

Salt Water Show Series

Rule Book 2024

This is the 2024 Calendar Show year rulebook we are providing as a set of guidelines to follow as you prepare for our shows. These are meant as a basis for training and preparation for the various disciplines, including such items as appropriate tack, movement, execution, and behavior during Open Shows and events with the Salt Water Show Series.

These rules and regulations are failovers to the show Judges' call and are incorporated from nationally recognized organizations such as: 4-H, United States Dressage Federation, Western Dressage Association of America, American Quarter Horse Association, Friends of Found Horses, and United States Equestrian Federation.



Contents

General Rules

Divisions

Eligibility

Membership

Entry Requirements

Points

Championship Requirements

Show Procedures

Tack

Conformation Classes

Showmanship/Ground Handling

Western Division

Pleasure

Horsemanship

Ranch

Ranch Riding

Ranch Trail

Gaited

Equitation

Favorite Gait

English

Hunter Under Saddle

Hunt Seat Equitation

Over Fences

Handy Hunter

Jumper

Specialty Classes

GENERAL RULES

Judge's decision final.

No unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated towards individuals or horses at any time.

No coaching from rail or outside of ring at any time during classes.

DQ for illegal tack, handholds, and other specific discipline rules.

Parents/Grandparent Leadline handlers must be 10 years old older. Proceeds from this class will go to various scholarship programs.

Command Class is open to ALL riders BUT the call to canter/lope may be used to determine a winner.

Arabian classes are open to all Arabians and Half Arabians.

No cross entering from Lead Line to Walk/Walk.

No cross entering from Walk/Walk to Walk/Trot.

No cross entering from Walk/Trot into -Walk/Trot/Canter.

Any entry participating in Jumper classes will be limited to W/T/C and W/J/L classes. Crossrails, when offered, will be considered WT/WJ classes. There will be no cross entering allowed from Jumpers to WT/WJ classes and vice-versa.

Exhibitors in any Lope or Canter classes will be limited to W/G/L classes if also entering Gaited classes. Exhibitors in any W/T or W/J classes will be limited to either 2-Gait or 3-Gait classes. 3 Gait is not the same as a Lope or Canter.

In order to qualify for division High Point you MUST declare on your entry.

All Jackpot Classes have at least 75% payout to winner unless otherwise indicated.

Classes less than 3 entries may be combined but judged separately

Divisions may be combined based on entries

Points may be based on averages depending on class/division

Exhibitors are responsible for declaring the correct class to the Trail Judge. Judge does may not have access to the complete or updated class list for the entire day, know your age and abilities, or other information to correct the class number you provide. Failure to declare the correct class may result in lowered score, disqualification for being off pattern, and/or losing a required class for highpoint.

Management reserves the right to limit the number of classes an exhibitor/horse enters in situations of extreme heat and other concerns for the health of both the exhibitor and horse.

DIVISIONS

Polliwogs are ages 8 and under as of January 1 or the current year not participating in the other Beginner Divisions (Guppies/Snappers). This division covers both English and Western classes and does not have its own division highpoint awards. Specifically designed for the young children needing ring and show experience. There is no cross entering in **Polliwog** (8 and under) and **Guppies/Snappers** (10 and under) classes and divisions.

Beginners are 10 and under as of January 1 of the current year and are considered as WALK/WALK or WALK/TROT-JOG unless approved by management to move up into Junior Divisions. Once in considered Junior they may not move back down into Beginner. There is no cross entering in **Polliwog** (8 and under) and **Guppies/Snappers** (10 and under) classes and divisions.

Beginner Divisions are **Guppies** -English and **Snappers**- Western

Juniors are 11-17 as of January 1 of the current have the option of competing in WALK/TROT-JOG or WALK/TROT-JOG/CANTER-LOPE.

Great Whites - English 11-17 years old as of January 1 of current year.

Swordfish - Western 11-17 years old as of January 1 of current year.

Conch Shells - English 18 years old as of January 1 of current year.

Killer Whales - Western 18 years old as of January 1 of current year.

Green Horse/Rider – Horse and/or rider in first year of showing. Not eligible for any other division.

Classes – 11-17 WT/WJ and WTC/WJL, 18 and Up WT/WJ and WTC/WJL

-Showmanship

-Equitation/Horsemanship

-Pleasure

-Trail In Hand and Under Saddle

Seahorse is designed for riders with special needs that require side walkers or headers

English Classes

-Walk/Walk Pleasure Side Walker

-Walk/Walk Equitation Side Walker

-Walk/Walk Trail Side Walker

Or

-Walk/Walk Pleasure Header

-Walk/Walk Equitation Header

-Walk/Walk Trail Header

Seahorse Rules

-Side Walker/Header must be 18 or older

-Open to riders of all ages

-Properly appointed tack

-covered stirrups optional

-Trail may include:

-walk over poles

-wave cones

-halt

-bridge

-Pleasure class judged on movement

Western Classes

Walk/Walk Pleasure Side Walker

-Walk/Walk Equitation Side Walker

-Walk/Walk Trail Side Walker

Or

-Walk/Walk Pleasure Header

-Walk/Walk Equitation Header

-Walk/Walk Trail Header

-Equitation/Horsemanship class judged on rider's abilities

-may include simple patter

-Circle

-track left

-track right

-halt

-may be judged on the rail

-Not for "Lead line" riders

Starfish is designed for the horse who is not exhibited under saddle during the show/year. For horses that need experience in the ring or will not be ridden by any exhibitor.

English and Western Classes

-Show in Halter (Mare/Gelding)

- Place in Longe Line Showmanship
- Place In Longe Line
- Place in Specialty Trail

Starfish Rules

- Open to handlers over the age of 10
- Horses of all ages
- Must not ride said horse at ANY SWSS event
- Longe Line Showmanship
 - may have obstacles like poles, etc.
 - may include longing
- Longe Line
 - Flat halter, no shank
 - one lap WTW
 - line between 15' and 20' – no exceptions
- Trail rope western is legal, Flat, no shank.

ELIGIBILITY

“Horses” eligible are horses, ponies, miniatures, mules and donkeys.

Per horse industry standard, a horse’s birth date will be considered January 1 of its foaling year, regardless of its actual foaling date. Therefore, age of a horse is as of January 1 of the current year.

Research has shown that health complications such as heat stress, stress of traveling, and showing can be exacerbated at low body condition scores. Due to concerns for animal welfare and in the spirit of true horsemanship, horses, ponies, miniatures, mules and donkeys shall not be shown with a body condition score of less than 4 based on the Henneke scale (ribs easily discernible, tops of spinous process easily discernible, tailhead prominent with hook bones easily discernible, withers accentuated, and neck obviously thin). If you have questions about the body condition score of your horse, please contact show management.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Online entries will open 30 days before the date of show. Pre entry will **close** the WEDNESDAY before the show date. If registering online and paying day of show you will NOT be eligible for any discounts or promotions. Stall requests must be paid in advance to guarantee stall. If not paid management cannot guarantee availability. Stalls are first come, first serve. No refunds will be granted for scratches with the exception that a partial refund (1/2 of regular class entry fees only) may be made upon receipt of a doctor’s or veterinarians excuse.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, parents, or trainer to check horse show entries to assure they are correctly filled out, especially the names and numbers of the classes entered AND Coggins accession numbers be in online OR on paper entry day of show.

Waivers for those under 18 are to be signed by parents or legal guardians - NOT trainers.

No class may be added and no class changes at the gate. All adds/scratches must be done at the office day of show using the Add/Scratch slips provided. Any online entry changes must be made via email .

Management reserves the right to limit the number of classes an exhibitor may enter due to weather conditions, condition of horse/rider and at the judge's discretion. If management does limit, exhibitor is entitled a refund of no more than half the class fees provided the spirit of true horsemanship is present in the exhibitor.

Stallions ARE permitted but can only be shown by competent individuals over the age of 18.

All horses should be properly immunized under the supervision of a veterinarian before coming to ANY show. Vaccines should be administered far enough in advance for adequate immunity to be developed (approximately 30 or more days for most vaccines). Horses should be vaccinated against Equine Encephalomyelitis (Eastern, E.E.E. and Western, W.E.E.), tetanus, influenza, West Nile, and in some cases rhinopneumonitis. Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test must be negative and current (within the past 12 months) at the time of the show. Papers must be presented along with horse to appointed show staff inspecting same before horse will be allowed to compete or possibly enter show grounds. Horse's name on both Coggins papers and entry form, as well as registration papers if applicable, must be the same. Coggins paper may be original, photocopy, or digital copy.

POINTS

Points are given on a scale of 6 points to 1 point regardless of the number of entries

First Place	6 points
Second Place	5 points
Third Place	4 points
Fourth Place	3 points
Fifth Place	2 points
Sixth Place	1 point

NP Classes are Non-Pointed meaning they do not count toward division points or end of year points.

In the event of a tie, the highest score on the THIRD obstacle in trail will be the winner.

SHOW PROCEDURES

1. Show management reserves the right to alter or modify any class procedures, obstacles, patterns, or rules in this book for safety concerns, show facility restrictions, or other mitigating circumstances.
2. Show management reserves the right to refuse an exhibitor entry into any class or event if they deem that entry unsafe for the exhibitor and/or other exhibitors or animals. With the exhibitor's safety in mind, any activity or situation deemed unsafe can and will be stopped by show management and may result in disqualification from that class.
3. ***The P.A. system is used to help the show move as smoothly as possible but is only a courtesy. It is the responsibility of the exhibitors to know when they are required to be in the holding area or arena. Not hearing or understanding gate calls, etc. is NOT an excuse for missing one's order of go or class.***
4. The judge's decision shall be final and may not be protested.
5. EVERYONE regardless of exhibitor/spectator under the age of 18 are required to wear an SEI* or SEI/ASTM* approved safety equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness at all times WHILE MOUNTED for any length of time. Additionally, appropriate footwear and approved helmets must be worn. This pertains to the entire show grounds from the time of arrival until departure. Failure to comply may result in disqualification (SEI - Safety Equipment Institute, ASTM - American Society of Testing and Measures). It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, the parent or guardian, or trainer of the exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrians' use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Salt Water Show Series management and officials are not responsible for checking appropriateness of headgear worn. The Salt Water Show Series management and officials make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear because all equestrian sports involve inherently dangerous risks, and no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.
6. **CORRECT** Salt Water Show Series issued exhibitors numbers shall be worn on the exhibitor's back or attached to the saddle pad. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from a given class.
7. Management reserves the right to stop or cancel a class in progress due to storm, accident, or other emergency (Ex: lightning storm).
8. No horse or rider shall be assisted beyond the plane of the arena gate. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. I.e., No coaching from the sidelines by a parent, trainer, coach etc.
9. When an exhibitor or another person on behalf of an exhibitor is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or misbehavior while on the show grounds, management may suspend such exhibitor's right to participate in future classes and/or shows as deemed appropriate. No refund will be given if ejected from showgrounds.

10. An official of the show may check the appointments of any horse/rider combination throughout the duration of the show. It is the responsibility of the contestant to comply with all and regulations.

11. The judge, at his discretion, may disqualify an exhibitor for inappropriate appointments or equipment.

12. In concern for humane treatment of the horse, the judge, at his discretion, has the authority to excuse any horse from a class which is obviously lame. Obvious lameness is- consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances; marked nodding, hitching, or shortened stride; minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move. Noting that some gaited horses exhibit a "head bob" consistent with the bio mechanics of their natural gait.

13. The judge or designated show officials have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in their opinion, is unsafe, tends to give unfair advantage, or is deemed inhumane. Inhumane treatment of a horse identified by the show committee at any time on the show grounds may result in disqualification, dismissal, and suspension from further participation in classes subject to approval of show management. Any horse receiving inhumane treatment while exhibiting may be dismissed upon the discretion of the judge or show official appointed by the show management. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which the show management committee rules a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane in accordance with AQHA and USEF

14. Striking a horse in front of the cinch with anything other than the open hand is a disqualification. Striking the horse with anything, including hand, in front of the throatlatch is a disqualification.

15. Chemical stimulants, depressants, and caustic agents are prohibited and can result in disqualification. All horses are subject to drug testing by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture whose rules will apply.

16. While performing in a class, if a horse steps one or more feet out of bounds or out of the arena, that entry is disqualified.

17. Fall to ground by horse or rider during competition and while being judged or timed will result in disqualification.

18. Upon dismissal by the judge or other show official, horse/rider must leave the arena immediately.

19. Ponies may be measured on the day of the show at time and place designated by the show staff. If they do not meet the height restrictions, they will be allowed to enter the proper class. If the animal has shoes and/or pads on, the thickness of these should be subtracted from the height of the animal.

20. If shod, horses in all classes must be plain shod and will be allowed a maximum thickness of 1" of wedge or pad or combination of both. USDA rules will supersede this rule if they are more stringent. Excessive length of hooves is discouraged and may be penalized.

21. In all pleasure and pleasure-type classes any portion of a class or heat may be placed on the rail for extra work by the judge at any time.

22. In Showmanship, Western Horsemanship, English Equitation, Gaited Equitation, Hunt Seat Equitation, individual patterns may be completed prior to rail work. Judging emphasis will be on pattern work, execution, and demonstrated horsemanship/equitation. Ties or close scores may be broken on rail work.

23. For any judged class in which a pattern or course is utilized, the judge or show management shall post any patterns to be worked at least on one hour prior to the commencement of the class. Individual patterns printed on paper will not be provided. Exhibitors are responsible for securing their own copy via cell phone picture or download when/if available. **Posting patterns online prior to show is a PRIVILEGE.** Harassing show staff about patterns may lead to disqualification. If the judge requires additional work of exhibitors for consideration of final placing, the pattern will not be posted.

24. Exhibitors are responsible for declaring the correct class to the Trail Judge. Judge does may not have access to the complete or updated class list for the entire day, know your age and abilities, or other information to correct the class number you provide. Failure to declare the correct class may result in lowered score, disqualification for being off pattern, and/or losing a required class for highpoint.

TACK

Bits- 4H rules apply

No Bareback pads

Treeless are permitted

CONFORMATION CLASSES

1. Personal appearance of the exhibitor: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division. An SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required in all mounted classes and suggested for in hand.

2. Horses are judged on conformation, condition, heritable defects, soundness, and way of going at discretion of judge.

3. Horses should enter the appropriate conformation class for their body type

4. Horses will be judged individually while standing, at a walk, and a trot (or natural gait1) on the line.

5. Horses may be shown in halters made of leather, rope, or other suitable material. (In English classes horse may be shown in halter or bridle.)

6. Lead shank/bridle reins must always be carried in both hands and the lead shank/bridle reins must not be wrapped around the right hand. It is acceptable to either figure-8 or loose coil the excess lead shank/bridle reins in the left hand.
7. When showing with halter and lead with a chain, the chain may be under the horse's chin, or passed through the bottom, center ring of the halter and folded back on itself. No chain may be in the horse's mouth or over the nose.
8. Whips, crops, or bats of any type are only permitted in Sport Horse in Hand and Arabian/Half Arabian.
9. During a class, horses will be handled and shown by ONE exhibitor.
10. Horses should enter the ring as specified by the official. Subsequent procedures will be as directed by judge and/or ring steward.

SHOWMANSHIP/GROUND HANDLING

1. Showmanship and Ground Handling classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. These are performance classes designed to test the exhibitor's horsemanship while working from the ground.
2. Showmanship is the appropriate class for the Western, English, and Gaited Divisions, while Ground Handling is the appropriate class for the Ranch Division.
3. Club member and equipment:
 - A. Personal appearance of the exhibitor: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division.
 - B. Equipment is to be clean and properly adjusted:
 1. English: Hunter bridle or halter.
 2. Saddle Seat: Halter or bridle (full, Pelham, curb or snaffle).
 3. Western: Halters only. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters.
 4. Ranch: Halters only. Halters and leads may be rope, nylon, or plain leather (no silver). Lead ropes may not have chain.
 5. Lead shank/bridle reins must always be carried in both hands and the lead

shank/bridle reins must not be wrapped around either hand. It is acceptable to either figure-8 or loose coil the excess lead shank/bridle reins in the left hand.

6. When showing with halter and lead with a chain, the chain may be under the horse's chin, or passed through the bottom, center ring of the halter and folded back on itself. No chain may be in the horse's mouth or over the nose.

7. No whips, crops, or bats are permitted.

4. Method of showing:

A. Walk, trot (or natural gait) turn, stop, back, and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward.

B. Lead from the left side of your horse, unless otherwise instructed. When showing your horse, travel by his side – never directly in front. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head, and body in a straight line and maintain precise control.

C. Show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials.

D. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.

E. Run by the left side of your horse when you are showing him at the trot (or natural gait)

F. When a particular show ring procedure being used by a judge requires horses to be reversed, they should be turned to the right. Turn in as small a space as possible and attempt to keep the horse's hind feet planted in one place while turning.

G. Keep your horse posed at all times and know where the judge is and what he/she wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of the horse. You cannot change your horse's type and conformation, but you can improve his style and appearance. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse to its best advantage.

H. Keep your proper position in line and allow reasonable space (at least six feet) between your horse and the other horses. Never let your horse interfere with another horse.

I. Be alert when leading in a circle – observe the horse in front of you; bumping this horse from the rear is a serious fault in showmanship and very unsafe.

J. If asked to change positions in the line, back your horse out of the line and approach the new position from behind. Space horses adequately.

K. Move easily, quietly, and with confidence when showing your horse. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions, and demonstrate good horsemanship at all times.

WESTERN DIVISION

PERSONAL: Clothing must be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves or be appropriate show attire (i.e. polos, slinkies, band collars, turtlenecks). Spurs, chaps, and similar equipment are optional. All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class

TACK: Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle; silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Martingales, tie-downs, nose bands, or draw reins are prohibited. Carrying of a rope is optional. A judge or show official shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in his opinion is unsafe, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Horses to be shown at a walk, jog, and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

A. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk, jog, or lope, one or both ways of the ring. The judge may ask all or just the finalists to extend at the jog; however, never more than 10 horses at a time may be asked to extend at the lope. Riders should sit at the extended jog. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

B. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

C. Judge may ask additional work of the same nature from any horse. He is not to ask for work other than that listed above.

D. Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event judge wishes to check equipment.

2. The judge may ask that only finalists be backed.

3. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse at the discretion of the judge.

4. Reins shall be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance, unless a horse or pony, five years of age or younger, is being shown in either a snaffle bit or bosal. If showing with one hand on the reins, the free hand shall not be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle.

5. Contestants must use split reins or romal – roping reins are not permitted. Only one finger between reins is permissible.
6. A good pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion. He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level with his nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but still have light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing balanced and willing horse which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

1. General:

A. Riders will be judged on basic position in saddle; position and use of hands, legs, and feet; ability to control and show horse; and suitability of horse to rider.

B. Scores on individual work will be based on rider's skills and execution of the pattern.

2. Seat, Position of Hands, Legs, and Feet:

A. Basic position: Sit erect, seat deep in the saddle with your body balanced and relaxed. There should be a straight line from the point of the shoulder, through the hip to the heel. The leg should maintain light contact with the horse's body through the inside thigh and upper half of the calf. The foot should be straight ahead or toed out slightly in a natural position with weight on the ball of the foot and the heel lower than the toe. B. Arms and Hands: Arms and hands should be held in an easy, relaxed manner. Upper arms are held in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining, and hands shall not be changed on reins. Hand is to be around reins, with one finger permitted between split reins. Both hands may be used on the reins if showing a horse or pony, five years of age or younger, in either a snaffle bit or bosal. Reins are to be carried immediately above, to slightly in front of, saddle horn. Reins should be gathered so that light contact in the horse's mouth is maintained. Free arm should be bent at the elbow and held close to, but not touching, the body.

3. Position in Motion:

A. The rider's body should be in rhythm and balance with the action of the horse, helping the horse move easily, but never interfering by being behind the action. The rider's seat will shift at the various gaits so the body is placed in balance with the action of the horse.

B. Walk: The rider's body is to remain balanced and flexes at the waist with the movement.

C. Jog-trot: The trot is ridden western style (no posting) with rider's body deep in the saddle, but with enough weight on the ankles to absorb the motion.

D. Lope: The rider sits deep in the saddle. The hands should be relaxed to allow for rhythm with the movement of the horse's head. The legs should be in close contact with the saddle and horse.

4. Class Routine:

A. Each rider will individually perform a given pattern which may be composed from the following optional list of tests. The judge will score each rider on his/her individual skills and execution of the pattern.

1. Perform gaits in straight lines, curves, circles, or any combination to create additional shapes.

2. Stop.

3. Back straight, in an "L" or circle.

4. 360 degree turn or spin.

5. Pivot, both ways.

6. Turns of varying degrees: 90, 180, 270, 360, etc.

7. Rollbacks.

8. Lope circles of varying size and speed.

9. Pickup leads from standstill, walk, or trot.

10. Simple lead changes in a circle.

11. Simple lead changes on a straight away.

12. Side pass.

13. Extended gaits.

14. SR only – Flying lead changes.

RANCH

HORSE ELIGIBILITY: Ranch Division is open to ALL breeds. The judges will make notes and amend pattern for gaited horses at his discretion.

APPOINTMENTS: Hoof polish, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, and trimming inside ears are strongly discouraged.

PERSONAL: Clothing must be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and long sleeves or be appropriate show attire. Spurs, chaps, gloves (leather or fabric) and similar equipment are optional.

TACK: Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle. Roping reins or reins with romal are permitted. Martingales, tie-downs, nose bands, or draw reins are prohibited. Carrying of a rope on your saddle is preferred. Horses may wear protective boots only in Ranch Reining and Working Cow Horse. A judge or show official shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in his opinion is unsafe, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty.

RANCH RIDING

Ranch Riding serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride at a working speed while being used as a means of conveyance from one western stock horse task to another.

1. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be responsive to the rider, yield to contact, and make all required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be obedient, well-mannered, free, and easy moving.

2. Class consists of pattern work which is ridden individually. For each maneuver, the horse is judged on quality of gaits, response to the rider, manners, and disposition.

Maneuvers may include:

- A. Walk, trot, and lope both directions.
- B. Extended trot and extended lope at least one direction.
- C. Stop and back from any gait.
- D. Side pass.

E. Turns on the hindquarters of up to 2½ turns.

F. Turns on the forehand of up to 180°.

G. Change of lead (simple or flying).

H. Walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s).

3. A horse will be given credit for traveling with his head held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. Excessively long floppy reins will be penalized.

4. All transitions should be smooth without undue exaggeration or resistance from the horse.

5. Use of hands: Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed. Reins may be held in any manner. Two hands may be used when using a snaffle bit or bosal.

6. The judge or show management will select which Ranch Riding pattern will be used. The class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena.

7. To break ties or to resolve close placings, the judge, at his/her discretion, may require designated contestants to work on the rail or repeat any portion of the pattern.

8. Description of Ideal Gaits – The ideal ranch riding horse will have a natural head carriage at each gait – neither too high nor too low.

A. Walk – The walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed with the horse moving out freely and looking ahead.

B. 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.

C. 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 could hold this gait for an extended distance.

D. Natural Gait and Extended Natural Gait – Non-trotting horses should perform their natural gait where a jog/trot is indicated and show a distinctive difference in speed of that gait where an extended jog/trot is asked. The natural gait should be smooth and appear effortless for riding long distances.

E. Lope – This gait should be a three-beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances

F. Extended Lope – The extended lope 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 maintaining the increased speed while being under control.

G. Stop (from both lope and trot) – The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters.

H. Reverse and Turns – A horse should turn briskly and flat with front feet close to the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot.

I. Turn on the forehand – Hind end should move around with minimal movement of the front feet.

J. Sidepass – a smooth, fluid sideways movement with a clean cross-over in front and behind. K. The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. 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.

RANCH TRAIL

1. This class is designed to show the horse's ability to navigate and cope with the various situations and obstacles encountered in everyday ranch work. It is designed to show a horse's ability to perform these obstacles with a willing attitude. The horse is judged on cleanness 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.

2. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles should be used. The course can be laid outside of the arena using natural terrain. However, if a ground tie is specified in the course, the course must be set up in an enclosed arena.

3. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable prior to the start of the class. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.

4. At least two or three obstacles will be designated as tie breakers and shall be selected prior to the beginning of the competition. One of the mandatory obstacles should be used as the first tie breaker.

5. Tack and Equipment notes:

A. Roping gloves may be worn for the duration of the class or may be worn only for the roping and log drag obstacles.

B. Roping reins or reins with romal are permitted but must be used with a snap attachment if a ground tie is in the course.

6. Use of hands: Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed, except to work with an obstacle. Reins may be held in any manner. Two hands may be used when using a snaffle bit or bosal on a horse or pony 5 years of age or younger.

7. The horse will be shown at a ground-covering walk, trot (or natural gait), and lope between the obstacles and credit will be given for performing these gaits on the correct lead with an alert attitude. The walk may be judged as part of an obstacle. Gaits between obstacles will be scored as part of the next obstacle.

8. Extending the trot or natural gait may also be asked. The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at this gait, as might be done in open terrain.

9. The judge may ask a rider to move on to the next obstacle if the horse/rider is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable time or if the judge deems that the rider is, or will be, in an unsafe situation. The judge may also ask the rider to move on after a third refusal at an obstacle.

10. A rider may elect to skip an obstacle without disqualification. He/she may do so with the judge assigning a penalty.

11. No additional credit will be given for unnecessary/additional maneuvers (such as sidepassing to and from an obstacle).

12. Judges shall continue to score the entirety of all rides even in the event that a composite score of zero will be given (DQ). After the ride is complete, the judge shall designate on the score card that a total score of zero was given.

GAITED DIVISION

*Exhibitors in any Lope or Canter classes will need to enter W/G/L Gaited classes. Exhibitors in any W/T or W/J classes will need to enter either 2-Gait or 3-Gait classes. 3 Gait is not the same as a Lope or Canter.

APPOINTMENTS: Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate attire (informal or formal). Spurs, whips less than 36" including lash are optional. Long whips (over 3 feet in length) are prohibited.

Gaited: Personal appointments should coincide with the style of riding chosen. Appropriate breed specific attire (not costume) may be worn as long as heeled boots are worn (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable).

TACK: No figure 8, flash, or drop nose bands are allowed. Draw reins, martingales and similar equipment are all prohibited. Set tails, boots and/or artificial appliances including chains and rollers (pertaining to legs) are prohibited. Tack should coincide with the style of riding chosen. No mixing of disciplines. Additionally, appropriate breed specific tack may be used if they meet the specifics and requirements of the style of riding.

1. Class will be judged on manners, suitability, and performance of horse at the discretion of the judge. Conformation of the horse may be considered in situations only of extremely close performance.
2. Horses are shown at a walk, trot or natural gait as appropriate for breed, and canter or third gait both ways of the ring with light contact being maintained with the horse's mouth. Extreme highly animated action is not desired.
3. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.
4. Judge has option to ask exhibitor to extend any gait or request any additional work.
5. Horses are to be reversed at a walk or trot but not at the canter.
6. Entries shall be penalized for being on wrong leads, excessive speed and/or breaking gaits.

GAITED EQUITATION

1. General:

A. Judges should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time.

B. Rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, rider should show himself to the best advantage. Ring generalship shall be taken into consideration by the judge. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

C. Riders will be judged on basic position in the saddle, position and use of hands, legs and feet, ability to control and show horse, and suitability of horse to rider.

D. Results, as shown by the performance of the horse, are not to be considered more important than the methods used by rider to obtain those results.

2. Seat – Position of Hands, Legs, and Feet:

A. Basic Position: To obtain proper position, rider should be placed comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position, adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole. Lower legs and feet should be reasonably close but not in contact with horse, except when applying aids.

B. Hands: Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability, and control. The height at which the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional, except that both hands shall be used, and reins must be picked up at one time. Western riders showing in shanked bits may use split reins with one or two hands. The fingers should be closed firmly over the reins, but not rigid. Pressure between the thumb and index fingers is used to secure. Western riders using a snaffle bit (horse 5 years of age or younger) must use split reins, with reins crossed over the horse's neck.

C. Position in Motion: The position in motion should be a natural, coordinated and graceful, attained only with practice. From the side view a straight line can be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, neck, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be anymore forward than the knee, thereby keeping the center of balance directly above the feet and ankles. This basic recommended position should be maintained at all gaits.

3. Class Routine:

A. Each rider will individually perform a given pattern within a set time period. The pattern may be composed of any combination of maneuvers listed in the optional list of tests for each class. Failure to execute or complete pattern will not be disqualification but will be scored accordingly.

B. The judge will use these individual work scores to determine the top riders which may be requested to perform additional individual work or rail work.

C. Finalists (or all riders if the class is small) will be required to work on the rail at each gait in at least one direction to determine final placings. Any or all riders may be requested to perform additional work or tests.

D. Tests will be performed individually at the judge's discretion and may include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Perform gaits in straight lines, curves, circles, or any combination to create additional shapes.

(2) Address the reins.

(3) Back for not more than eight steps.

(4) Circles of various size and/or speed.

(5) Figure 8 at the natural gait.

(6) Figure 8 at canter on correct lead demonstrating a simple change of leads. A simple change of leads is one in which the horse is brought back into a walk or trot before being restarted in a canter on the opposite lead.) Figures should be started at the center of the two circles so that one change of lead is shown. Gaited horses may perform their natural third gait or a canter.

(7) Execute a serpentine at a gait and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead.

(8) Change leads down the center of the ring or on the rail demonstrating simple lead change.

(9) Drop and regain stirrups and/or ride without stirrups for a brief period of time at a halt, walk, or gait.

(10) Individual performance on rail: Any or all gaits and test may be required. See rider in motion from both front and rear at all gaits.

FAVORITE GAIT

Favorite Gait 2 Gait is ridden as Flat Walk, Favorite Gait

Favorite Gait 3 Gait is ridden as Flat Walk, Intermediate Gait and Favorite Gait.

Once favorite gait is called, horse must be ridden at that gait of choice for the remainder of the class when "favorite gait" is called.

ENGLISH

APPOINTMENTS: PERSONAL: All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every mounted class. Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate for English classes. Rider must wear coat (unless coats are called then polos or

shirts with collars and sleeves), boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable), and breeches. Unroweled spurs measuring no longer than one inch (where rowel is defined as a flat disc with or without points), gloves, crops, or bats are optional (no whips except in Dressage classes). When riding over fences a crop may be used on the horse's shoulder. Under no conditions may the rider strike the horse with the crop in front of the shoulder. Gloves are preferred in the equitation and dressage classes.

TACK: Clean English forward, hunting, or dressage type saddles. Saddles may have suede seat and/or suede inserts on the skirts. Iron or stirrup leather may not be connected to the girth by string or any other material. All bridles must have a cavesson nosebands and plain leather browbands. Pelham bridles must have two sets of reins attached (pelham connectors not allowed). Breast plates are optional. Standing martingales are optional in over fence classes (Working Hunter, Equitation Over Fences, Handy Hunter, and Jumping). Martingales are not allowed in any under saddle flat classes. Draw reins and hackamores are not permitted. No boots below the fetlock will be permitted in any class. Boots confined to the cannon area will be permitted only in equitation over fences classes. No figure 8, flash, or drop nose bands allowed in English Pleasure Classes.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

1. The class will be judged on the horse's way of going, manners, and suitability. Conformation of the horse may only be considered in extremely close competition.
2. Horses enter the ring at a trot and are shown on the flat at a walk, trot, and canter while maintaining light contact with the horse's mouth. They may also be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk, trot or canter, one or both ways of the ring. An extension is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a slight increase of pace while exerting less effort and appears smooth to ride.
3. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads.
4. The judge may ask finalists for a hand gallop but never more than a safe number of horses to gallop at one time.
5. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may ask that only the finalist be backed.

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

1. The rider's performance and skills are being judged in this class. Rider's basic position in the saddle, position and use of hands, legs and feet, ability to control and show a horse, and suitability of horse to rider are important, but rider's skills and execution must be considered.

2. Riders will not be required to jump.

3. Position:

A. General Appearance: Rider should have workmanlike appearance, with light and supple seat and hands, which conveys the impression of complete control should any emergency arise.

B. Basic Position: Eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be out at angle best suited to rider's conformation; ankles flexed in, heels down, calf in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron may be either under the toe, ball of the foot, or slightly behind ball of the foot.

C. Position in Motion: At the walk and slow trot, body should be vertical; posting trot, inclined forward; canter, halfway between posting trot and walk; galloping and jumping, same inclination as posting trot.

D. Hands: Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical with hands making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Hands should not be held tightly together. Method of holding reins is optional and the bight of reins may fall on either side, but it is more acceptable for the bight of the reins to lie on the off side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time. The rider should maintain light contact with the horse's mouth at all times except when standing still.

E. Reins: The rein of a snaffle bridle may be held either outside the little finger or between the third and little finger. The snaffle rein of a pelham or full bridle should be held outside the little finger and curb rein between the third and little finger or between the second and third fingers. In either case, reins should be picked up at the buckles by the right hand, then straightened and separated in correct order by the fingers of the left hand, pulled taut, and adjusted to even pressure in both hands.

4. Each rider will individually perform a given pattern which may be composed from the optional list of tests below. The judge will score each rider on his/her individual skills and execution of the pattern. Failure to execute or complete the pattern will not be a disqualification but shall be scored accordingly.

A. Perform gaits in straight lines, curves, circles, or any combination to create additional shapes.

B. Execute a slow sitting trot, posting trot, and/or extended trot.

C. Back.

D. Walk from a gallop with the emphasis on hands.

E. Halt from a canter.

F. Dismount and mount.

G. Figure 8 at the trot demonstrating the proper change of diagonals. The rider should be on the left diagonal when trotting in a clockwise direction and on the right diagonal when circling counterclockwise. On the left diagonal, the rider will be sitting in the saddle when the horse's left front leg is on the ground. The rider is on the right diagonal when sitting in the saddle when the horse's right front leg is on the ground.

H. Figure 8 at canter demonstrating a simple change of leads. (A simple change of leads is one in which the horse is brought back into a walk or trot before being restarted in a canter on the opposite lead.) Figures should be started at the center of the two circles so that one change of lead is shown.

I. Ride without stirrups.

J. Demonstrate up to a half turn on the forehand from the walk or halt, and/or half turn on the haunches from a walk, not the halt.

K. SR only – Demonstrate a flying change of leads (change leads without slowing down to a walk or trot) as part of a figure 8 or other maneuver at a canter.

L. SR only – Maintain a counter-canter.

M. SR only – Demonstrate up to a full turn on forehand from the walk or halt, and/or full turn on the haunches from a walk, not the halt.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR OVER FENCE CLASSES

Fence Heights:

Crossrails are for WALK/TROT only and set at 18".

1. Fence Height ranges for Hunter, Handy Hunter and Equitation Over Fences will be the following:

A. Horses – 2' (min) to 3'0" (max)

B. Large ponies (over 13.2 hands - 14.2 hands) – 2' (min) to 2'6" (max)

C. Small/Medium ponies (13.2 hands and under) – 2'0" (min) to 2' 3" (max)

2. Fence Height for all entries in the Jr. Equitation Over Fences class will be: 2'0" (min) to 3' (max).

EQUITATION OVER FENCES

1. Rules for equitation over fences are the same as equitation on the flat, only the tests differ. Riders enter ring and perform a test over fences.

2. Except for refusals, jumping faults are not considered unless it is the result of the rider's ability.

3. The following will result in elimination: fall of horse and/or rider; three cumulative refusals, and/or off course.

4. The following constitute major faults and can be cause for elimination: a refusal, loss of stirrup, trotting while on course when not part of a test, and/or loss of reins.

5. After the class has individually completed the course, finalists may be asked to re-enter the ring and perform a series of tests or rail work to break ties and determine final placings. These tests may be the same as equitation on the flat with the addition of the following:

A. Jump low fences at walk, trot, or canter; depending on judge's discretion.

B. Pull up between fences except in combination.

C. Jump fences on a figure-of-eight course.

D. Jump serpentine course, demonstrating simple change of lead.

HANDY HUNTER

1. Horses will be judged on performance, manners, hunting pace, style of jumping, way of moving, and suitability for actual use on a trappy hunting field.

2. All horses must be serviceably sound. Horses must be judged on performance before being judged for soundness. Finalists will be jogged in hand past the judge for soundness in order of performance using the same bridle and bit as exhibited in. Any horse showing lameness, broken wind, or impairment of vision as determined by the judge will be disqualified.

3. Each horse will negotiate a course consisting of at least eight jumping efforts with a minimum of four obstacles. At least two changes of direction are required.

- A. One In and Out jump must be included in the course.
 - B. Horses are required to trot over one fence toward the end of the course.
 - C. Judging will start when the horse enters the arena and ends when the horse leaves the arena.
4. Management must provide at least two practice jumps in a warm up ring or area.
5. Judging-General:
- A. All classes must be judged on performance and soundness and when indicated, conformation, suitability or manners.
 - B. Judges must penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences, whether touched or untouched.
 - C. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible.
 - D. When a horse makes two faults at an obstacle, only the major fault on the top element will be scored (exception: refusals count in addition).
 - E. When an obstacle is composed of several elements in the same vertical plane, a fault at the top element is the only one penalized.
 - F. At an In and Out, the faults committed at each fence are considered separately.
 - G. Dismissed contestants will exit promptly.
6. Faults:
7. Minor or Major Faults-
- A. Showing an obstacle to a horse
 - B. Missing a lead change
 - C. Kicking out
 - D. Spooking
 - E. Jumping out of form
 - F. Jumping into corners of obstacle
8. Major Faults-
- A. Knock down of any part of an obstacle

- B. Refusals
- C. Trotting while on course when it is not specified
- D. Bucking
- E. Stopping for loss of shoe or broken equipment
- F. Circling while on course
- G. Dangerous jumping

9. Elimination-

- A. Three refusals
- B. Off course
- C. Jumping a fence before it is reset
- D. Bolting from the ring
- E. Fall of horse or rider

10. The following may or may not be considered as faults, depending on their severity and frequency:

- A. Light rubs
- B. Swapping leads in a line
- C. Late lead changes
- D. Excessive show of animation
- E. Adding or eliminating a stride in a line

JUMPING

*Starting 2021, any entry participating in Jumper classes will be limited to W/T/C and W/J/L classes. Crossrails, when offered, will be considered WT/WJ classes. There will be no cross entering allowed from Jumpers to WT/WJ classes and vice-versa.

APPOINTMENTS: Follow the Hunter Division appointments rules with the following differences:
PERSONAL: Coats are not required. Breeches of any color are permitted. Shirts (polo shirts are permitted) must have collars and sleeves (sleeves may be either long or short) and must be tucked into breeches. Boots are required. Half chaps are permitted as long as the color matches the paddock boots being worn.

TACK: Tack can include an ear bonnet and square show pad. Figure 8 nosebands and martingales (standing or running) are allowed.

1. Jumpers are scored and placed on a mathematical basis and penalty faults, which includes disobediences, falls and knock-downs.
2. Fences will be set at the required height indicated, within a two-inch variance.
3. Horses and ponies will compete in the same class at the same fence height.
4. Every course must contain a minimum of four to ten jumping efforts with the exception of the Jump-off Course.
5. Both a starting line at least 12 feet in front of the first obstacle and a finish line. Time shall be taken from the instant the horse's chest reaches the starting line until it reaches the finish line. Time shall be taken out while a knocked down jump is being replaced - that is, from the moment the rider gets his mount in a position to retake the jump until the proper authority signals that the jump has been replaced. It shall be the rider's responsibility to be ready to continue the course when the signal is given.
6. Points Not Covered in Rules: Judges have the authority to make decisions on any point not covered in the rules applying to class procedures, scoring, and conduct affecting a class under their jurisdiction.
7. Class Procedure
 - A. Class will be scored as written in Table II, section 2(b) of the USEF Rules for Jumpers.
 - C. All class entries will participate over the posted course.
8. Jumper Course
 - A. Obstacles for jumping competitions may consist of any of the following: verticals, oxers, triple bars, combinations, water jumps; as well as variations such as liverpools, fans, etc.
9. Scoring
 - A. See USEF TABLE III Jumpers
 - B. The horse must cross the start line between the markers in the proper direction with the rider mounted. Passing through the starting markers in the improper direction before starting does not incur penalty.

C. The horse must cross the finish line between the markers in the proper direction and with the rider mounted.

D. The horse must jump all of the required fences between the start and finish markers.

11. Entering the Arena: Failure to enter the arena within one minute of being called incurs elimination. The time limit for entering the ring must be enforced by management. Management may extend the time limit for entering the ring.

SPECIALTY CLASSES

Freestyle Riding Class is designed to showcase the rider's connection with their horse under saddle to music.

A. Tack- Any safe saddle, bridle, halter or bareback and bridleless is accepted provided the exhibitor is safe and skilled in the execution.

B. Music- MUST be sent in MP3 format via email for approval. Management has the right to veto music choice based on content and edit for length. Song can be no more than four minute, thirty seconds long.

C. Any props must be reviewed and approved beforehand.

D. Class is scored on the rider's communication with the horse and the ability to showcase the horse's movement using the rider's choice of music to tie the partnership together.

Bareback Equitation Class

A. Tack- no bareback pads, correct bridle

B. Class is judged on the rider's ability to execute a pattern bareback. Riders will be polled to devise whether the class will be a canter/lope class. If riders are not comfortable at speed it will be a trot/jog class.

C. Riders may be asked to extend the trot/jog.

Jack Benny/ Gracie Allen

- A. Class is a Non-Pointed
- B. Open to riders over the age of 40.

Gold Equitation/Horsemanship

- A. Class is Non-Pointed
- B. Open to Horses and Riders who have a COMBINED AGE of 50 years. (i.e. a 20 year old horse ridden by a 30 year old rider would qualify.)

Command

- A. Class is a Non-Pointed Class
- B. Ridden as a rail class.
- C. A series of directions are given. Riders follow directions and execute maneuvers as called. Riders are eliminated based on their ability to execute said commands in a timely manner. Last rider is winner.

Jackpot Classes

- A. Jackpot classes are non-pointed
- B. Jackpots have a 75% payout to winner in cash.
- C. Jackpot fees are nonrefundable if scratched.