

## **Rules for Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure**

**These classes are not AHA or USEF recognized or approved classes.**

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. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. 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. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and 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.
2. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized, and in fact, riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required.
3. Offered for horses three years of age or older.
4. The following terminology qualifying gaits shall apply: a. Walk – 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. Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western pleasure jog. c. Extended Trot – 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. d. Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride. e. Extended Lope – 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.
5. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits. Class Specifications: Horses to enter at walk or jog in either direction at discretion of the judge. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at all qualifying gaits. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

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. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation.

7. A ranch horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control.

8. Penalties. An exhibitor shall 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 h. Spurring in front of cinch j. Use of either hand to instill fear/ praise

9. Apparel and Equipment: For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR 142.

10. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

11. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

12. Hoof polish is discouraged.

13. It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.

14. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

15. Appointments with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins are discouraged.

16. It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch.

17. Horses 5 years and under may be shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore.

18. Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales.

19. Horses may cross-enter with any other pleasure class at the same show.