

96. RANCH RIDING

For horses three (3) years of age and older

Offered as a Junior, Senior or All Age class

An All Age class for Amateur, Select Amateur and Youth can be offered.

The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse is to reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance is to simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class will show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under the control of the rider. Light contact will be rewarded and the horse will not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

No horse can cross-enter a Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding class at the same show, regardless of division (Youth, Amateur, Select or Open).

Class Requirements

- (a) Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional manoeuvres, and will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- (b) Each manoeuvre will be scored on the following basis:
 - 1½ Extremely poor
 - 1 Very poor
 - ½ Poor
 - 0 Correct
 - +½ Good
 - +1 Very good
 - +1½ Excellent
- (c) The required manoeuvres will include walk, trot and lope in both directions, an extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction as well as stops, and back.
- (d) Three (3) optional manoeuvres may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a pole(s), or some combination of manoeuvres that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
- (e) The manoeuvres may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- f) The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- (g) There is no time limit.
- (h) The use of natural logs is encouraged.
- (i) Posting at the extended jog is acceptable.
- (j) Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
- (k) It is acceptable to stand in the stirrups at the extended jog/trot.

Patterns

One of the suggested four (4) patterns can be used, however a judge may utilise a different pattern as long as all required manoeuvres and the three (3) (or more) optional manoeuvres are included. Should a Judge use one of their own patterns, they cannot have a stop following an extended lope.

Attire

Well-shaped hat, Western boots, jeans, a shirt with long sleeves and a collar. Chaps and chinks are optional.

Equipment

- (a) No hoof polish;
- (b) No braided or banded manes or tail extensions;
- (c) Trimming inside ears is discouraged;
- (d) Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair;
- (e) Equipment with silver will not count over a good working outfit; silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged;
- (f) It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

Penalties

A contestant will be penalised as indicated each time the following occurs:

One (1) point

- Too slow per gait;
- Over-bridled;
- Out of frame;
- Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or fewer;

Three (3) point

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides;
- Break of gait at lope;
- Wrong lead or out of lead;
- Draped reins;
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two (2) strides when changing leads;
- Trotting more than three (3) strides when making a simple lead change;
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

Five (5) point

- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal.

Off pattern (OP)

Placed below horses performing all manoeuvres

- Eliminates a manoeuvre;
- Does not complete a manoeuvre.

Zero (0) Score

- Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes or tail extensions;

Wilful abuse;

Major disobedience or schooling.

No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction made in manoeuvre score.

No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in manoeuvre score.

Tie Breaker

Specific manoeuvres and/or obstacles will be selected by the Judge prior to start of the class and so noted on score sheets, These manoeuvres will be ranked as 1st tie breaker, second, third, etc.