

# RANCH HORSE RIDING



*Prepared By the*  
**Education/Evaluation Commission**  
**and**  
**Judges & Stewards Commissioner**  
**10805 East Bethany Drive**  
**Aurora, Colorado 80014**  
**(303) 696-4539**

© 2016 Arabian Horse Association



# RANCH HORSE RIDING CLASSES

## PURPOSE

The purpose of Ranch Horse Riding should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse working outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

## APPOINTMENTS

For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR142.

## CONDUCT

1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions; and the extended jog and extended lope going at least one direction; as well as stops, and a back.
3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering at all gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
6. No time limit.
7. One of the suggested patterns may be used (found on AHA website); 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.
8. The use of natural logs is encouraged.
9. Posting at the extended jog is acceptable.
10. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
11. Hoof polish is discouraged.
12. It is customary to not remove the hair from the insides of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.
13. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.
14. Appointments will silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins is discouraged.

## PENALTIES

A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

1. ONE (1) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Too slow/per gait
  - b. Over-bridled
  - c. Out of frame
  - d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
  - e. Split log at lope

2. THREE (3) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
  - b. Break of gait at lope
  - c. Wrong lead or out of lead
  - d. Draped reins
3. FIVE (5) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
  - b. Eliminates maneuver
  - c. Incomplete maneuver
4. ZERO SCORE
  - a. Willful abuse
  - b. Major disobedience or schooling
5. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs/poles but deduction may be made in maneuver score
6. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

## Patterns

- AHA website. <https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/>
- Judges can develop their own patterns but they must include the required maneuvers, all required gaits, and three option maneuvers. Ask the USEF/EC Steward to review patterns before they are posted.

## Score Sheet

- AHA website. <https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/>

**NOTE:** *This class is Ranch Horse Riding and horses should NOT perform or be rewarded for performing gaits as they do in Western Pleasure. The horses are to be presented in a more forward-moving style than the typical Western Pleasure Horse.*

*"The horse and rider will be scored on movement, which is **cadence and rhythm of gaits**, smoothness and consistency in performance, along with how they perform the optional maneuvers. Then the score sheets will be posted for the exhibitors' benefit."*