

Lincoln County Horseman's Association Class Descriptions

HALTER – Open to any handler exhibiting a mini, pony or horse. 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.

- *Halter – Pony: Handler is to be a Youth. Open to Mares or Geldings. Any age. Must be 54" or smaller.*
- *Halter – Adult - Mare/Gelding: Handler is to be an Adult. Open to Mares or Geldings. Any Age.*
- *Halter – Adult - Stallion: Handler is to be an Adult. Open to Stallions. Any Age.*
- *Halter – Youth - Mares: Handler is to be a Youth. For Mares Only. Any Age.*
- *Halter – Youth - Geldings: Handler is to be a Youth. For Geldings Only. Any Age.*

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.

SHOWMANSHIP – This class is designed to judge the showmanship skills of the exhibitors. Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse or pony, and expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse. Each exhibitor is required to perform a pattern designed with emphasis on preciseness of pattern and degree of confidence exhibited by the showman. Patterns are posted on the Club website and available at registration.

RANCH SHOWMANSHIP - This class follows the same basic principles of western showmanship with a different pattern. It is also recommended to show your horse in a good working halter - rope, braided, nylon, or plain leather.

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, Gaited, English, Ranch.

WESTERN TRAIL - 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.

ENGLISH TRAIL - An English Trail horse should not look like a Western horse in English attire. The horses should be suitable for the seat presented. A Hunter presentation should give the impression of a horse capable of negotiating a Bridle Path Hack course or to be taken on a fox hunt.

IN-HAND TRAIL - Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning, grooming, and the equipment in the overall score. Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. Suitable halter (Leather preferred) (with or without silver trim), leather lead (with or without a chain) to be used. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling the lead shank around the hand, or dragging the lead shank must be penalized. Pattern to include a walk and jog of suitable duration to determine the way of going.

LEADLINE CLASS – Open to any novice rider – 8 Years Old or Under. Exhibitors must have a handler that walks with rider the entire time on a lead. Follow directions of Judge or Ring Steward – arena can be shortened or made smaller to allow judge to evaluate all exhibitors. All Entries receive a blue ribbon and small prize.

WESTERN WALK/TROT - 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.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP - Designed to test the horsemanship abilities of riders using western tack. Riders must follow a prescribed 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.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE - A class for English riding disciplines in which judges evaluate a hunter-type horse on the flat, at a walk, trot and canter. 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 an artificial frame with quick, short or choppy strides are not desirable. The hunter should have an interested expression and an alert eye. Hunters must be obedient and should willingly respond to cues of the rider. When asked to extend the trot or for a hand gallop, they should move forward strongly with appropriate forward impulsion. See Rule Sheet for acceptable tack and attire. Classes are split by exhibitor.

ENGLISH EQUITATION – Tests on the ability to ride—not the performance of the horse. Contestants work a predetermined pattern consisting of maneuvers such as changing gaits; travel in a circle to the left or right; backing up as well as posting on correct diagonal and counter-cantering. Emphasis is placed on ability to sit correctly, hold the correct riding posture and control the horse on a precise pattern. After the patterns are all completed, the judge may require rail work to be performed. Patterns posted on the Club website and available at registration. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know the pattern before entering the show pen.

ENGLISH WALK/TROT – Open to hunt seat or saddle seat styles, The horse is usually ridden on contact with the rein, and the horse is penalized if it must be ridden on strong contact, gapes its mouth, does not respond willingly to light aids, or does not travel in balance. The horse should move straight, with a steady rhythm and a free and flowing stride. The horse should not come behind the bit, or travel too fast. To be shown at a walk, trot, and extended 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.

RANCH PLEASURE – 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.

RANCH RIDING - 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.

RANCH REINING - An assigned pattern, ridden at speed, incorporating maneuvers such as roll-backs, turn-arounds (spins), stops and circles that may be required in ranch work. As Ranch Reining is based on the practical aspect of ranch work. The class demonstrates a horse's athleticism and ability to perform maneuvers at speed that are required to perform ranch work and control a cow. Contestants should not be penalized for reining their horses through the pattern in a reasonable manner. Stops should be hard and deep as if needed to stop and go in the other direction. They should also be square and done without resistance (it should be the judge's discretion on what he/she considers too excessive of a slide, but excessive stops should generally be considered as stops beyond 10 feet.) Turn a rounds (spins) should be those of a working horse. They should be correct, and job efficient. Circles shall be smooth and have a common center line.

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.

REINING GREEN RIDER - Green riders must be new to reining. Green riders may not ride in other reining classes except Reining Green Horse.

REINING GREEN HORSE - Green horses may be ridden by any level rider. Rider may ride with one or two hands, any bit may be used, simple lead changes are allowed.

****NOVICE** – A novice or beginner rider who rides in Novice Walk/Trot or Novice Trail may not show in a Canter/Lope class. Rider may ride two-handed in this class without penalty.

OPEN – Class is open to any rider regardless of age or experience.

ADULT – Open to riders or handlers – 18 Years of Age and Older.

YOUTH – Open to riders or handlers – 17 Years of Age and Younger.

JR. HORSE - Horses must be 5 years or under. Horse may be ridden two-handed in a snaffle or bosal in accordance with AQHA rules. Open to any rider regardless of age.

SR. HORSE - Jr. Horse - Horses must be 6 years or over. Horse must be ridden one-handed in a shanked bit in accordance with AQHA rules. Open to any rider regardless of age.

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.

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.

ARENA RACE - A timed event in which 1 barrel is placed at the end of the arena and the contestant races to go around it, turning either left or right, and back out to stop the timer. Knocking over the barrel carries a 5 second penalty.

DUMMY GOAT TYING - A timed event in which the rider races down to the "goat" and gets off horse to "tie" the legs of the fake goat.