RANCH RIDING

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 horses ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by 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.

For horses three (3) years of age and older and offered as a Junior, Senior or All Age class.

An all age class for Amateur, Select Amateur and Youth can be offered.

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) The required manoeuvres will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions and the extended jog and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back;

c) Three (3) optional manoeuvres may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog or lope over a pole(s), or some reasonable combination of manoeuvres that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform;

d) The manoeuvres may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge;

e) The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Gaits, Rules 7 9 E n g l i s h c l a s s e s p a g e 2 8 with an emphasis on forward movement, free- flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions
should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

f) No time limit.

g) The use of natural logs is encouraged

h) Posting at the extended jog is acceptable.

i) Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable

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, it is recommended to not have the 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 each time the following occur:

One (1) point penalties

Too slow per gait

Over bridled

Out of frame

Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalties

Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides

Break of gait at lope

Wrong lead or out of lead

Draped reins

Out of lead or cross cantering more than two strides when changing leads

Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five point penalties

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

Placed below horses performing all manoeuvres

Eliminates manoeuvres

Incomplete manoeuvres

Zero (0)

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

Junior Horse 5 year & under ridden two handed in snaffle bit or Hackamore
Senior Horse 6 years & over ridden on handed in a bridle