

ARABIAN RANCH HORSE RIDING NOTES - 2017

Each horse works individually, performing both required & optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of '0' to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. NOTE: rule changes coming in 2018 – ck for updated version

GENERAL

The purpose of Ranch Horse Riding should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse working outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. The 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. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR144.

A good Ranch Riding horse should be "willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely."

Scoring: 0 to 100 average score 70 +1 ½ to -1 ½ per maneuver, 0 being average. There is no time limit.

Patterns: Suggested patterns from the AHA website may be used. However, a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. It is recommended that a stop does not follow an extended lope.

Posting at the extended jog/trot and touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

Penalties:

a. One (1) point penalties:

1. Too slow/per gait
2. Over-bridled
3. Out of frame
4. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
5. Split leg at lope

b. Three (3) point penalties

1. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
2. Break of gait at lope
3. Wrong lead or out of lead
4. Draped reins

c. Five (5) point penalties

1. Blatant disobedience (kick, buck, bite, rear, etc.)
2. Eliminates maneuver
3. Incomplete maneuver

d. Zero (0) Score

1. Willful abuse
2. Major disobedience or schooling
3. Illegal use of fingers or hands on reins

Notes:

- No specific penalties for nicks/hits on logs/poles, but maneuver score deduction may be made.
- No specific penalties for over/under spins, but maneuver score deduction may be made.
- **Off Pattern is not a Zero (0) score.** A horse which eliminates or performs an incomplete maneuver shall place below horses performing all maneuvers.

Required maneuvers – walk, jog, and lope both directions, extended jog and extended lope going at least one direction, as well as stops and back.

Optional maneuvers – Three (3 or more) optional maneuvers may include side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change

of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over a pole(s); or some combination of maneuvers reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

- Recommendation: Walk overs 26"-30", Jog/trot overs 36"- 42"
- Judge to give final approval of maneuver arrangement.

Judging Thoughts and Considerations:

- **Pattern Placement** – The pattern should be run as close to the drawn/written description as possible. Deviations from such are deemed to be a fault and a deduction for each maneuver not properly placed should be made. Rider should make good utilization of the arena space without "riding the rail."
- **Transitions** – Not only should maneuvers and transitions be properly placed according to the pattern, but smooth and seamless transitions between maneuvers and from gait to gait should be rewarded. Conversely rough and awkward transitions should result in maneuver score deductions.
- **Way Of Going** – The overall cadence and performance of gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering, emphasis on forward movement. The overall frame and quality of gait or execution of the maneuver should be taken into account in conjunction with the individual conformation of the horse when considering the overall frame or way of going, as well as any "resistance" or "assistance" in maintaining such frame.

Gaits- In all gaits, movement of the Ranch Riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse, while maintaining a bright, attentive expression. *Overall cadence and performance of gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering for all gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.*

- **Walk** – Natural, flat footed, four beat gait. Rhythmic and ground covering.
- **Jog/Trot** – Natural two beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
- **Extended Trot** – An obvious lengthening of stride, with a definite increase of pace, as if covering a large area on a ranch.
- **Lope** – A true three beat gait, relaxed, smooth and natural.
- **Extended Lope** – While not a run, an obvious lengthening of stride, demonstrating a forward working speed.