

LCHA CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

HALTER - To be judged on conformation of the horse per breed standards. Halter classes are divided by gender and exhibitor (see below). No stallions in any Halter class. Horses are shown in a suitable halter and are traveled before judges so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling. Of these, balance is the most important. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

- Halter - Pony: Handler is to be a Youth. Open to Mares or Geldings. Any age. Must be 52" or smaller. This is a state qualifying class **
- Western Halter - Geldings/ Mares: Handler can be an Adult or Youth. Class is divided between Geldings or Mares. Any Age. Ponies 52" & Under cannot enter this class. This is a State qualifying class**
- Performance Halter - Handler can be an Adult or Youth. Open to Mares or Geldings. Any age. This class is specifically for Horses who compete in speed/timed events. They may have different movements, conformation and muscle tone compared to horses competing in Western Halter.
- Most Colorful Halter - Handler can be an Adult or Youth. Open to Mares and Geldings. Horses and Ponies as well. This class is not based on conformation or movement except in the case of lameness. It is simply judged off of the horse's color pattern and how attractive it is to the judge. All competitors enter the ring one by one and form a circle at a walk around the judge. If you have a solid horse with no pattern this class is **NOT** for you.

SHOWMANSHIP - This class is designed to judge the showmanship skills of the exhibitors. Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse, and expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse. Each exhibitor is required to perform a pattern designed with emphasis on preciseness of said pattern and degree of confidence exhibited by the showman. Patterns are posted on the Clubs website, Facebook page and are available at registration. Patterns Will be posted the Monday before a show and will change throughout the season. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

RANCH CONFORMATION - Judges are looking for balanced, structurally correct horses with adequate muscling. You'll need to show your horse in a good working halter - rope, braided, nylon or plain leather - exhibit your horse at a walk and trot, then line up for inspection by the judge. *You must compete in at least 1 Ranch Riding class to be able to enter this class. The exception to this rule is if your horse is under 2 and not competing under saddle. If you scratch your riding class after the Ranch Conformation class, your points will not count towards year end awards.* Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

TRAIL – One rider on the course at a time. The trail class tests the maneuverability of a horse through an obstacle course. Scoring is based on the horse's willingness, ease and grace in negotiating the course. Patterns by division: Western/English** & Ranch. Classes are split by exhibitor. Patterns are posted on the Clubs website, Facebook page and are available at registration. Patterns Will be posted the Monday before a show and will change throughout the season. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

- WESTERN OR ENGLISH TRAIL - The trail class tests the maneuverability of a horse through an obstacle course. Points are given or deducted based on performance. Exhibitors will be asked to move past an object after 3 attempts. This is a state Qualifying class**
- RANCH TRAIL - A Ranch Trail horse should not look like An English or Western Trail horse. They may be expected to do different maneuvers that are more consistent with having a job on a ranch.

LEADLINE CLASS - Open to children 6 & under on ponies **NO TALLER THAN 52"**. Exhibitors must have a handler that walks with the rider the entire time on a lead. Leaders must be over the age of 15. Exhibitors and leaders follow directions of the Judge or Ring Steward. The arena can be shortened or made smaller to allow the judge to evaluate all exhibitors. Exhibitors must comply with proper attire and tack. Per TN State Show rules Attire may be English Or Western but not mixed. It is encouraged that the exhibitors sit correctly and ride as if they are not being led. Exhibitors will be judged and placed accordingly. 1st-10th place.

WALK/JOG - Judging the horse on manners and suitability of the horse for a relaxed but collected gait cadence and relatively slow speed of gait, along with calm and responsive disposition. The horse is to appear to be a "pleasure" to ride and very comfortable, while being very smooth. Judge at his/her discretion can ask for the horses to halt on the rail and/or back in the line-up. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

WESTERN PLEASURE – Judging the horse on manners and suitability of the horse for a relaxed but collected gait cadence and relatively slow speed of gait, along with calm and responsive disposition. The horse is to appear to be a "pleasure" to ride and very comfortable, while being very smooth. Judge at his/her discretion can ask for the horses to halt on the rail and/or back in the line-up. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. This is a state qualifying class**

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - Designed to test the horsemanship abilities of Exhibitors who ride Western Pleasure. Exhibitors must follow a set pattern of maneuvers at a walk, trot or lope. Judging focuses on the rider's body position, seat in the saddle and ability to control the horse. After the patterns are all completed, the judge may require rail work to be performed. Patterns posted on the Club website or at registration. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know the pattern before entering the show arena. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE - A class for Hunter Under Saddle Riders and horses in which judges evaluate a hunter-type horse on the flat, at a walk, trot, extended trot and canter on a reasonably light rein. Exhibitor must be on the correct diagonal within 3 steps of picking up the trot. Emphasis is placed on smoothness of gait, free-flowing stride and willingness to perform. A hunter should move in a long, low frame and have the ability to increase its stride and cover ground with ease in a flowing movement. Those moving in a high headed frame with quick, short or choppy strides are not desirable. The hunter should have an interested expression and an alert eye. When asked to extend the trot they should move forward strongly with appropriate forward impulsion. Judge has discretion to ask for a halt on the rail and/or back in the line-up. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. Classes are split by exhibitor. This is a state qualifying class**

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE WALK/TROT – A class for Hunter Under Saddle Riders and Horses, Class description and judging are the same as HUNTER UNDER SADDLE, but Exhibitor will only be asked to Walk, Trot and Extend the trot. Judge has discretion to ask for a halt on the rail and/or back in the line-up. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. Classes are Split by exhibitor.

RANCH PLEASURE RAIL – Horses are ridden in a group class where they are asked to perform at different paces in both directions. Demonstrates being well broke and suitable for ranch work. Horse exhibits length of stride, ease of movement, control and willingness to work under saddle. A ranch horse should be able to increase stride and pace at a moment's notice as well as willingly work at a slow relaxed pace. Judge has discretion to ask for a halt on the rail and/or back in the line-up. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. Classes are Split by exhibitor. This is a state qualifying class**

RANCH RIDING PATTERN - The horse is shown individually in pattern work and is judged on the precision of the pattern maneuvers and the horse's movements. The horse should simulate a horse riding and working outside the confines of an arena. The horse should execute the maneuvers at a forward ground-covering pace. The horse should not be shown on a draped rein. The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction. The optional maneuvers are sidepass; turns of 360 degrees or more; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over poles or other reasonable maneuvers a ranch horse could perform. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

REINING - Judges the horse on movements, mastery of a prescribed maneuver and attitude as he is guided through a predetermined pattern. The horse is required to perform a number of stops, spins, rollbacks, lead changes and circles at a lope. The horse should be willing to be guided with little or no resistance. Classes are split by exhibitor. Youth & Open. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

BARREL RACING - An exciting race against the clock in which exhibitors follow a course consisting of three barrels in a triangular “cloverleaf” pattern. Riders choose to circle either the right or left barrel first, race to the opposite barrel and complete the course after circling the third barrel and racing down the center of the three barrels to stop the timer. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

ONE BARREL SPEED RACE - An exciting race against the clock in which exhibitors follow a course consisting of only 1 barrel. Riders choose to circle either the right or left barrel, and then race down the center of the arena to stop the timer. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

POLE BENDING - A timed event in which the speed and agility of the horse are tested as horse and rider twice weave through a course of six poles spaced 21 feet apart, twice circling end poles before turning and racing to the finish line. The pattern must be followed exactly. A five-second penalty is added for each pole knocked down. Classes are split by exhibitor. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire.

LCHS General Rules and Explanations of Divisions

For the 2023 Show season it was voted upon to allow the cross entering between walk/ trot or jog and walk/ trot or jog / canter or lope classes. We have always allowed this at our shows as we are an open club and not a breed specific club. This may conflict with TN State, AQHA or other Breed association rule books. We typically refer to AQHA rules when it comes to dress code for both the rider and the horse and most class rules with a few exceptions.

AMATEUR WALK - TROT OR JOG - Open to riders of all ages who are new to competing. **This class is for first and second year competitors only.** There will be a Year End High Point Award for this class.

ADULT - Open to riders or handlers - 18 Years of Age and Older. **Adults cannot show Ponies 52” & Under.**

YOUTH - Open to riders or handlers - 17 Years of Age and Younger as of January 1st of the current show season. **Classes labeled Youth cannot compete on Ponies 52” & Under.** There are classes specifically for Ponies 52” & Under.

YOUTH 13-17 - Open to Riders who are 13- 17 Years of Age as of January 1st of the current show season. **Youth in this division cannot show Ponies 52” & Under.**

YOUTH 12< & HORSES - Open to Riders who are 12 & under Years of Age as of January 1st of the current show season. In these classes the exhibitors **cannot show Ponies 52" & Under**. If the youth has both a pony who is 52" & Under **AND** a horse above 52", they can compete in the appropriate division for their age and equine size. They must be on the correct mount.

YOUTH 12< & PONIES 52"< - Open to Riders who are 12 & under Years of Age as of January 1st of the current show season. In this division the exhibitors **CAN show Ponies 52" & Under**. If the youth has both a pony who is 52" & Under **AND** a horse above 52", they can compete in the appropriate division for their age and equine size. They must be on the correct mount.

OPEN - Class is open to riders of all ages and horses and ponies of all sizes.

DRESS CODE - Riders and Mounts should be in appropriate dress for showing. The mount's tack should match the rider's apparel. For example if a rider is competing in a Western Class they should be wearing the appropriate western dress code and their horse should be wearing a western headstall, reins and tack. The same goes for English and Ranch. We will be following AQHA Rules where the dress code applies. The President or Vice President are allowed to waive dress code due to weather conditions. For example extreme heat.

SHOW NUMBERS - Show numbers will be sold for 10.00 a pair this season. If you need more than 1 pair. Please let the Show Secretary know. If you lose your numbers you will need to let the show secretary know a minimum of one week before the next show that you need to purchase additional numbers. They will be of good quality and laminated. Senior members are exempt from this if they already have a number. Or if the member shows under a different 4 digit number for breed association points. The Number will follow the rider not the horse. You will be responsible for keeping up with the same set of numbers all year. You must be wearing your number while being judged or in timed event classes. Number placement below.

- Halter/Showmanship - On the back of the Handler
- Western/Ranch Riding Classes - On both the Right and Left side of the horse or ponies saddle pad. Or on the riders back.
- Hunter Under Saddle - Either attached to the back of your show coat or if your saddle pad allows for the numbers to be displayed on both the left and right side.
- Speed/ Timed Events - Either attached to the back of your shirt or if your saddle pad allows for the numbers to be displayed on both the left and right side.

NAMES - Please be sure to use the same name for both the Exhibitor and the Horse/Pony at each show. **** This is VERY IMPORTANT**** If you use a different name for either, then earned points will not transfer towards year end awards. This also applies when qualifying for the Tennessee State Show. If you need any clarification Please talk to the Show Secretary or one of the Officials.