

Ranch Western Pleasure

* The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure is for the horse to reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of the working horse.

* The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding 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 does not have to be shown on a full drape of the reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuvers required, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Rules & requirements:

~ No horse is to be less than three years of age.

~ Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0—100 with 70 denoting an average performance score.

~ The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions: and the extended jog and the lope at least one direction: as well as the stops turns and back.

~ Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying) walk-jog-or lope over poles, or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

~ The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with approval by the judge.

~ The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in rule #447 with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

~ No time limit.

~ One of the suggested 5 patterns used, however the judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all the required maneuvers are included plus 3 or more optional maneuvers are included.

~ Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all the maneuvers.

Rule # 447 Gaits

~ The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four beat gait, ground covering. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.

~ The jog is a smooth, ground covering two beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.

~ The lope is an easy, rhythmical three beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four beat gait are not considered to be performing at the proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. The head should be carried at an angle which is natural and suitable to the horses conformation at all times. At all gaits.

