle. (Note: all obstacles must be attempted. Obstacles not attempted and bypassed will be considered a break and pattern and will be disqualified)**

**Exhibitors will have a maximum of 5 minutes to complete the entire pattern. A whistle will be blown to show time has expired.**

*Examples of Obstacles but not limited to:*

1. Opening, passing through and closing the gate. Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider. The rein hand may be changed to work the gate without penalty if the change is made prior to and after the gate has been worked.
2. Ground Tie. The horse shall remain quiet while the rider dismounts, removes the bit completely from the horse's mouth and re-bridles, and then picks up all four of the horse's feet. The horse should remain still and quiet as the rider remounts, leaving a loose rein. Once the rider is settled into the saddle and is still, he or she may then move the horse forward.
3. Log drag - Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance, either in a straight line or around a set pattern. Rope should be dallied around the saddle horn and not tied hard and fast.
4. Walk over a tarp on the ground.
5. Hobble or ground tie (contestant's option) - The horse shall remain in place while the rider dismounts and performs a normal ranch task such as moving a rail, moving a bale of hay, etc.
6. Put on and remove slicker - Rider approaches slicker, removes slicker from holder, puts on slicker and replaces slicker to holder.
7. Remove, carry and replace item - Requires the exhibitor to carry or remove an item that is used every day on horseback such as mail from a mailbox, sack, rope, etc.
8. Bridge - Horse shows willingness to walk across obstacle designed to simulate a bridge.
9. Crossing obstacle - While mounted the horse would walk over obstacle no more than 18" in height.
10. Ride over at least four logs - Walking only if laid at odd angles. Laid flat and in measured distances, the measuring point should be the path the horse would be expected to take.

a. Trot overs: 2'6" to 3'6"

b. Lope overs: 6' to 7'

11. 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 throw at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized, but missing the stationary steer will not be penalized.

12. Sidepass over a raised object such as a log.

13. Back through a pattern such as "L-shaped" or figure "8."

14. Jumping over an obstacle 18 inches or higher at a trot or lope.

15. Crossing a "teeter-totter" bridge.

16. Barrel Pinwheel. Rider approaches barrel and picks up handle end, then proceed to ride a circle around opposite barrel and replacing the board to its original position.

A judge has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner or remove any obstacle deemed unsafe. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any possible accidents. It is permissible to change rein hand to work an obstacle. An exhibitor that does not complete the course correctly cannot place over another that performs the course correctly. Scoring is 0-10 per obstacle with ½ points allowed. The judge will deduct 2 points from the total score for each missed gait as shown on the pattern.

## **Showmanship**

Available only in the Novice & Youth divisions, showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness with confidence and poise.

Showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse in a conformation class. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision.

The showmanship class is not another conformation class and should not be judged as such.

All ties will be broken at the judges' discretion.

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable. Fifty (50) points should be allocated towards the overall appearance of the exhibitor and horse and fifty (50) points allotted toward the performance.

Appropriate western attire must be worn.

The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner avoiding excessive unnatural or animated body positions.

The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth.

When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.

Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.

The use of any type of artificial aid including, but not limited to lighters, hay, dirt, sharp pins, etc. will be considered a disqualification.

The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed. The coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. The mane and tail should be neat, clean and free of tangles. Hooves should be properly trimmed or shod. Fresh Hoof black, hoof polish and/or oil is not allowed and will result in the horse being disqualified from the class. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

**(effective 2022 – Barrels and Poles will not be counted toward High Point Awards)**

### **Barrel Racing – Available Only to Youth Classes**

1. Barrel Racing is a timed event.
2. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line.
3. The contestant is allowed a running start. At a signal from the starter the contestant may begin their run around the three-barrel pattern. Contestant may begin on the left or right. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Breaking the pattern is a disqualification. A contestant may touch the barrel with their hands.
4. The judge at their discretion may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of bat, crop, whip, or rope.

### **Pole Bending – Available Only to Youth Classes**

1. Pole Bending is a timed event.
2. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line. See pattern.
3. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six feet in height.
4. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
5. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five-second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his or her hand in pole bending.
6. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of bat, crop, whip or rope.

# Judges Score Sheets

(maybe downloaded @[www.southernstockhorse.com](http://www.southernstockhorse.com))

# Southern Stockhorse Association

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For suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact any one of our board members.

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