

2024



Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association

The Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association is dedicated to promoting the values of the traditional working ranch horse through education, community, and sportsmanship.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name by which the corporation shall be known is the "Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association" (hereinafter referred to as "PNWRHA")

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The specific purposes and objectives of the PNWRHA shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) To serve and promote the American ranch and stock horse and the people who show and own them.
- (2) To make adequate and fair rules governing competitions and enforce them for the common benefit of our members.
- (3) To maintain proper records in connection with the sport for use of members.
- (4) To assign dates for horse shows and clinics promoting the ranch horse.
- (5) To promote education and good horsemanship among our members.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person interested in horses, ponies, or mules, whether for business or pleasure purposes

Section 2. Membership Classifications. There shall be three (3) classifications of memberships: (1) Open Membership shall be anyone over the age of 18 who is not classified as an amateur rider. (2) Amateur Membership shall be anyone over the age of 18 who has not received remuneration or sponsorship as outlined in _____. (3) Youth Membership shall be anyone age 18 and under, provided they have not received remuneration or sponsorship as outlined in _____.

Section 3. Termination of Membership. Any member automatically terminates his membership by not paying annual dues or by presenting his resignation in writing to the Secretary. The Board of Directors may, on recommendation from the Enforcement Committee, request the resignation of any member or expel any member and refund the current year's dues, for ungentlemanly conduct or for good cause, including behavior detrimental to the welfare of this organization. The expulsion of a member by the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote of the Directors present. Outside legal representation is not authorized. Any member who fails to exhaust all possible remedies to his complaints within the organization itself before filing legal action in a court of law will have all rights and privileges of membership immediately suspended and reinstatement or expulsion will be determined by the Board of Directors as set forth in Article III, Section 3 of these Bylaws.

Section 4. Legal Responsibilities. No member, officer, chairperson, or director may dispatch or resolve of their own volition any matter that may have legal ramifications against PNWRHA. Any matter that may result in a court action, suit, or any type of legal action that might be brought against PNWRHA must be referred to the Board of Directors for action

Section 5. Holding Office. Only a PNWRHA open or amateur member in good standing may hold any position as an officer, director, committee chairperson, or serve on any committee.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

Section 1. The dues for the fiscal year, or any part thereof, shall be established by the board of directors in the fall of any given year and announced to the membership no later than November 15 for the following year.

Section 2. Dues will run from January 1 until December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Officers (a) The officers of this organization shall be the President; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; the immediate Past President; and two (2) additional directors. (b) It is agreed that Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association shall indemnify and hold harmless its officers, Executive Board members, Directors, and Committee Chairpersons in the performance of their duties unless negligence is involved.

Section 2. Term of Office (a) terms are three (3) years in length, with 2 directors being elected each year. (b) The board will appoint a nominating committee in September of each year, and a ballot shall be submitted to the membership no later than October 10. Voting may be done during an in-person meeting or via online program. Voting will close the end of October and the new board announced no later than November 10. (c) The executive board will be elected by the board of directors at their first meeting of the year in January.

Section 3. Duties. The Board of Directors shall have the general direction and control of the affairs of this organization; shall bond the President, the Treasurer and any person handling finances; shall have the power to employ and fix the salary of the show manager and show secretary. Each board member shall serve on at least one committee. The President shall be responsible for assigning each Board Member to one or more committees and shall insure a list of those assignments is widely disseminated to the membership.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business

Section 5. Meeting Absences. Members of the Board shall be responsible for contacting the President prior to any regular or special meeting if unable to attend. Board Members must not miss two consecutive meetings without approval of the remainder of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Vacancies. Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Voting. Each Director shall have one vote and there shall be no voting by proxy

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Members. (a)The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. (b) The executive board shall be elected by the board members at their first meeting of the new year

following the general election. (c) The executive board has authority to make decisions of policy in the best interest of the organization and its members. All decisions made by the Executive Board shall be legal and binding unless and until rescinded by majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Quorum. A majority of the Executive Board members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business

Section 3. Duties of the President (a) Provides overall leadership and direction to the organization (b) Presides at meetings of the club and its board of directors (c) Approves all club press releases, newsletters, electronic communications, and other publications (d) appoints committee chairs and delegates tasks as necessary (e) administers, in conjunction with the Treasurer, any financial undertakings of the society- making sure that all money is securely handled and that the society finances are transparent to members. (f) help committee chairs prioritize goals and try to keep the committee on track by working within that overall plan

Section 4. Duties of the Vice President (a) act as substitute for the president should they be unavailable for whatever reason. In cases of the president's absence, someone must be available to oversee the rest of the board and association to ensure it continues to run smoothly. (b) Assisting the president and the board of directors to design the company's overall mission, values, and strategic goals. (c) carry out any tasks assigned to them by the board president. (d) serve as the liaison for one or more HOA committees

Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer (a) responsible for maintaining the finances and ensuring the financial stability of the association. He or she is the financial liaison to auditors, CPAs, brokers, agents, and bankers (b) Filing income tax returns. (c) report at regular board meetings on the state of the association's finances. Reports should be based upon factual information compiled from statements and receipts. (d) make sure that important financial records are safely maintained in the proper location and for the appropriate length of time. (e) perform an annual audit.

Section 6. Duties of the Secretary (a) Taking minutes (b) Circulating agendas and reports (c) Receiving agenda items from committee members (d) Circulating approved minutes (e) Checking that agreed actions are carried out. (f) Filing minutes and reports (g) Compiling lists of names and addresses that are useful to the organization, including those of appropriate officials or officers of voluntary organizations. (h) Acting as custodian of the organization's governing documents (i) filing all committee correspondence received and copies of replies sent

ARTICLE VII– COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. The President shall appoint a Chair for the By-Laws & Policies, Finance, Horse Show, Communications/Public Relations, and Nominating committees. The President has the right to appoint additional committee chairs for short term or temporary committees as needed. President shall be ex-officio member of all committees, or assign the Vice President to oversee one or more.

Section 2. Bylaws Committee. The President shall appoint the Chair. The committee may consist of as many members as the Chair deems necessary. The purpose of the committee is to review existing bylaws, make appropriate recommendations for revisions, and ensure compliance. Additionally, the committee chair shall:

- A. Receive proposed bylaw changes from the membership. With the committee members, review said proposals to determine if it conflicts with other areas of the bylaws and to ensure the proposed change would not be detrimental to the association.
- B. Bring forward the recommendations made at the Bylaws meeting to the members assembled at the Annual Meeting for approval/rejection.
- C. Ensure that all corrections have been made in the bylaws and then direct their publication.

Section 4. Finance Committee. The President shall appoint the Chair and not more than six additional members, whose duties shall be to provide ways and means of financing the organization as well as review the Treasurer's accounts and the financial records of any divisions or committees using the organization's Tax ID number. A proposed budget for the upcoming year, plus financial reviews shall be completed prior to the year end and a report shall be made at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. Horse Show Committee. The President shall appoint the chair. (a)The committee shall be responsible for finding and hiring qualified judges, setting calendar dates for shows, reserving locations, maintaining points in our database, volunteers and/or paid positions, designating a prize committee, and all things related to organizing a horse show. (b)The chair may select as many people as they need to help organize these events. If there are positions which need to be paid, other than the judge, a proposal shall be sent to the board for approval. (c) All calendar dates for the following year should be selected and run past the board for approval in November of the current calendar year, and locations verified before the end of the year, and dates announced to the membership in January of the following year. (d) If the chair wishes to have a sub-committee to oversee portions of this committee, they may select a person to oversee the sub-committee (for example: volunteers, judges, etc.)

Section 6. Communications/Public Relations. The President shall appoint the chair. (a) The duties of the Communications team will be to plan and prepare all communications materials, develop a brand voice to be used across all social media and newsletter platforms, manage media relations and develop contacts with media members, influencers and community leaders. Track engagement across various platforms and make data-driven decisions. Manage presence at industry events, trade shows, and conferences. Create budget for communications team and ensure compliance. (b) The Communications

team will reach out to and secure sponsors & promote sponsors on all social media platforms as well as website and newsletter.

Section 7. Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint the Chair. The Committee shall consist of as many members as the Chair deems necessary. The duties of the committee shall be to canvas the membership and to provide a slate of 4-6 members willing to serve a two (2) year term on the board of directors.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. Board of Directors. (a) Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held a minimum of four (4) times a year, at the time and place to be designated by the President, and is to include meetings held on zoom or other such means. (b) Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, or 50% of the board of directors, with at least 5 days notice being given as to date and time.

Section 2. Annual Member Meeting. The annual member meeting will be held in conjunction with the year-end awards banquet, with 60 days notice being given to the members as to the time and place of said banquet.

Section 3. Special Meetings. If in the opinion of the acting President and/or executive officers, an emergency meeting is needed, the right to call such meeting shall be at the discretion of the acting President. Reasonable notification must be made to all officers and members of the board, as well as any committee chairs needed to the issue. The required quorum of officers and/or directors must be able to attend. The meeting shall be held as legal and binding to this organization and all transactions shall go forth accordingly. The time and place shall be made public, but issues may remain discreet at the direction of those in attendance.

Section 4. Rescheduling/Cancelling. If a meeting must be canceled or rescheduled for any reason (date, time or place) the Acting President shall have the authority to do so. While a reasonable period of notification is requested (10 days), not all emergencies allow desired notice. If a reasonable attempt to notify all parties has been made (e-mail, text, call, etc.) within a 24-hour notice, it shall be held legal.

ARTICLE IX VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Voting by Members. All general members who are age 18 or older as of January 1 of the current year will have one vote at the general election held each fall.

Section 2. Voting. Voting will be held electronically, and each eligible member will be sent a ballot by which to select the member they feel will best represent the Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association.

Section 3. Ties. Should a tie vote occur during the election process, the board of directors shall vote by secret ballot for the tied candidates. If there is an even number of board members, the President will not vote to ensure there is no tie.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or new ones adopted by a two-thirds majority of the general membership. Proposed by-law changes must be submitted to the club secretary to record, and will then forward them to the communications chair. The communications chair will announce the proposed change(s) to the general membership a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the general election of officers, which will also include voting on the proposed changes or additions to the by-laws.

ARTICLE XI FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall run January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE XIV

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order the organization may adopt or the current RCW for non-profit organizations.

Article XV

Section 1. Dissolution. The board has the final authority on dissolving the organization, and may do so providing it is a unanimous decision, and follow whichever legal steps is necessary in the State of Washington to do so. Assets must be granted to another tax exempt organization or the government, and will not be divided or given to any organization member, board member, volunteers, or employees. Assets can, however, be sold at 'fair market value', and the funds from that transferred as listed above.

Officers and Directors

President: Tracey Westbury

Vice President: Ann Simon

Secretary: Alexis Schmidt

Treasurer: Patrick Husting

Show Chair: Chelsea Judge

Forward

The first meeting of the Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association (PNWRHA) was held in 2020 to grow ranch horse education and opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Shortly thereafter, Covid19 became a world-wide crisis, shutting down businesses and activities around the world. But our enthusiastic ranch riders would not be deterred, and in 2021 became officially organized, holding the first PNWRHA shows and becoming a federally recognized non-profit.

PNWRHA offers educational clinics for horsemen and women throughout the year, plus several horse shows to compete in. We have affiliate clubs who contribute by offering shows for our members as well.

The Pacific Northwest Ranch Horse Association is proud to offer recognition to our members for their hard work with their horses, both through show awards and year end awards for both horse and rider. We are an all breed, family friendly organization who believes in offering a fun and educational environment for those who are just getting started, along with a strong competitive opportunity for those who want to compete at a national level.

Welfare of the Horse

The PNWRHA values the welfare of the horses who attend our events. Every horse and animal attending our events must be treated humanely and with dignity and compassion at all times. PNWRHA demands that breeders, owners, exhibitors and trainers be continuously responsible for the well being and humane treatment of any horse in their care. Such rules include, but are not limited to, prohibited training practices, prohibited devices that could affect a horse's performance, prohibited surgical procedures, and prohibited chemical administration.

Above all, the ranch horses welfare is paramount to other considerations, and the continual development of procedures that ensure humane treatment of the horses enrolled or shown with us, and of all other animals involved with PNWRHA events.

PNWRHA's Disclaimer of Responsibility for Safety at Affiliate Shows

PNWRHA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants at the shows or other events it sanctions and responsibility for participant safety remains solely with the show management.

Divisions 2024

Ten divisions **may be offered: open, green horse open, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, Rookie amateur, youth, limited youth, Rookie youth, Walk Trot.

****The following divisions are mandatory at any show without cattle: Open, Amateur, Youth

1 Open exhibitors may show up to four junior horses and four senior horses in each class if held as a Junior/Senior. If held as an all-age class, open exhibitors may show up to four horses per class.

2 Cowboy, amateur and youth exhibitors may show up to three horses in each class.

3 The cowboy division is for working ranch cowboys. The rider of the horse must either be an owner, family member or full-time employee of the ranch that owns the horse. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the versatility ranch horse cowboy classes.

4 For an exhibitor to be eligible in the amateur or youth **novice/rookie division**, the exhibitor must have earned no more than ten (10) lifetime points in any breed association (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around); or \$500 in a national organization (including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSBA, NSBA) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse and boxing, western riding, reining, cutting, trail, ranch riding, ranch trail, western horsemanship, VRH ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, VRH ranch reining VRH ranch cow work, and VRH ranch cutting.) Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Eligibility is from January 1 - December 31. Stallions are not permitted in any rookie division.

5 Eligibility for the ****limited amateur and limited youth sub-division** is not restricted, except that exhibitors must meet youth or amateur membership requirements. There is no cap on points or money earned by either horse or exhibitor.

6 Limited amateur/youth, rookie amateur/youth, and amateur/ youth classes may not be held concurrently.

****Limited divisions will only be offered at shows where cattle are involved. Other shows may elect to only offer amateur and youth classes.**

Amateur and youth exhibitors are required to go down the fence and are given the option to circle or rope in their cow work.

Limited amateur and limited youth exhibitors are required to box-drive-box-drive in the cow work.

Rookie amateur and youth are required to box the cow at one end of the arena only in the cow work.

7 Walk Trot is open to all youth and amateur riders. This division is for riders who are new to the sport, or who haven't ridden in several years, or for whatever reason find they are not ready for a class that

includes loping. This class is by the honor system, there are no lifetime points attached, other than to say if you've earned year end recognition by a national equine organization in the past 5 years, you are ineligible. There is no cross entry into any other division. This division may offer year end awards.

8 The Green Horse Division is open to all riders providing their horse has not accumulated more than 15 points in any nationally recognized equine organization in the class entered. For instance, a horse may have earned 12 ranch reining points and be eligible to ride in the green ranch reining class, but if they have earned 16 points in ranch riding, they may not enter the green ranch riding class.

9 Youth riders are 18 years and younger as of January 1 of the current year. Youth are eligible to ride in the open division.

10 Amateur riders may not have received payment or sponsorship for riding or coaching the past three years. Money earned in competition is allowed.

SHOW MANAGEMENT: Show management will have the option of offering only one cattle class. This can either be ranch cutting or ranch cow work. However both classes may be offered.

1 Ranch riding and ranch trail may be combined and held at the same time or held independently. If combined, each class will be scored individually and placed individually.

2 Ranch reining and ranch cow work may be combined and held at the same time or each class held separately. If combined, each class will be scored individually and placed individually.

3 Multiple arenas may be used to allow the show to finish in a timely manner

INDIVIDUAL CLASS POINTS. Year End Points will be awarded in each individual class according to the placing received and based on the total number of horses competing in that particular class. If there are 12 riders, the first place horse/rider will receive 12 points, second place 11 points, and so on.

ALL-AROUND VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE-Show High Point. The title of All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse will be awarded for each show in the open, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, rookie amateur, youth, limited youth and rookie youth divisions, *if earned*. Each division is to be calculated independently based on the number of horses competing in that division. Divisions may not be held concurrently (i.e., amateur classes may not run currently with limited or rookie amateur classes). All-around versatility ranch horse points are based on a one horse/one rider combination in walk trot (if offered), youth and amateur classes. (See exception in ranch conformation for exhibitor with multiple horses.)

TIES If there are ties in the final placing for the all-around versatility ranch horse they will be broken by the highest placing horse in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch cow work, ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding, and ranch conformation.

Year-End High-Point will be awarded to the All-Around in each division including the novice/rookie and limited amateur, and novice/rookie and limited youth, based on number of all-around total points.

**To be eligible for year end division awards, horse/rider must have 1 competed in at least one cattle class at each show attended, plus two riding classes without cattle and ranch conformation 2 Members must have volunteered a minimum of 4 hours to the club, which can be at horse shows, clinics, sitting on a committee, or volunteer two hours and donate \$50, or donate a year end class buckle.*

CLASS PARTICIPATION.

1 No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.

2 No hoof polish or hoof black.

3 No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions, except in any class where roping is involved, the horses mane may be braided for a distance of 12"- 16" in front of the saddle pad. No ribbons or other kind of ornamentation will be allowed.

4 Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

5 Trimming bridle path, fetlocks and/excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

6 Equipment with excessive silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

7 Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any class.

8 Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

9 Romal reins are allowed in all classes, including Ranch Cutting. When riding with a romal, a get down rope may be used. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the rider or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. The get-down rope may also be run through a bosalito, as long as the bosalito is not tight enough to function as a cavesson. If a bosalito is used, it must allow approximately 2 fingers (1 inch) to pass freely between the nose and the bosalito. The bosalito must be constructed of a flexible braided rawhide, leather or rope, the core of which must be flexible. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Hobbles are allowed.

10 The use of two-rein equipment is allowed in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail for one year only.

11 When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time

SCORING SYSTEM. The scoring system is designed to be positive, straightforward, and always encourage growth and improvement in both horse and rider. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done.

1 Except for the ranch conformation class, horses will be scored from 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½, defined as follows: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ poor, 0 correct, +½ good, + 1 very good, + 1 ½ excellent. Maneuver scores should be added or subtracted from 70 and are to be determined and assessed independently of any penalty points which may accrue. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

2 In each class, the entire class will be scored and placed. All exhibitors in each class will be ranked according to scores, placed from the highest to the lowest scores. In the case of a horse/rider team being off-pattern (OP), including repeated blatant disobedience, the horse/rider team cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly.

3 No horse/rider team shall be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete, improper western attire, or fall of horse and/or rider. Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class, but will not receive points.

4 In the case of a fall by a horse or rider, the run shall end when the rider or horse fall to the ground. A horse is considered to have fallen when all four feet are extended in the same direction. A rider is considered to have fallen when the rider is no longer astride

5 In the case of equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped and the horse/rider team will be given credit for what they have accomplished prior to that point but cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly and will be considered off-pattern (OP)

6 In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judge to be tiebreakers. The tie-breaker maneuvers will be made prior to the start of the class and so noted on score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second, third and so forth.

Ties through 15th place should be broken. Ties beyond 15th place can remain tied and All-Around credits will be split evenly.

CLASSES

RANCH RIDING. The purpose of the ranch riding class 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 horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without

requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. 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 the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Horses shall be shown individually and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The optional ranch riding pattern may be used or another pattern may be used as long as all elements of the class are fulfilled as follows: - Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot, and lope in each direction of the arena, with extended trot and extended lope at least one direction. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. Optional maneuvers such as (1) cross 4 logs at walk, trot, or lope, or (2) 360 turn left or right may also be included.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. 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. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

- 1 Point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); too slow; break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less.
- 3 Point: Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (2) strides; draped reins; break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads; trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change; trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or when exiting a rollback.
- 5 Point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise. - Off-Pattern (OP): Repeated blatant disobedience; breaking pattern; incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding maneuvers; use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore); more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. - Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving working area before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

RANCH TRAIL. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

The ranch trail course will include no fewer than six and no more than nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course. Walk will be evaluated as part of the obstacle score. Trot must be at least 35 feet and scored with the obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and scored with the obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse or eliminate an exhibitor by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each single-performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.

Judges must inspect the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, nonnegotiable or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class.

The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.

PROHIBITED OBSTACLES: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, painted logs or poles, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner

MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND/OR MANUEVERS.

1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (natural logs are required). Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required.

- Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high and spacing between 26–30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised.

- Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36-42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised.

- Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised.

2. Opening, passing through and closing a hinged swinging gate (not a rope gate): Use gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side-passing.

3. Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.

4. Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30 inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.

5. Side-pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.

6. Drag an object: For open, cowboy amateur, and limited amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in youth and rookie classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag.

OPTIONAL OBSTACLES. Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:

- A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 25 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.

- Only live or stuffed animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse.

- Carry object from one part of the arena to another.

- Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.

- Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.

- Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.

- Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head.

- Step in and out of obstacle.

- Put on slicker or coat.

- Stand to mount with mounting block.

- Walk through water obstacle.

- Open gate on foot.

- Pick up feet.
- Walk through brush.
- Ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed)
- Lead at the trot.

At show management option the competition trail course may be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for exhibitors are helpful and encouraged.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.). The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however this will result in being “off pattern” (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.

Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

- 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance; wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less.
- 3 point: Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (s) strides; draped reins; break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie; trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or when exiting a rollback; knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle; stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with one foot; missing or evading part of a log/ obstacle with one foot.
- 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than one foot; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/ dismount or ground tie; missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than one foot.
- Off-Pattern (OP): Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied during the drag; use of two hands (except

junior horse, Green Horse and rookie horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein); failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate. Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider

RANCH REINING. The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward looking manner. The ideal ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.

To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting a pleasing to watch.

PENALTIES:

- One-half (1/2) point: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.
- 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein.
- 2 point: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or roll-backs; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.
- 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise;
- Off-Pattern (OP): breaking pattern; inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); trotting in excess of 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; repeated blatant disobedience; use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

RANCH COW WORK. The ideal ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Holding the saddle horn is permitted. There is a time limit per horse/rider team to perform the work depending on the division and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons. Judges will give credit for what they have seen. Only the judge may award a new cow to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.

CONTENT. Exhibitors in the open, cowboy, amateur and youth divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At three minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.

- Part One – Boxing the Cow: The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.

- Part Two – Fence Work: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end fence.

- Part Three – Roping or Circling: The amateur and youth exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or youth exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open and cowboy exhibitors must rope the cow.

To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is legal as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied on or dallied. If the exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for

tracking and rating and will be assessed the appropriate penalty per SHW563.2. For shows conducted in international countries, the exhibitor has the option of circling the cow each direction instead of roping or breakaway roping and wearing traditional attire of the country. To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. In the circling portion of the judging, one whistle will terminate the work and two whistles will award a new cow.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its cow sense (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during Fence Work for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow. If Roping, credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow rider the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ to $+1 \frac{1}{2}$ points. If Circling, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ to $+1 \frac{1}{2}$ points for each direction. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

- 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.

- 2 point: Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; an illegal catch (loop fails to pass over head or pulls tight on tail only), or failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.

- 3 point: Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in open/ cowboy class.

- 5 point: Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; an illegal catch (loop fails to pass over head or pulls tight on tail only), or failure to catch when roping, in open/cowboy class.

- Off-Pattern (OP): Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class (includes no attempt at roping in the open/cowboy divisions); repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, or complete loss of rope in open/cowboy class; complete loss of rope in amateur or youth classes, once committed to roping; use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger

between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

- Disqualification (DQ): bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider Note: If the open or cowboy rider runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 5 point penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/ rating, control/position and speed/ degree of difficulty.

LIMITED RANCH COW WORK AMATEUR/YOUTH. (Box - Drive - Box -Drive)

CONTENT. Limited ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. When there is 50 seconds left, the announcer will announce, "50 seconds remaining". At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all the allotted time but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a fence turn, instead the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

- Part One – Boxing the Cow – The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow.

- Part Two - Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of Arena – After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse shall be close enough to cow to demonstrate control with cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. Rider will then stop and release the cow and move horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing.

- Part Three – Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena – The exhibitor will regain control or hold the cow at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow.

- Part Four – Drive the Cow back down the fence (original side) past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. While boxing the cow at the opposite end, if the rider loses control and allows the cow to cross the center line, the judge will whistle the end of the run. The rider will receive off pattern penalty (OP) for the run.

Credits and Penalties. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down

the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

- 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); loss of working advantage; driving cow down the opposite fence (changing sides); working out of position; slipping rein; in limited cow work, failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired.
- 3 point: Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; losing a cow while boxing.
- 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise.
- Off-Pattern (OP): Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows (if new cow is awarded); use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.
- Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

ROOKIE RANCH COW WORK AMATEUR/YOUTH (BOXING).

Content. Exhibitors in the rookie ranch cow work may only compete in one sub-division of cow work at the same show with the same horse. These subdivisions may not be run concurrently. Example: limited amateur may not run concurrently with rookie amateur. Horses, regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by AQHA equipment rules or with one or two hands and a snaffle bit or hackamore as described under AQHA equipment rules. Rookie ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted 50 seconds to complete the work. The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow.

Credits and Penalties. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); loss of working advantage; working out of position; slipping rein.
- 3 point: Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; losing a cow.
- 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise.
- Off-Pattern (OP): Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows (if new cow is awarded); use of two hands (except horses shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore), more than one finger

between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

- Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

RANCH CUTTING. This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. The ideal ranch cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Content Objective will be to cut two cows from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders, or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, he or she may use the horse that they are competing on, or use a different horse.

In all divisions, there will be a two minute time limit. The announcer/time keeper will give a warning when one minute of the two minute working time has expired. Each exhibitor must work two head and has the option of ending their run before the two minute limit or working the full two minutes. For international countries, show management has the option of allowing exhibitors to work the two head or there may be a one and one half time limit and work only one head.

Time will begin when a rider crosses a time line just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The rider will then quietly separate his/her cow from the herd.

Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.

Ultimate credit will be given to horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd.

Exhibitors will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

Scoring. 100 percent will be judged by the horse's performance and natural ability

Penalties should be assessed as follows:

- 1 point: over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), losing working advantage; toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; working out of position

- 3 points: cattle picked up or scattered; spurring on shoulder; pawing or biting cattle; back fence; hot quit

- 5 points: horse quitting cow; losing cow; changing cattle after a specific commitment; failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; blatant disobedience

- Off Pattern (OP): turn tail; failure to cut two cows; repeated blatant disobedience; use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/ hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein)

- Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; illegal equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/rider; improper western attire

RANCH CONFORMATION. The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve the Ranch Horse type, selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the stock horse ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. The ideal Ranch conformation horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail.

To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least two riding classes in that division at the same show

Horses in each division will be shown as one class. - Stallions, mares and geldings will compete together in each of these divisions: open, cowboy, amateur and limited amateur.

- Mares and geldings will compete together in each of these divisions: youth, limited youth, rookie youth and rookie amateur.

Divisions/subdivisions may not be run concurrently.

All stallions shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares shall be examined for parrot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse has parrot mouth or is cryptorchid, such horse should be excused from the ring prior to final placing by the judge.

Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses may not be shown with a lip cord or safety lead; however, a chain may be used under the chin or over the nose. It is recommended but not required for exhibitors to remove their spurs.

As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

Exhibitors may enter more than one horse in ranch conformation classes. This allows the horses to remain eligible for all-around awards. Any Current PNWRHA member may show a horse for another competitor in open ranch conformation. Any current amateur or youth member or a family member of the competitor may show a horse in amateur or youth ranch conformation. An exhibitor with multiple horses entered in a conformation class must lead one of horses.

Working Ranch on the Rail

- A. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized.
- B. The working western rail 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 maintaining a natural head carriage at each gait.

- C. In all gaits, movement of the working western rail 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. The following terminology shall apply: Walk – The walk is a natural, at 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. Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog. 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. Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. Working western rail Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur: a. Too slow or too fast per 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 three strides when taking lead -h. Blatant disobedience
The following shall be cause for disqualification: a. Major disobedience or schooling -b. Willful abuse- c. Changing hands or two hands on reins, except when showing with a hackamore or snaffle bit.
- F. Ranch Class Apparel and Equipment: Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged. A. No hoof polish- b. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.- c. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.- d. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed- e. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.
- H. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall

be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.

I. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable. Holding the horn at extended gaits is permitted.

J. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits.

Equipment: Horses shall be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over good clean, working equipment. **Junior Horses** may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. **Senior Horses** (6 and over) must be shown in curb bit. **Green Horse**, regardless of age, may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws. Judges may perform a bit inspection and disqualify violators at any time. The judge, steward or show management may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. Use of illegal equipment is prohibited anywhere on the event grounds. Hobbles may be carried and used as appropriate. Protective boots, leg wraps, etc. are permitted in any PNWRHA riding class.

1 If the horse is shown in the two-rein or bridle/ curb bit, the mouthpiece must be at least 5/16 inch and not more than 3/4 inch in diameter measured 1 inch from the cheek and must be smooth (no chain bits). Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as extensions or prongs including upward prongs. Split reins or romal reins shall be used with bridle/curb bits. Curb straps are required and may be leather or flat chain, must be at least 1/2 inch in width, and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Horses shown in the bridle/curb bit must be exhibited one-handed. Using two hands on a bridle/curb bit or using more than one finger between split reins or any finger between romal reins (except in the two-rein where any number of

fingers are allowed between the romal and hackamore reins) will result in an Off Pattern. In all classes, when using a romal, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein. A get-down rope is allowed. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the rider or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. The get-down rope may also be run through a bosalito, as long as the bosalito is not tight enough to function as a cavesson. If a bosalito is used, it must allow approximately 2 fingers (1 inch) to pass freely between the nose and the bosalito. The bosalito must be constructed of a flexible braided rawhide, leather or rope, the core of which must be flexible. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.

2 Use of the two-rein is legal per NRCHA rules.

3 If the horse is shown in a snaffle bit, it shall be "D" or "O" ring type, no larger than 4 inches and no smaller than 2 inches in diameter on inside of the ring. It must have a broken, two- or three-piece mouthpiece, a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch from the inside of the ring, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped and made of smooth, unwrapped metal. No twisted-wire mouthpieces may be used. A leather or fabric woven chinstrap may be used. No iron, chain or other metal may be used. Horses ridden 50 51 in a snaffle or hackamore must use either split reins or mecate reins.

4 If the horse is shown in a hackamore, the bosal must be made of braided rawhide or braided leather and will be a maximum of 3/4 inch at the cheek. There must be a minimum of two finger widths, approximately 1 1/2 inch, between the bosal and the nose. Absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal is allowed.

5 Mechanical hackamores, cavassons, tie downs and running martingales are prohibited.

6 Tie downs, cavassons, gag bits, twisted-wire mouth pieces, mechanical hackamores and running martingales are prohibited. A judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane. EV-

7 Any horse found to have blood present on the mouth or anywhere else on its body may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

8 Walk Trot may show two hands with any legal bit, including curb bit.

Attire: Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long-sleeved shirts and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Horses enrolled in the points program will begin collecting points from their placings at shows. There is a one time enrollment fee. Horses who are sold and have competed in the open division will keep their show record and points earned. A transfer fee will be collected to continue. Awards are as follows:

Certificate of Achievement, 10 total points earned in any combination of classes, within one division. For Amateur and Youth riders, this must be a one horse/one rider.

Register of Merit, 10 points earned in any one class

All Around Open Champion, 40 points earned. Must have a minimum of 5 points in conformation and 5 points under saddle in three different open riding classes.

Youth All Around Champion, 40 points earned. Must have a minimum of 5 conformation points and 5 points under saddle in each of three different riding classes in youth division.

Amateur All Around Champion, 40 points earned. Must have a minimum of 5 conformation points and 5 points under saddle in each of three different riding classes in amateur division.

Superior Open Event Horse has earned 50 points in one class and are noted on horse's permanent record.

Superior Youth or Amateur Event Horse has earned 50 points in one class with the same rider, and points are noted on the rider's record.

Supreme Champion Horse has earned 100 open points, including 8 conformation points, and must compete in a minimum of 3 riding classes with no less than 15 points earned in each of the three.

Points are awarded based on number of horses shown in a class.

No. of entries in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3-4	1/2									
5-9	1	1/2								
10-14	2	1	1/2							
15-19	3	2	1	1/2						
20-24	4	3	2	1	1/2					
25-29	5	4	3	2	1	1/2				
30-34	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2			
35-39	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2		
40-44	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
45 & more	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2

National Show Qualification

Qualifying for the National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance can be done two ways.

1. Riders competing with the same alliance partner 3 times during the qualifying period will automatically receive an invitation to the National Championship Show from their alliance partner. Qualifying is not by event; riders who compete in one class may show at the National Show in any class within the division they have qualified.
2. Riders showing with a variety of alliance partners (AQHA and PNWRHA) must submit an Attendance Verification Form that documents attendance with each alliance partner. The form is due by March 30 in order to receive an invitation to the NRSHA National Show