

# FAQ for ASHA Ranch Division

## 1. What classes are offered in this division?

There are four classes offered in this division. Ranch riding (pattern), ranch rail pleasure, ranch trail (obstacles) and ranchmanship (pattern). A show may offer these classes as open, amateur and youth as entries warrant.

## 2. What is the appropriate attire for Ranch classes?

Working ranch attire is appropriate. A western Cowboy hat or helmet is the best choice for headgear. Long sleeve collared shirt, jeans and boots can be worn, chaps or chinks (knee or shin length) are acceptable but not required. Scarfs or "wild rags" are acceptable. "Bling" (sequins, rhinestones) are highly discouraged on any part of the outfit.

## 3. What kind of saddle/equipment is used in this division?

Clean working tack is the best choice for the Ranch division. It is recommended that saddles have a breast collar and a rear cinch. If a rear cinch is used, it should be attached to the front cinch with a cinch hobble. Hobbles or a rope may be attached to the saddle. Silver on saddle or bridle is highly discouraged but not illegal.

## 4. How should a horse be groomed for this division?

A horse should be clean and brushed. Clipping of the muzzle, ears and bridlpath are optional. A horse shown in a "natural" state is not to be penalized. Hoof black is not cause for disqualification but is highly discouraged. Some horses will be cross entered in other Western Pleasure and Working Western events and that should be taken into consideration by Judges. Braiding or banding of mane or tail and tail extensions will result in a zero score.

## 5. What gaits are required in this division?

Walk-natural, flat footed four beat gait

Trot-natural two beat gait exhibiting more forward motion than the western jog.

Extended trot- obvious lengthening of stride from trot, should be ground covering.

Lope- three beat gait, relaxed, smooth and forward moving stride

Extended lope- obvious lengthening of stride from the lope but NEVER a run or a race.

## 6. How should a ranch horse carry himself?

A ranch horse should display a natural head position for the individual and be bright with an attentive expression. A horse can be penalized for being over-

bridled and out of frame. A rider should have light contact with the reins. An overly tight or a drape in the rein can be penalized.

7. What maneuvers are required in the patterns?

Maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying) walk, trot or lope over poles or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

8. Is holding the saddle horn acceptable for extended gaits?

Yes! A rider may post or stand in the stirrups and hold the saddle horn at the extended trot and hold the horn and have a forward seat at the extended lope. Holding the horn for the rider's safety over any obstacle in any pattern is acceptable.

9. What exactly are judges looking for in these classes?

In a word, PERFORMANCE. The ranch division is to judge a horse's ability to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of movement are of primary consideration.

10. What obstacles will be in a Ranch trail class?

Mandatory obstacles include: walk over, trot over and lope over obstacles, opening/closing gate (rules may change due to current Covid conditions) ride over wooden bridge, a backing obstacle and a side pass. Optional obstacles may include carry object, a jump (less than 18"), drag an object, mailbox, swing a rope, slicker/rain coat, water obstacle, lead horse through gate, pick up horse's feet and ground tie. The course should be posted AT LEAST one hour before competition. All courses should be safe for all riders to complete and are not meant to trap any horse or rider.

# SUMMARY OF ASB RANCH DIVISION CLASSES

- The purpose of the Ranch division classes is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena.
- The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and must be able to demonstrate obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
- Gaits for the ranch division are walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope and extended lope. A horse that either too slow or too fast at any gait is to be penalized. The extended gaits are not a race but designed to show that a horse can cover more ground and maintain composure.
- A horse should carry their head in a manner comfortable and natural for that individual. The overall performance of gaits and maneuvers is more important than a high headed horse with a lot of hinge at the poll. A ground covering stride is more desirable than high motion.
- Riders should wear outfits that are conducive to a working ranch. Long sleeve collared buttoned shirts, jeans, chinks (knee length leather leg covering) or chaps, western boots, western hat or helmets are acceptable. Scarves, ties, bolo ties and gloves are also acceptable. Sequins or other "bling" is highly discouraged and can be penalized.
- Tack should consist of a solid working saddle, bridle and pad with limited silver adornment. split or rommel reins are allowed. Excess silver on any equipment can be penalized.
- Ranch rail pleasure class enters arena at the trot. Gaits to be called by the announcer include walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot, lope and extended lope. At least one extended gait should be called for each direction of the arena at the judge's discretion. Horses are required to back either while still on the rail at any point during the class or can be brought into the lineup. Halting during the class is not required but can be requested by the judge at any point.
- Ranch riding is a pattern class. There are currently 5 patterns in the SB Ranch riding rules. Horses are to work the pattern individually based on random draw. Only one horse is to be in the arena at a time. A rider is allowed to ride multiple horses in this class. Score sheets are available for each of the 5 patterns. Each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points.
- Ranch riding score sheets will offer 2 boxes per maneuver. Content scores are awarded as follows: -1 ½ Extremely poor -1 Very poor -1/2 Poor 0 Correct +1/2 Good +1 Very Good +1 ½ Excellent Penalty scores are summarized in the Ranch riding rules. Helpful reminders are at the top of the score sheet. Where possible, show management should provide a scribe to each judge.



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- Ranch trail is a pattern class. Show management should provide a pattern based on available obstacles. Judges should inspect the pattern before the class begins. Any obstacles that are unsafe should be altered or removed as necessary. Horses are to work the pattern individually based on random draw. Only one horse is to be on the course at a time. A rider is allowed to ride multiple horses in this class. Score sheets are available for this class. Each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 and automatically begins the run with a score of 70.
- Trail score sheets will offer 2 boxes per maneuver. Content scores are awarded as follows: -1 ½ Extremely poor -1 Very poor -1/2 Poor 0 Correct +1/2 Good +1 Very Good +1 ½ Excellent Penalty scores are summarized in the Ranch trail rules. Helpful reminders are at the top of the score sheet. Where possible, show management should provide a scribe to each judge.
- Any horse in a pattern class that deletes or adds a maneuver, misses or skips an obstacle or in any other way is “off Pattern” should still be scored but the total score is followed by the letters “OP” i.e. 68 OP. A horse with an OP designation is eligible for placement but cannot place ahead of a horse that stays on pattern even if the numerical score is lower.
- Switches or tail extensions are not allowed. Hoof black is discouraged and can be penalized but is not cause for disqualification. Cross entry in Western pleasure and working western pleasure classes at the same show is currently allowed.