

Ranch Rail Pleasure General

1. The ranch horse rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits.
2. The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.
3. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint.
4. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the exhibitor.
5. Horses may cross-enter with any other pleasure class at the same show.

Ranch Rail Pleasure Class Specifications

1. Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge.
2. Required gaits are the walk, trot, extended trot, lope, and extended lope, (exception: no lope in walk trot only class) which are to be shown in both directions of the arena. The extended walk and back are optional gaits that may be called at the judge's discretion.
3. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes: In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.
The following terminology shall apply:
 - a. The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
 - b. The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.
 - c. The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
 - d. The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
 - e. The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
 - f. The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
4. The horse should be responsive to the exhibitor and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.
5. Exhibitors are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. Horses should remain on or near the rail, however exhibitors working off the rail will not be penalized.
6. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot, not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues and when cues are applied correctly, it could be a credit earning situation.
7. Offered for horses three years of age or older.
8. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.

Ranch Rail Pleasure Scoring

1. A ranch horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on the horse's own must be considered a lack of control.
2. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
3. Light contact should be rewarded, and the horse must not be shown on a full drape of reins.
4. Penalties. An exhibitor must be penalized for:
 - a. Too slow a gait
 - b. Over-bridled
 - c. Out of frame
 - d. Break of gait
 - e. Wrong lead, out of lead, or cross-cantering
 - f. Draped reins
 - g. Trotting more than two strides when taking lead
 - h. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 - i. Schooling
 - j. Spurring in front of cinch
 - k. Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

Ranch Rail Pleasure Appointments and Conduct

1. Apparel, Equipment & Tack
2. Appointments with silver should not count over good working tack. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins are discouraged.
3. It is recommended that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch.
4. Horses 5 years and under, may be shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore.
5. Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, slip bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales.
6. Touching or holding the saddle horn is permitted.
7. Hoof polish is discouraged but will not be penalized.
8. It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.
9. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive (long) facial hair is permitted.
10. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified. Competitors must be eliminated for prohibited equipment.
11. **Tack:**
 - a. Bridle. Any western type headstall without noseband in conjunction with any standard western bit shall be allowed. A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 ½". The mouthpiece will consist of a round or oval bar 5/16" to ¾" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be metal, rubber, or synthetic material and may be inlaid but must be smooth. If wrapped, only latex or similar materials are permitted. The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs, or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 ¼" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to ¾" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of two 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 ½" with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces

and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of crossbar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. When a curb bit is used, either a curb chain or flat leather chin strap is required and must be at least ½” in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap, or curb chain. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited, except when used on a ring snaffle when applied below the reins. A light lip strap is permissible. See illustration in Western Division. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard Western bit is prohibited.

b. Junior horse classes require a snaffle bit or hackamore. Hackamore/ Bosal or standard snaffle are permitted in any class on horses five years old and under, unless prohibited in the prize list. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a single center jointed, rounded, unwrapped, smooth metal mouthpiece of 5/16” to ¾” diameter as measured from ring to 1” in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2” to 4” outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee, or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e., steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth, plastic electrical tape is acceptable if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner). Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather. Both hands must be visible to the judge. Two hands may be used on hackamore (Bosal) and Western snaffle reins.

c. Split reins or closed reins are equally acceptable.

c1. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class.

c2. While working a cow in herd work and Limited Reined Cow Horse, it is permissible to hold the reins and the romal in one hand (rein hand), while doing so, the other hand may be used to hold the saddle horn.

c3. For romal reins, the rider’s hand must be closed around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed and the thumb on top. The bottom of the hand must hold the point of the reins closest to the horse’s mouth. The reins must not be held between the fingers. Exception when the ends of split reins fall on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted.

c4. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is permitted.

c5. The rider may hold romal or the end of split reins to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held with at least 16 inches of rein between the hands.

d. Rope, riata and/or hobbles are optional.

e. Hackamore bits, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited.

f. Saddle: Any standard stock saddle with a horn is required, but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Tapaderos may not be used.

12. Attire:

a. Traditional western attire that reflects the true ranch lifestyle is required. Appropriate western attire includes a long sleeve shirt with collar and cuff that has buttons, or snaps that must be fastened at the wrist, a western hat and boots with heels. Adding chinks, wild rags or western scarves are optional. Any shirts that have any crystals, glitter and/or sequins will result in disqualification.

b. Spurs are optional at the discretion of the exhibitor, whips are not allowed except with side saddle.