

# **SOUTHERN STOCKHORSE ASSOCIATION**

**Articles of Incorporation  
By-Laws  
Official Rulebook for Horse Shows & Clinics**

**2025**

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# **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

## **ARTICLE I**

### ***Sec. 1 NAME***

This organization shall be known as Southern Stockhorse Association (SSA). SSA is a nonprofit organization that is maintained by dues, sponsorships, gifts, and revenue resulting from club activities.

### ***Sec. 2 AUTHORITY***

The affairs, activities, and business of the club shall be conducted in the manner hereinafter described. It shall be a condition of participation to be governed by these Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and Official Rulebook for Horse Shows & Clinics in the conduct of all affairs, activities, and business of SSA. No Officer, Director or member shall be personally liable for debts, liabilities, or obligations of SSA except as provided by law. SSA's business year shall begin January 1 and end December 31 each year.

### ***Sec. 3 OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES***

- a. Promote the versatility of the stock horse.
- b. Share educational programs and other activities in the interest of stock horse owners, horse associations, clubs, and enthusiasts.
- c. Promote and coordinate horse shows and clinic activities geared toward the stock horse.
- d. Coordinate and cooperate with qualified judges and clinicians.
- e. Devise and adopt horse show rules, regulations, and standards.
- f. Cooperate and/or collaborate with other organizations with similar interest in stock horses.

## **ARTICLE II**

### ***Sec. 4 MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, AND VOTING***

- a. Active, current, paid membership is **required** to vote.
- b. Notice of annual meetings shall be via the Facebook page, newsletter, email group, text message and/or website and may indicate the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- c. Any SSA member over the age of 18 in good standing and was a previous year member is eligible to run for or be nominated for a position on the board. Any member may nominate themselves or any other member. The nominated member must agree to the nomination, no one may be voted into a position without their consent.
- d. For voting purposes, a simple majority vote of the Officers and/or Board of Directors is required. The majority vote rules unless otherwise stipulated in the Articles or By-laws. The following voting

forms are acceptable: digital methods, written ballot, verbal vote, or show of hands. All votes will be kept confidential.

- e. In case of any discrepancy in a voting issue between the Officers and the Board of Directors or in the event of a tie on a voting issue, the decision of the Officers shall stand as the final decision. The Officers must be involved in all changes to any rules or By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Sec. 5 OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

- a. The Officers of the SSA shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These offices are elected at the annual meeting by SSA members and have full voting rights in all SSA business.
- b. The President shall preside at all meetings of SSA. He or she shall act as executive head of SSA in enforcing the provisions of these By-laws. The President shall perform all the duties customary to the office.
- c. 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.
- d. 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. The Secretary will keep and maintain attendance records for all meetings. The secretary will work closely with office staff at shows to enter and verify points for high point awards both at shows and for year-end totals. This person must be familiar with and have access to the Show-Pro database and agree to be a Point of Contact for any points discrepancies. The Secretary shall perform all the duties of President or Vice-President in their absence or disability.
- e. 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. The Treasurer shall deposit or cause to be deposited all monies in a financial institution as designated by the Officers. He or she shall pay all bills and expenses incurred by SSA. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain membership/sponsorship/vendor/sponsorship and other lists that pertain to finances of SSA and make these lists available upon request. The Treasurer will assure appropriate liability insurance is in place prior to each event.
- f. The Officers shall have the authority to appoint committees, designate agents, conduct audits, establish budgets, and authorize club expenditures.
- g. The Officers will establish a routine monthly meeting in addition to the Annual meeting and any meetings at Horse Shows or Clinics. This meeting may be canceled by majority vote. If an Officer misses more than 4 meetings or 1 horse show without prior notice or arrangements, they may be subject to removal. Notice of meetings of the Officers all be provided by verbal communication, text message or phone call. Unless an emergency exists, every attempt will be made to provide at least 3 days notice of meetings.
- h. Officers are expected to attend all days of all events of SSA except in cases of extreme emergency. Within IRS guidelines, officers may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses of attending all activities. Reasonable expenses shall include up to one RV hook-up, one stall, and meals at the event location per officer. Non-covered expenses include class fees, cattle fees, and transportation or mileage to/from the event. Other expenses or unusual expenses shall be determined by a majority vote of the Officers.
- i. In the event of the death or resignation of an Officer, the President or another Officer will nominate someone to fill that position. If approved by a majority of the Officers, that person shall serve as a

- replacement to serve the unexpired term of the vacated position.
- j. Voting by proxy is generally not allowed unless in extreme circumstances and by agreement of a majority of the Officers. Generally, unless agreed otherwise, an Officer who is not present at the meeting forfeits their vote on any SSA business transacted during that meeting and is not included in the count for determining majority of a vote in that meeting.
- k. An Officer may be removed from office by majority vote of the Officers.

## **Sec. 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a. The Board of Directors shall consist of the 4 Officers and up to 5 additional members beyond the Officers.
- b. The Board of Director positions shall be filled by voting at the annual meeting in February. Only members with an active, current, fully paid membership are eligible to nominate or vote.
- c. Appointment can be temporary or for the rest of the calendar year as determined and decided by the Officers.
- d. Unless other arrangements are made, Directors are expected to attend all meetings including virtual, and attend all events and horse shows.
- e. The Board of Directors may not act independently of the Officers in any matters concerning SSA, and the use of "and/or" in comments regarding the rules or By-Laws does not confer independent authority to the Board of Directors. "And/or" is intended to allow but not require the Board of Directors input into matters of SSA if decreed by the Officers.
- f. Directors who miss more than 4 meetings or 1 horse show without previous notice are subject to removal/replacement by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- g. Any member over age 18 and in good standing may nominate another member who is over age 18 for an Officer or Board of Director position. Nominations shall occur by email prior to the annual banquet each year or by other means acceptable to the Officers.
- h. Being appointed to an Officer or Board of Director position is determined by a vote of general members who are present at the annual banquet. A decision to allow a member to vote by proxy is at the discretion of the Officers.
- i. Board of Director positions may include:
  - a. *Web/media/marketing Director* : This position will be responsible for weekly Facebook posts, updating SSA's website, assuring appropriate digital recognition of sponsor logos, and other duties as needed.
  - b. *Sponsorship/vendor coordinator* : This position will act as a primary Point of Contact for sponsors and vendors and will work closely with the Treasurer. This includes obtaining physical items from sponsors/vendors such as banners, business cards, and logos, and maintaining an accurate and complete list of all vendors on Google Drive. This position will be the primary contact for sponsor/vendor needs at events and getting laid out where they park and set up. This position will assure that thank you letters are sent to sponsors and vendors. There may be other duties as needed.
  - c. *Stall/RV reservations and oversight* : This position will work closely with the venue to be sure we know what is available for SSA use at each show. They may work with the officers to oversee the stall and reservations prior to the show including stall and RV assignments. They will do a daily review at the event to assure proper counts and billing with each show.
  - d. *Prize oversight* : This position is responsible for inventory of ribbons and show prizes. They will work closely with the SSA Secretary and SSA Treasurer to order high point awards both for each show and the end of the year. This position will need to be present at the end of the show to distribute prizes. There may be other duties as needed.
  - e. *Directors at large* : These positions do not have specific duties and assist where needed.

## **Sec 7. MEMBERSHIP**

- a. SSA shall be composed of an unlimited number of general members. Memberships will be administered as outlined in *By-Laws, Article IV*.

## **Sec. 8 DISSOLUTION OF SOUTHERN STOCKHORSE ASSOCIATION**

- a. Should the Southern Stockhorse Association 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. Decisions about the disposition of club assets shall be by majority vote of the Officers and/or Board of Directors.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

- a. 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.

## **ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

- a. The objectives of Southern Stockhorse Association (SSA) shall be those stated in *Article I Sec 3* of its Articles of Incorporation.

## **ARTICLE III LOCATION**

- a. The principal place of business of SSA shall be determined by the Officers and/or Board of Directors. The Officers and/or Directors may be residents of any state.

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERS**

- a. Membership in SSA is a privilege, not a right.
- b. Membership shall be open to all persons who subscribe to the objectives of SSA, agree to abide by its rules and regulations, and who apply and pay for membership. Members of SSA shall be admitted, retained, reprimanded, fined, suspended, or expelled in accordance with such rules and regulations.
- c. Whenever used, the term "member" or "members" 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.
- d. Each member must have an individual membership. Memberships are non-transferrable.
- e. Memberships will be as identified in the
  - i. General: Over age 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> that calendar year
  - ii. Youth: Under age 18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> that calendar year
  - iii. Event: Limited membership for participation in one SSA event
- f. Annual dues for each type of membership shall be an amount determined at the beginning of each show season by the Officers and/or Board of Directors. Membership dues for each year are as outlined on the Membership form. Membership is granted upon payment of stipulated annual dues.
- g. Memberships expire each year as of December 31. Membership dues are not prorated and are

- not refundable for any reason.
- h. If any mandatory payment to SSA is returned unpaid, the membership is suspended until such a time as this has been resolved. In addition to any bank fees incurred by SSA for the returned payment, the member will be required to pay an additional \$25 administrative fee. Any member with 2 returned payments in one rolling year will be required to provide payment in cash for the balance of the calendar year. Members in “suspended” status may not participate in SSA events or vote in elections.
  - i. General members are eligible to vote in the election of Officers and Board of Directors. General members do not have voting rights on any club business other than elections. Youth or Event members do not have voting privileges.
  - j. Members may submit requests or suggestions for Rule changes in writing or by email.
  - k. Special membership privileges may be accorded by majority vote of Officers.
  - l. 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.
  - m. 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 objectives, purposes, and policies of SSA or the members shall be subject to expulsion from the club. This requires a majority vote of the Officers and/or Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE V OFFICIAL RULE BOOK**

- a. There shall be a rule book titled the “Official Rule Book for Horse Shows & Clinics”. The Official Rule Book shall be made available to every member as part of their membership. The Official Rule Book will include Table of Contents, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, and General Show and Clinic Rules & Regulations. Other information deemed appropriate by the Officers and Board of Directors may be included.
- b. Official forms that are approved by the Officer Board of Directors such as membership forms, sponsorship forms, vendor forms, and show-related forms are wholly incorporated into this rule book.
- c. The “Official Rule Book for Horse Shows & Clinics” shall not be made a part of the Bylaws. When necessary, the Officers and/or Board of Directors shall exercise their power upon any of the above official rules and policies.
- d. Changes to the Official Rule Book for Horse Shows & Clinics may be made during the calendar year by a majority vote of the Officers and/or Board of Directors. Such changes will be distributed to the general members by email, announcements of the Facebook page or website, announcement at events, or in the newsletter after it is established.

# **OFFICIAL RULE BOOK**

## **FOR HORSE SHOWS & CLINICS**

### **ARTICLE I: GENERAL RULES**

- All contestants must have a current membership to Southern Stockhorse Association to participate in any clinics or horse shows.
- 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. No refunds will be issued.
- Any section in the Rule Book may be modified by majority vote of the Officers/Board of Directors. Any question of rules not stated in the SSA rule book will revert to the ARHA Official Handbook. Any rule disputes will be settled by the SSA Officers and/or Board of Directors with assistance from the judge.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed IN or AROUND the immediate arena area.
- All dogs brought to an event must be current on all vaccinations. Dogs should be leashed or otherwise controlled or contained and not running loose on show grounds, particularly in the riding/showing/barn area. Dog owners/handlers are responsible for any issues that their dog causes.
- Equine Medical Substitution Rule: In the case of an equine that is deemed not showable by a licensed veterinarian, the contestant can request a medical substitution. Equine Medical Substitution is a one-time substitution where the points accumulated from the previous horse/rider combination will be used with the substituted horse and rider. Contestants may only make one medical substitution per year. If a horse is used as a substitute, any prior points with that horse and rider combination are forfeited. Proof of “non-showability” from a licensed veterinarian to be submitted with the medical substitution request to the Officers and/or Board of Directors. The Officers and/or Board of Directors must approve all medical substitutions before the substitution can be made and must be made before contestant shows. Except in cases of emergency as approved by the Officers, substitutions must be approved 2 days before a substituted horse can be shown. (\*NOTE – eligibility for medical substitution will be reviewed, and decided on, by the Officers and/or Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.)
- Only horses of a stockhorse type are permitted to show in SSA events. Mules, gaited horses or other “non-stockhorse-type” animals are not allowed. The decision of the Officers and/or Board of Directors shall be final in determining eligibility under the “stock-horse type” criteria for showing at SSA events.
- Western attire is required (western hat, western boots, or riding hat or 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. All

in-hand classes may be shown in a halter.

- No bare metal may be in contact with the horse's nose or forehead. Curb chains must be flat and either leather or chain.
- 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.
  - Exceptions: Jr Youth may show with 2 hands on the reins with any bit with or without shanks.
- Contestants are responsible for entering the correct class and being ready at the gate when their class is called. If a contestant misses a class, no refund or re-show will be given. Exceptions may be made for classes running on a draw if the competitor was at an at-will class when their name was called. Competitors may be moved to the end of the draw and compete at the end of the class.
- Contestants are responsible for telling the judge/gatekeeper which division they are in for all classes.

## **ARTICLE II: DIVISIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

If a contestant is deemed to be showing in an incorrect division, the contestant will forfeit all points earned in the incorrect division. The contestant may keep any points legally earned in their correct division. Contestants are responsible for knowing the rules and eligibility for all classes and divisions.

### ***Open/Amateur/Novice/Novice WT/2 Year Old & Under In-Hand***

- The **OPEN** Division is open to those exhibitors who:
  - Have judged, trained, or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous five (5) years;
  - Open contestants are only eligible to show in the Open Division.
- The **AMATEUR** Division is open to those exhibitors who:
  - Have **NOT** judged, trained, or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous five (5) years.
  - Amateur riders are eligible to show in Amateur and Open divisions.
- The **NOVICE** Division is open to those exhibitors who meet the following requirements:
  - Have **NOT** judged, trained, or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous five (5) years;
  - Novice exhibitors must be 13 years of age and older, as of January 1 of the current show year;
  - Have not won any year-end Championship or Reserve Championship in any division in SSA, excluding Novice W/T Division;
  - Novice contestants are eligible to show in Novice, Amateur, and Open Divisions.
- The **NOVICE W/T** Division is open to those exhibitors who are not capable of competing in lope classes, and meet the following requirements:
  - Have **NOT** judged, trained, or shown horses for financial compensation in the previous five (5) years;
  - Novice W/T exhibitors are not eligible to show in any lope classes. An exhibitor in the Novice W/T Division who competes in lope classes loses their eligibility to show in any

- future W/T classes;
  - Novice W/T exhibitors must be 13 years of age and older, as of January 1 of the current show year;
  - Novice W/T exhibitors who win a Year-end Championship or Reserve Championship are no longer eligible for the W/T division, and must move up to the Novice Division.
- **JUNIOR HORSE (Amateur/Open)** - A **Junior** horse is 5 & Under; a **Senior** horse is 6 & Over.
  - For horse show purposes, any horse shall be considered to be one (1) year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling and gain a year in age each consecutive January 1.
- The **2 YEAR OLD & UNDER IN-HAND** Division is open to any horse who is 2 years old or under:
  - IN-HAND horses may not be shown in any under saddle classes.
  - This division is open to exhibitors 13 years of age and older, as of January 1 of the current show year.
- **HONOR SYSTEM RULES:**
  - **WALK/TROT:** It is on the honor system for any competitor showing in W/T to certify that they are **NOT** competing in lope classes at any other organizations' shows, or in any other discipline. Any competitor found to be in violation of this rule will forfeit all W/T points they earned for the year at SSA and will be moved out of WT division. A competitor is not eligible to return to the W/T division once they have shown in lope classes.

## **Youth**

- No youth may show or ride a stallion on the show grounds.
- The **JUNIOR YOUTH W/T** Division is open to Junior Youth (JY) exhibitors who are not capable of loping.
  - JY W/T exhibitors are not eligible to show in any lope classes. An exhibitor in the JY W/T Division who competes in lope classes loses their eligibility to show in any future W/T classes.
  - JY W/T exhibitors must be 12 years of age or younger, as of January 1 of the current show year;
  - JY W/T exhibitors who win a Year-end Championship or Reserve Championship are no longer eligible for the JY W/T division.
  - JY may not show in the 2 Year Old & Under In-Hand Division.
- The **JUNIOR YOUTH (JY)** Division is made up of youth 12 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year.
  - JY contestants may show up in other divisions without losing their eligibility to show in JY.
  - JY may not show in the 2 Year Old & Under In-Hand Division.
- The **SENIOR YOUTH (SY)** Division is made up of youth up to 18 years of age as of January 1 of the current show year.
  - SY contestants are eligible to show in Senior Youth, Novice, Amateur, and Open Divisions.

### **ARTICLE III: POINTS**

- The points awarded per class are based on a one horse, one rider combination. 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.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> - 6 pts
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5 pts
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4 pts
  - o 4<sup>th</sup> - 3 pts
  - o 5<sup>th</sup> - 2 pts
  - o 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." If they are still tied, the most 2nd places will be counted. If still tied, a coin toss will be performed to break the tie.
- Any points discrepancies must be identified the day of the show to be changed or altered in any way. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to keep track of their points and bring any concerns to the show secretary or club points secretary during the show event.

### **ARTICLE V: PAYOUTS**

Southern Stockhorse Association will use the following payout schedule. Payouts will be by check mailed within 2 weeks after the show.

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%

### **ARTICLE VI: CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

Judges Score Sheets may be downloaded @[www.southernstockhorse.com](http://www.southernstockhorse.com)

#### **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 timeline. Horses should approach the herd with no hesitation, weaving or resistance. Contestants may enter either side of the 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. The amount of time spent working cattle in 2½ minutes will have a positive effect on the total score.
3. Scoring is 60 to 80 with 70 being average.
4. Contestants 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.
5. After the cut is made the horse should display natural cutting ability. Contestants 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 themselves.
6. Entry shall get off the cow as close to the middle of the arena as possible to show control of the cow.
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 led 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 their conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, the horse 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. Exhibitors should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving the horse's body if the horse is soft, willing, and free of resistance.

Horses 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 forward using their hind quarters as a driving force for their body. The horse should not carry their head behind the vertical, give the appearance of intimidation, be excessively nosed out, or give the appearance of resistance. The horse should have a bright expression with ears alert and should be mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. The horse should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control and be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, the horse 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 based on 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

Contestants 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 based on 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. Any break in the designated pattern is an automatic zero score.

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.

## Conformation

The purpose of this class is to preserve the stock horse type by selecting the well-mannered individual in the order of their resemblance to the ideal working stock horse. 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.

1. 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.
2. For single-judged shows, the judge should line the horses to be placed in a head to tail order according to preference.
3. 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. 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.
4. 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 the herd, then drive that cow away from the 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 the cow from the herd, on the way to the pen and to pen cow. Horses should display softness of handle and quietness in the 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. The Board of Directors reserves the right to number or not number cattle. If cattle are numbered, a number will be called out when the contestant crosses the time line. If cattle are not numbered, contestants can pull their choice of cow out of the herd.
3. Cattle to be located at one end of the arena. A pen with wings 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 exhibitors to pen cattle, however they can prevent the herd from scattering and can hold the herd if the cow returns to the 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

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. Contestants must stop working when time expires.
8. A contestant that does not perform all 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 the cutting portion but should display the 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 begins 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.

Scoring will be based on 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 point

- loss of working advantage
- working out of position

### Three points

- loss of control and cow leaves end of arena

### Five 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)

- Boxing: Working the cow on the end of the arena until such a 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 should be considered.
- 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 in the other direction and held near the same fence while being run in the 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 1 turn in each direction. To be considered a turn, the contestant must be close enough to the cow to be the cause of the turn. The turn must be tight enough to not be considered circling the fence. More than 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 turn correctly. One turn in each direction may not result in extra credit if the horse and/or cow is out of control.
- Circling: (OPEN DIVISION ONLY will circle) After turning the cow on the fence, the rider should drive the cow off the fence and circle it once in each direction. The cow should be driven in a circle.

The judge should take into consideration the size of the arena, condition of the ground, and the disposition and degree of difficulty of the cattle worked.

When enough cows are available, the contestant should receive a new cow if the cow drawn is unreasonably difficult or unworkable. Allowing the horse to quit working before the judge signals for a new cow will result in a zero score. The judge may blow his whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be charged if the work is not complete at this time. The contestant has the option to continue working even if the judge signals for a new cow. Judging ends when the whistle blows.

The greater the difficulty of the run, the more credit should be given. The difficulty may be due to the extreme speed of the cow, the stubbornness of the cow, or the cow's reluctance to move, provided the job is accomplished. When all else is equal, the more pleasing or exciting cow work should be scored highest.

The following characteristics of the horse are considered faults:

- Exaggerated opening of the mouth
- Hard or heavy mouth
- Nervous throwing of head
- Lugging on bridle
- Halting or hesitations when being shown, particularly when being run down, in anticipation of being set up
- Losing a cow or being unable to finish a pattern because of a bad cow should be penalized at the judge's discretion

#### 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. Contestants do not have to separate their cow from the herd and should not receive credit for separation from the herd. When a

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 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

- Quietness in the herd.
- Handling the cattle.
- Position of the horse when cattle are roped.
- Facing to cow.

#### SECTION X-2 DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- Running into or over cattle.
- Schooling.
- Whipping or hitting horse with rope.
- Half of the herd crossing starting line.
- Thrown from horse.
- Fall to ground horse and/or rider
- Excessive herd help.
- Loss of rope.
- Failure to make a legal head catch.
- Roping the wrong cow/number or multiple cows.

#### 1 POINT PENALTIES

- Working out of position.
- Loss of working advantage.
- Holding the cut too long without roping.

### 3 POINT PENALTIES

- Picking up cattle in the herd.
- Breaking the Honda without a dally.

### 5 POINT PENALTIES

- 2 loop run (second loop).
- Loss of cow (re-cut in the herd).
- Excessive running/scattering of the herd.
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, or striking.
- 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. There will be an Under Saddle division and a 2-yr-old-and-under In Hand division. 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 to eliminate any possible accidents. It is permissible to change your 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.

### UNDER SADDLE

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 a normal day's ranch work. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles are encouraged. The horse will be judged on gaits performed between the obstacles that are appropriate to the division they are entered in, generally walk, trot, and lope. WT contestants will extend the trot where the pattern calls for a lope.

Contestants may make 3 attempts at an obstacle before being required to move onto the next obstacle. 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 may include but is not limited to:

1. Opening, passing through and closing the gate. Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider, may be rope or solid. The rein or lead rope 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. Bridge - Horse shows willingness to walk across obstacles designed to simulate a bridge.
3. Crossing obstacle - While mounted the horse would walk over obstacles no more than 18" in height

4. 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. Log-drag will not be an obstacle used in the 2 yr old and under in-hand division.
5. Ground Tie or Hobble (contestant's option) - The horse shall remain quiet in place while the rider dismounts and performs a normal ranch task such as picking up a specified foot or moving an object. Ground tie requires both split reins or the get-down rope or lead rope if showing in a halter to be on the ground. If a re-mount is required by the pattern, 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.
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. 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'
9. Stationary steer - This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back or with the competitor standing nearby if the horse is being shown in-hand. 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.
10. Sidepass over a raised object such as a log.
11. Back through a pattern such as but not limited to "L-shaped" or figure "8."
12. Pivot Box. A square frame consisting of 4 ground poles that can be entered at any prescribed gait in which space a horse may be required to perform a turn on the haunches without stepping outside the boundaries
13. Weave Throughs in any pattern through cones, hay bales or other natural obstacles.
14. Barrel Pinwheel. Rider approaches the barrel and picks up the handle end, then proceeds to ride a circle around the opposite barrel and replaces the board to its original position. This obstacle shall not be used for 2 yr old in-hand classes.
15. Trailer Loading. Used to show the willingness of the horse to load and unload from an open stock-type trailer. Not to be required in any Junior Youth Division

### 2 & Under In-Hand Trail

The in-hand trail class is designed to provide exhibitors a chance to showcase horses too young to compete in performance events. Requirements are designed to prepare a young horse for a successful career as a ranch horse without harming them physically or mentally. This class is to be offered only to horses two years and under in the Novice, Open and Amateur Divisions. Exhibitors under 13 years of age are not eligible to show a horse in the in-hand division.

1. The judge should look for a horse that is able to navigate the course with the least amount of handler influence and still be correct. A horse who shows willingness, trust and responsiveness to their handler while exhibiting natural gaits should receive credit.

2. Judges should consider the following undesirable: delay when approaching obstacles, balking, pulling back, or attempting to escape handler; bad attitude, aggression, or resentment towards handler.

3. Score sheet from Ranch Trail class is to be used

4. Plain leather, rope, or nylon halter may be used. Stud chains may go below chin or over

nose. No lip or gum chains will be permitted.

The in-hand trail course should contain a minimum of six obstacles which may include any of the following:

1. Trot through obstacles in any prescribed pattern
2. Move away from pressure in either a haunch turn, forehand turn or side pass
3. Back throughs
4. Sacking with an object or slicker
5. Gate- Open, pass through, and close
6. Walk and/or trot over poles
7. Ground Tie while picking up a foot
8. Cross Bridge
9. Pass by natural objects such as a campsite
10. Loading and unloading from trailer.

## SHOWMANSHIP

Available in the Amateur, Novice, Youth and 2 yr old in hand 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.

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. All ties will be broken at the judges' discretion.

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 midpoint 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.

Judges Score Sheets may be downloaded @[www.southernstockhorse.com](http://www.southernstockhorse.com)

## **SOUTHERN STOCKHORSE ASSOCIATION**

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