

ETI 57 Ranch Horse Rules:

Ranch Riding Pleasure Pattern Class *** The arena should provide good footing for stops in the pattern. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. . • The gaits shall be: 1) Extended Walk 2) Trot 3) Extended Trot 4) Lope 5) Stop and Reverse 6) Ordinary Walk 7) Lope 8) Extended Lope 9) Trot 10) Stop and Back • At the preference of the rider, the extended trot may be ridden with the rider posting, sitting or standing in the stirrups, to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible at the extended trot only. Preference should not be given by the judge for any method of showing, as emphasis should be on the performance of the horse and how effective the horse is at actually extending the trot and the mannerisms and responsiveness to the rider. The pattern will be chosen from the five patterns provided.

Descriptions of Gaits: **Extended Walk** – A ranch horse pleasure walk should be straight, square flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead. The extended walk should show more length of stride than the ordinary walk. **Trot** – This gait should be a square two-beat diagonal trot. The trot should be steady, soft and slow enough for riding long distances. Trots which are rough and hard to sit should be penalized. Excessively slow and uncadenced trots should also be penalized. **Extended Trot** – The extended trot should show an evident lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This trot should be level, flat and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for an extended distance. **Lope** – This gait should be a three beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances. **Stop** (from both lope and trot) – The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters. **Reverse** – A horse should turn briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot. **Ordinary Walk** – A ranch horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait. **Extended Lope** – This gait should be an obvious lengthening of stride from the previous lope, be at the same cadence and cause an increase in speed. The gait needs to be steady, quiet, and holding the increased speed while being under control. **Transitions** - Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. There is no advantage to making these transitions with cues that are imperceptible to a judge. 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. All transitions should be smooth without undue fuss from the horse. Please note that the rules allow for a horse to be taken back (collected) a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is very difficult to achieve, however, a good ranch horse will have to make this transition several times during a day's work. This transition is down to the normal or sitting 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 bring the hocks together to go into a stopping position should be penalized according to the magnitude of the error.

Ranch Horse Reining*** This class measures the ability of the western stock horse to perform many basic handling maneuvers. Patterns are broken down into either 7 or 8 maneuvers. These maneuvers include: **Stops** - Stops are the act of slowing the horse from a lope to a stop position by bringing the hind legs under the horse in a locked position sliding on the hind feet. The horse should enter the stop position by bending the back, bringing the hind legs further under the body while maintaining forward motion and

ground contact and cadence with front legs. Throughout the stop, the horse should continue in a straight line while maintaining ground contact with the hind feet. **Spins** - Spins are a series of 360-degree turns, executed over a stationary (inside) hind leg. Propulsion for the spin is supplied by the outside rear leg and front legs and contact should be made with the ground and a front leg. The location of hindquarters should be fixed at the start of the spin and maintained throughout the spins. **Rollbacks** - Rollbacks are the 180 degree reversal of forward motion completed by running to a stop, rolling(turning) the shoulders back to the opposite direction over the hocks and departing in a canter, as one continuous motion. There should be no hesitation; however a slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation. The horse should not step ahead or backup prior to rolling back. **Circles** - Circles are maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide and degree of difficulty in speed and speed changes. Circles must at all times be run in the geographical area of the arena specified in the pattern description and must have a common center point. There must be a clearly defined difference in the speed and size of a small, slow circle and a large, fast circle and the speeds to the left and right should be consistent. **Backups** - A backup is a maneuver requiring the horse to be moved in a reverse motion in a straight line a required distance, at least 10 feet. **Hesitate** - To hesitate is the act of demonstrating the horse's ability to stand in a relaxed manner at a designated time in a pattern. In a hesitation, the horse is required to remain motionless and relaxed. Reining patterns require a hesitation at the end of the pattern to demonstrate to the judge(s) the completion of the pattern. **Lead Changes** - Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs, at a lope, when changing the direction traveled. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description. The change of front and rear leads must take place within the same stride to avoid deductions. **Run Downs and Run-arounds** - Run downs are runs through the middle of the arena, and runs along the side and ends of the arena. Run downs and run-arounds should demonstrate control and gradual increase in speed to the stop. Horse should guide willingly without undue resistance, exhibiting finesse, attitude, quickness, authority, and controlled speed while completing a correct maneuver. Judging is based on overall smoothness of pattern and degree of difficulty exhibited in each maneuver. **Ranch Horse Trail Class***** A horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday work. The horse is judged on the cleanliness, neatness and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiating the course. Emphasis on judging should be on identifying the well-broke, responsive, well-mannered horse which can correctly negotiate the course. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. The trail course will be ridden in the trail course area.

Suggested Obstacles:

· Mail box · Rope a dummy · Pick up and carry a roping rope · Put on and remove a rain slicker · Carry a bucket · Walk over “natural logs” · Jump a small jump and halt · Drag a tree branch · Pick and sign a clip board · Carry a stuffed animal over the saddle · Mount and dismount