

RESOLUTION 10 - 19

SUBJECT: Addition of Ranch Horse Trail (USEF/EC)

Amendment 1# (blue)

(STANDARD)

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 for submission requirements

Committee Action:

Committees required to review: (This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee) Approve Disapprove

Table with 4 columns: Committee Name, Approve, Disapprove, and an empty column. Rows include Amateur Committee, Competition Advisory Committee, Education/Evaluation Commission, Professional Horsemen Committee, Working Western Committee, and USEF Arabian Division Committee.

CONVENTION ACTION:

Approval options: Approved, Approved with Modification, Disapproved, Withdrawn, Referred to Committee

PROPOSED CHANGE: (Check one) Add new rule, Delete existing rule, Change existing text. Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) USEF Subchapter AR28

RESOLUTION: Use bold/italic for new wording, strikethrough to indicate deletion

- Whereas, The addition of Ranch Horse Riding has proven to be very popular in the Arabian industry; and
Whereas, The Ranch Horse grouping of classes has become very popular in the working western industry as a whole among the other breeds and there is a great interest for expansion of this division in the Arabian breed; and
Whereas, It is in the best interest of our breed and Association to facilitate classes that increase participation and marketability of Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses; and
Whereas, It is important to keep consistent with the stock breeds to keep our breed competitive; Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the USEF Rule Book be amended by inserting as a new Subchapter section AR-28 26 RANCH HORSE Trail and the remaining Subchapters be renumbered accordingly;

The ranch trail class should test the horses' 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. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR 142.

SCORING SYSTEM: Each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g. -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good and +1 1/2 excellent). Plusses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers.

- 1. The ranch trail course will include no less 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 can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must be at least 35 feet and scored with approaching obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and scored with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

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2. *When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it 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 arena 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 the class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.*

 3. *Judges must walk 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, non-negotiable, 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.*

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

 5. *Prohibited obstacles: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk-over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.*

 6. *Mandatory obstacles and/or maneuvers:*
 - a. *Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs). 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 to 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zig-zagged, 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 to 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.

 - b. *Opening, passing through, and closing a gate: Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing.*

 - c. *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.*

 - d. *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.*

 - e. *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.*

 - f. *Drag an object: For Open and Amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in Youth classes. Drag may be a complete figure-eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag.*

 7. *Optional obstacles:*
 - a. *A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 24 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.*

 - b. *A live or stuffed animal which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse.*

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

 - d. *Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.*

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

 - f. *Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.*

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

 - h. *Step in and out of obstacle.*

 - i. *Put on slicker or coat.*

 - j. *Stand to mount with mounting block.*

- 112 k. Walk through water obstacle.
 113 l. Open gate on foot.
 114 m. Pick up feet.
 115 n. Walk through brush.
 116 o. Ground tie (Hobbles are allowed)
 117 p. Lead at the trot.
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 119 8. At show management option the competition trail course may be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to
 120 the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for exhibitors
 121 are helpful and encouraged.
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 123 9. Credits and Penalties:
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 125 a. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time (such as two
 126 hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.). The rider has the option of eliminating
 127 any obstacle; however, this will result in being “off pattern” (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place
 128 above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after
 129 three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.
 130 b. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should
 131 receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the
 132 obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of
 133 movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Penalties are
 134 assessed as follows:
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 136 -One Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite, or stepping
 137 on a log, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2)
 138 strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing
 139 to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one or two steps
 140 on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.
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 142 -Three Point Penalties: Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk
 143 or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
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 145 -Five Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill
 146 fear/praise; knocking over, stepping out of, or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be
 147 carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
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 149 -Ten Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse’s tail is obvious and consistently carried in
 150 an unnatural manner in every maneuver) Off pattern; Third refusal; Failure to dally and remain dallied;
 151 Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate
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 153 Zero Score: Repeated blatant disobedience; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between
 154 romal reins; Use of two hands (except for junior horses 5 years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore).
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 156 ~~Off Pattern (OP): Breaking pattern; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and~~
 157 ~~remain dallied; use of two hands on the reins (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more~~
 158 ~~than one finger between split reins, or any fingers between romal reins; failure to open and shut gate, or~~
 159 ~~failure to complete gate. Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.~~
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 161 -Disqualification (DQ) No score: Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, illegal
 162 equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper Western attire; fall of horse/rider.
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 164 10. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
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 166 11. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
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 168 12. Hoof polish is discouraged.
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 170 13. It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be
 171 penalized.
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 173 14. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

