

RANCH PLEASURE CLASS RULES

This class serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one western stock horse task to another. This 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 all required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. Horses shall be shown individually at the walk, trot and lope in both directions. The trot and lope will be extended in one direction only. Markers shall be setup to designate gait changes or called on the public address system. Since the class is held inside of an arena, the pleasure course shall be setup to make approximately one circle of the arena in each direction. The pattern may be started either in the left or right direction. Any one of the three (3) patterns may be used. Patterns may be changed to include different maneuvers within the Pleasure pattern—trotovers, circles, serpentines.

Pattern 1 – Walk, Trot, Extended Trot, Lope, Stop & Reverse, Walk, Lope, Extended Lope, Seated Trot, Stop & Back.

Pattern 2 – Lope, Extended Lope, Walk, Trot, Stop & Reverse, Extended Trot, Seated Trot, Walk, Lope, Stop & Back

Pattern 3 – Trot, Extended Trot, Walk, Lope, Stop & Reverse, Walk, Seated Trot, Lope, Extended Lope, Stop & Back

ALL RIDERS - Using two hands on a curb bit will result in a two point run content deduction per maneuver in all classes.

The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing to the front of the saddle in the stirrups. Holding the saddle horn is permissible at this gait as might be done in open terrain. When transitioning from the extended trot to the lope, it is permissible to take the horse back a bit (collecting) before loping. The reverse may be executed in either direction.

Description of Ideal Pleasure Gaits – The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage – neither too high nor too low.

Walk – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead.

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 with 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.

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 while being under control.

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. These horses 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. Please note 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 stock 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.

Scoring Stock Horse Pleasure – Each gait, including transitions, will be scored from 1-10 with ½ points applicable. There will be 5 scores in each direction for a total of 10 scores and a maximum of 100 points for each horse's work. The scoring guide for each maneuver, including transitions, is as follows:

- 1-4 Points–Major faults – wrong lead, broken gait, lack of control, failure to perform requested gait, etc.
- 5-8 Points–Average quality of movement of gaits and transitions with some or no faults
- 9-10 Points–High quality mover that is functionally correct in all gaits and transitions well-mannered and responsive, soft and cadenced in all gaits.