

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to show a working horse's versatility, attitude, and movement. Ranch Riding is a great opportunity to create a better rounded willingly guided partnership between horse and rider and to school the reining horse and rider team.

In this class, the primary considerations are the horse's quality of movement and overall manners and responsiveness while performing the required maneuvers. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The class should allow the horse to show its ability to work at a forward working speed while under the control of the rider. A horse being shown with light contact, not a full drape of the reins, should be rewarded. 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 both required and optional maneuvers in a pattern designated prior to the start of the class. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

Required maneuvers: walk, jog, lope both directions and the extended jog and lope in at least one direction as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back.

Optional maneuvers: side pass, turns of 360° or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s), or some reasonable combination for a ranch horse to perform.

The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be those described above with emphasis on forward, free-flowing, and ground-covering movement at all gaits. Transitions where designated should be smooth and responsive.

There is no time limit. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

A horse that fails to perform a required maneuver will be placed below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.

Scoring

Scoring is on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.

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

One (1) point penalties

- Too slow (per gait)
- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalties

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Break of gait at lope
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Draped reins (per maneuver)
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five (5) point penalties

- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

(OP) Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates maneuver
- Incomplete maneuver
- Use of two hands (except horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins

Zero (0) score

- Willful abuse
- Major disobedience or schooling
- Lameness

** No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

** No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.