

COTTON COUNTRY



OPEN HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

RULE BOOK 2026



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PURPOSE OF COTTON COUNTRY OPEN HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

The purpose of Cotton Country Open Horse Show Association is to provide a fun, educational, and competitive show for inexperienced and experienced, non-pro and pro alike, to enjoy showing their grade and registered horses.

MEMBERSHIP

Each exhibitor must be a member, but several options are available including Annual Individual, Annual Family, or a single Show Pass. You must be a paid Individual or Family member to qualify for Year End Awards or other member benefits like voting at General Membership meetings, attending free or low cost clinics, and invitation to ride nights. Youth have no voting privilege, but a parent of a youth (18 and under) may vote if a family membership is purchased. If an individual chooses to participate and does not want the member benefits mentioned above, a single Show Pass / Membership for a Day may be purchased and is valid only for that show or event.

SHOW REGISTRATION

In order to register, we will need a completed entry form for each horse, a signed membership form with the liability release, and a current Coggins (12 months or less); these forms are available on the website at ccohsa.com and social media. For online and early registration, online forms may be used in lieu of paper copies, or completed photos or digital PDFs may be emailed to ccohsa@outlook.com. **Onsite registration should be completed before 8:00am on show day, but early registration is highly encouraged to prevent the show from starting late.** Payment will be due the day of the show, and you may add or drop classes throughout the show day without penalty.

DIVISIONS OFFERED IN TRADITIONAL HORSE SHOW AND RANCH CLASSES:

AMATEUR (A) must not accept remunerations in the previous three years for riding, driving, showing, training, schooling, or conducting a seminar, clinic, given instruction in equitation or horse training or judging.

YOUTH (Y) must be 18 years or younger on January 1 of the current show year and meet Amateur eligibility criteria.

OPEN (O) any exhibitor is welcome to compete in this division, regardless of age or

remuneration.

LIMITED All Age WALK-TROT (L W/T) DIVISION This division is for competitors who wish to only compete at the walk/trot gaits. There will be no crossing divisions at shows, meaning this exhibitor/horse combination competing in L W/T may not compete in any other divisions (A, Y, O) at that show with the exception of Open walk/trot classes, such as Open English Walk/Trot, Open Western Walk/Trot, etc. The exhibitor IS eligible to ride *a different horse*, or the horse can be ridden by a *different rider* in the other divisions (A, Y, O) at the same show. However, to be eligible for L W/T High Point at the end of the year, you must show the same horse in the L W/T division for at least three shows of the season. In order to qualify for the L W/T High Point and Reserve Show High Point you must show in either an Amateur or Youth halter class and three (3) performance classes. **PATTERN CLASSES: the exhibitor will substitute an Extended Trot for the Lope in the patterns used for Traditional classes. However in the Ranch Classes, the exhibitor will substitute the word “trot” for “lope” in the patterns so that when a lope is called for, the exhibitor should perform a trot, and when the extended lope is called for, the exhibitor should perform the extended trot. GAITED HORSES: in place of the trot, gaited horses shall use their favorite gait other than a walk.**

EXHIBITOR CONDUCT

Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Cotton Country Open Horse Show Association when the exhibitor is guilty of the following:

1. Unsportsmanlike behavior or inhumane treatment of a horse.
2. Giving an uncollectible check to club.

AWARDS

RIBBONS

- A. Each class must be placed through the sixth horse. Ribbons will be given for first through sixth places.
- B. The following schedule of ribbons will be used for the CCOHSA shows and contests:

1st place -----	Blue
2nd place -----	Red
3rd place -----	Yellow
4th place -----	White
5th place-----	Pink
6th place-----	Green

Traditional All-Around Show High Point (Y, A, O, L W/T) ---- Purple & White
Traditional Reserve All-Around Show High Point (Y, A, O, L W/T) ---- White & Purple

Ranch Show All-Around High Point (Y, A, O, L W/T) -- Teal & Brown
Reserve Ranch Show All-Around High Point (Y, A, O, L W/T) ---- Brown & Teal

SHOW AND YEAR END HIGH POINT

Both **Traditional** and **Ranch** All Around High Point Champion and Reserve Champion winners will be designated for each show and for Year End Awards in Amateur, Limited Walk-Trot, Open, and Youth divisions. If no exhibitor/horse combination is eligible, none will be named or awarded.

- A. For an exhibitor/horse combination to be eligible for the **Traditional SHOW All Around High Point**, the horse must compete in Halter and at least three (3) performance events, and for an exhibitor/horse to be eligible for **Ranch SHOW All Around High Point**, the horse must compete in Ranch Conformation and at least three (3) performance ranch classes. These rules apply for each exhibitor/horse combination.
- B. To qualify for **Traditional and Ranch All Around Champion and Reserve Champion Year End Awards**, you must be a member in good standing and have shown in at least three (3) of the five (5) shows. Neither Halter or Ranch Conformation classes are required to qualify, but showing in these classes may increase your number of points. Sponsorships are encouraged, but not required for eligibility. Two (2) volunteer credits (as determined by the Show Coordinator) are required to be eligible for year-end awards, and work time must be documented on a log sheet at each show; friends and/or family can work on your behalf. Officers are not required to work volunteer hours at the shows. A class must have at least three (3) riders for at least three (3) shows for the class to be considered for a year-end award.
- C. Horses placing in the top six will be given a point for each horse placing below them plus one point not to exceed six points for first place. EXAMPLE: In a class of six or more horses, the first place horse receives six points, the second place horse gets five points; in a class of four horses, the first place horse receives four points, the second place horse receives three points, etc.
- D. No points will be awarded to a disqualified horse, regardless of the number in the class; however, when less than six are placed, even though more than six entered the class, points will be awarded on the basis of the number exhibited in the class.
- E. In the event that non-performance class divisions are combined into one open class, specifically Halter and Ranch Conformation, those open class points will follow the horse to its subsequent exhibitor/horse combinations.
- F. If there is no Limited Showmanship class offered, exhibitors may enter an Amateur or Youth Showmanship class to have these points added to their corresponding Limited exhibitor/horse Traditional points for Show and Year End High Point.
- G. In case a tie occurs, the horse/rider will be declared the All-Around who:
(1) had the most first (1st) place finishes,

(2) if still a tie, a coin will be tossed and the winner will be High Point.

JACKPOTS

Two types of jackpots MAY be offered at a show:

- A. Fun Class jackpots pertain only to the “fun class” and payout 50% of the entry fees collected from its participants. These are payable by CCOHSA at the show.
- B. When sponsor funds are available, Traditional and Ranch jackpots may be offered at designated shows and are awarded by combining the points of each exhibitor/horse combination in the 3 predetermined Traditional or Ranch jackpot classes. To be eligible, the exhibitor/horse combination must enter all three of the Traditional or Ranch jackpot classes in the same division. The winner will be the exhibitor/horse combination with the highest total of points. If no exhibitor/horse combination competes in all 3 of the jackpot classes, no jackpot will be awarded for that division. Jackpots will be payable by check or in the form of ShowBucks that expire after the next consecutive show date, and these cannot be awarded until after the final point tally of points is complete and approved. Jackpots may vary between divisions in payout type and amount.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCE RULES

- A. Reruns—Reruns shall not be allowed in any performance classes in the event of an exhibitor having equipment failure.
- B. Go-Rounds or Eliminations—The judge will decide if a class needs to be split.
- C. Faults or Penalties—In all performance classes, horses are judged on performance ability only according to the standard for the breed exhibited.
- D. In the event of the death of a horse during the show season, a one-time-only transfer of points to a new horse under the same rider is allowed. A death certificate from a veterinarian is required.
- E. Only one horse per person can be shown in showmanship, western horsemanship, and hunt seat equitation. This is because a judge may require rail work and the exhibitor would not be able to handle two horses at once.
- F. **For Limited Walk-Trot (L W/T) classes, the judge may request an Extended Trot gait when Lope is called for in Traditional Classes. However in the Ranch Classes, substitute the word “trot” for “lope” in the patterns so that when a lope is called for, the exhibitor should perform a trot, and when the extended lope is called for, the exhibitor should perform the extended trot.**

WESTERN ATTIRE

- A. Exhibitors in CCOHSA shows are required to wear a minimum of a short sleeve button or snap down front shirt with a collar, western hats and boots in both halter and western performance classes. Safety helmets are optional.
- B. The use of spurs, chaps, chinks and other equipment are optional.

WESTERN TACK

- A. Horses shall be shown with a Western or Australian saddle. A grazing, snaffle, curb, half-breed or spade bit is permissible, but **a martingale, or tie-down, or mechanical hackamore is prohibited. No wire curbs regardless of how padded or taped or no chin straps narrower than one-half inch or noseband will be permitted.** The carrying of a rope or riata is optional.
- B. Reins—Except in classes where noted, reins will be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance. One hand to be around reins if Romel type reins are used. Romel—An extension or braided rawhide material attached to the reins.
- C. Hoof Boots (Easy Boots)
- D. Hackamore—A rawhide braided or leather braided or rope bosal. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws regardless of how padded or taped.

ENGLISH ATTIRE

Appropriate English attire (English shirts, pants, boots, coat and safety helmet). **Certified safety helmet is mandatory in arena and warm-up areas.** When the temperature exceeds 85 degrees or higher, show jackets will be worn at the discretion of the rider without penalty from the judge. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops, or bats are optional.

ENGLISH TACK

- A. Mandatory tack includes English saddle, bridle, and bit.
- B. Optional Appointments include spurs of the unrowelled type, crops or bats, hunting breast plate, braiding of mane and tail in hunt style, roached mane, and hoof Boots (Easy Boots).
- C. Prohibited Equipment includes martingales, tie-downs, rowelled spurs, dropped nose-band (caveson and/or nose-band which is fastened below the bit or mouthpiece), draw reins, and leg wraps.

CCOHSa BOARD MAY ADD OR REMOVE CLASSES ON THE SHOWBILL ON A YEARLY BASIS DEPENDING ON EXHIBITOR INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION.

TRADITIONAL HORSE SHOW CLASSES

I. HALTER

- A. Horses shall be exhibited in halter appropriate for the breed.
Attire shall be suitable for an exhibitor of the breed, and English or Western attire is equally appropriate.
- B. The following halter classes may be offered for each show, or may be consolidated into a single Open division:
 - 1. Open Stallions
 - 2. Amateur Stallions
 - 3. Open Geldings
 - 4. Amateur Geldings
 - 5. Youth Geldings
 - 6. Open Mares
 - 7. Amateur Mares
 - 8. Youth Mares
- C. Must be 19 years of age or older to show a stallion.

II. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

- A. Listed below are points on which Showmanship classes are to be judged. Only the showman is judged, the horse is merely a prop to show the ability of the showman.
- B. Appearance of the Exhibitor—10 points
 - 1. Clothes and person—neat and clean
 - 2. Suitable clothes for exhibitor according to breed exhibited. Western or English attire is acceptable.
 - 3. EXCEPTION: Safety helmet optional
- C. Appearance of the Horse—40 points
 - 1. Condition and thriftiness—15 points
 - 2. Grooming—15 points
 - a. Hair coat clean, well brushed

- b. Mane and tail free of tangles and clean
 - c. Hooves trimmed properly. If shod, shoes must fit properly and clinches should be neat.
 - 3. Trimming—5 points
 - a. Horse's mane may be roached, but foretop and tuft over withers must be left.
 - b. Inside of ears may be clipped.
 - c. Long hair on jaw, and legs and pasterns should be clipped.
 - 4. Tack—5 points
 - a. Tack should be neat, clean and in good repair. It should be appropriate for the breed.
- D. Showing Horse in Ring—50 points
- 1. Leading—15 points
 - a. Enter ring leading animal at an alert walk in a counterclockwise direction. Walk on animal's left side, holding lead shank in right hand, near halter. The remaining portion of lead is held neatly and safely in left hand. Animal should lead readily at a walk.
 - b. After judge has lined up the class in front of spectators, he will call on each exhibitor to move his horse individually. When moving the horse, be sure that the judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's action. Allow the horse sufficient lead so that he can move freely and in a straight line. Lead the horse from his left side the required distance, stop and turn to the right around the horse. Exhibitor should perform the showmanship pattern as described by the judge or ring steward.
 - 2. Posing the horse—15 points
 - a. When posing your horse, stand toward the front facing your horse, but always in a position where you can keep your eye on the judge.
 - b. Pose your horse accordingly. For example, Quarter and Paint horses should be posed with feet squarely under the horse. Do most of the showing with lead strap. Never kick the horse's leg into position.
 - c. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when in a side-by-side position. Do not crowd the exhibitor in front when lined up head-to-tail.
 - d. When judge is observing other animals, let yours stand if posed reasonably well.
 - e. Be natural. Over-showing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.
 - 3. Poise, Alertness and Merits—20 points
 - a. Keep alert and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Don't be distracted by persons or things outside of the arena.
 - b. Show the animal at all times, not yourself.
 - c. Respond quickly to requests from the judge and other officials.
 - d. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
 - e. Recognize quickly and correct faults of your horse.
 - f. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and has been excused from the ring.

III. WESTERN PLEASURE

- A. CCOHSA will include a minimum of two (2) Western Pleasure classes.
1. Open Western Pleasure—All ages of horses.
 2. Five-years-old and younger horses may be shown with either curb bit, hackamore, or snaffle, at the discretion of the exhibitor. Snaffle/hackamore exhibitors may use two hands; all other entrants are to use one hand.
 - a. Hackamore shall be a braided rawhide or leather bosal no larger than 3/4" in diameter.
 - b. Must be a minimum of a 2-finger space between the bosal and the nose.
 - c. No metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal.
- B. Terminology—
1. The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size and breed of horse.
 2. The jog-trot is a smooth, ground covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog-trot should be square, balanced with straight forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with the back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, s/he moves out with the same smooth way of going.
 3. The lope is an easy rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. He should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going for the breed exhibited. Judges may ask up to the top 12 exhibitors to extend the horse's lope.
- C. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot and lope on reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability to work different leads. The judge can ask for additional work from any horse. Judge may, at his discretion, back only the finalists.
- D. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). Horses may be required to go from any gait to any other gait at the discretion of the judge. In no event will a contestant be required to drop his reins or otherwise leave his horse unattended. No contestant will be asked to reverse at a lope.
- E. Entries shall be penalized for being on the wrong lead.
- F. This class will be judged on performance of the horse only according to the standards of this particular breed. Conformation is not to be considered by the judge.
- G. The free hand shall not be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle.

IV. TRAIL

A. Western tack and attire—See Western Pleasure.

English tack and attire—See Hunter Under Saddle.

EXCEPTION: If closed reins are used, hobbles must be carried and reins dropped after being unsnapped from one side of the bit.

B. Exhibitor Requirements

1. Exhibitors may use only one hand on the reins and hands may not be changed except when:
 - a. Putting on or removing slicker.
 - b. Carrying an object from one part of the arena to another.
 - c. Dismounting.
 - d. Change of hands on reins at gate is acceptable.

C. Judging Procedure

1. This class will be judged 100% on manner of performance of horse over obstacles, response to the rider, intelligence and manner of travel at a walk, trot and lope. The walk, trot, and lope should be performed as the horse moves from one obstacle to the next giving the judge opportunity to evaluate all three gaits somewhere within the trail course.
EXCEPTION: In place of trot, gaited horses must use favorite gait other than a walk.
2. Credit will be given to those horses negotiating the obstacles smoothly and with prompt response to the rider's cue. Any horse performing with an artificial mechanical appearance should be penalized.
3. Excessive speed is to be penalized.
4. The judge may ask for additional work from any exhibitor.

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5. A time limit must not be placed on the entire trail course. However, a judge may set a time limit on any individual obstacle. If a time limit is not established, the judge may direct the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle when it becomes obvious that the horse will not perform.
6. Failure to follow the sequence of obstacles on the trail course as outlined and posted by the show management will result in disqualification. All obstacles must be attempted. However, if an exhibitor attempts and fails to complete an obstacle(s), this will not be grounds for disqualification but should be judged accordingly.
7. For the Walk Trot (W/T) classes, the judge may request an Extended Trot gait when Lope is called for on the pattern being used.

D. Obstacle Requirements

1. Six obstacles will be used, the three recommended obstacles and three additional obstacles selected from the optional list.
2. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any of these obstacles in a manner that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. Obstacles not combined shall be minimum of nine (9) feet apart.

3. Trail patterns are pre-determined. The pattern will be posted no later than the week before the show.
4. The trail course must be outlined by the show management and posted prior to the class for the information of the contestants and the judge.
5. **RECOMMENDED OBSTACLES**
 - a. GATE—Must be set up so that it is a minimum of four (4) feet in length and four (4) feet in height and set so that it may be opened from exhibitor's right or left side. The gate should be located in any convenient part of the arena where it will not interfere with the balance of the routine. The rider may not change hands on the gate or lose control of the gate while passing through.
 - b. BRIDGE—A log placed under the bridge to create a teeter-totter effect is prohibited.
 - c. BACKING—Following patterns are acceptable:
 1. The "L"—Back horse through "L" shaped course. Smooth parallel poles laying on ground not less than thirty inches apart and not less than ten feet on each part of the "L" will be established.
 2. Triangle—three (3) barrels or cones set in a triangle pattern as per diagram. Horses to back through the first two markers, around center marker and back through first two markers to starting point. Distance between Marker 1 and 2, shall be 36", Distance between markers 1 and 2 and 3 shall be 40".
 3. Figure 8—Three (3) barrels or cones set in a straight line as per diagram. Horse to pass to the outside of barrel 1, cross over to the outside of barrel two, cross over to the outside of barrel three, to around barrel three, and reverse procedure back to starting point. Distance between barrel 1, 2 and 3 shall be 36".
 4. Box Back—Four (4) poles, six to eight feet long. Place poles as per diagram. Center pole to be halfway between two parallel poles, 36" from the connecting pole. Horse to start back between center pole and side pole and back completely around center pole as shown in diagram. OPTION: when horse is parallel to connecting pole, side pass center pole both ways, and complete back as shown in first pattern.

E. OPTIONAL OBSTACLES

1. Simulated water—A plastic sheet, secured to the ground, so that it will not become affixed to the horse's foot when a horse passes over the simulated water, may be used.
2. Carrying Object—Any object, other than animal or fowl, and of a reasonable size or weight may be carried to a specified point.
3. Barrels—Two or three barrels spaced at least forty inches (40") apart through which exhibitor is to back.
4. Slicker—When this obstacle is used, it will be so located that the rider can ride to the slicker, put it on and remove it and return it to a designated place. Reins may be held or dropped on the neck of the horse or over the saddle horn while so doing.
5. Logs—An obstacle of at least four smooth logs placed at least 18-24 inches apart in such a manner as to demonstrate the willingness of the horse to

proceed over such obstacles. Walk-over-logs placed 18-24 inches apart. Trot-over-logs placed 24-36 inches apart. Lope-over-logs placed 6-7 feet apart.

6. Barricade—An obstacle not less than fourteen inches high or more than twenty-four inches high may be designed for horses to be ridden over or led over and whichever way is selected to be specified in the design of the course.
7. Side Pass—An object of such a nature and length which is safe and lying on the ground may be used to demonstrate the responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Objects such as a bale of hay that may become entangled in a horse's feet or legs will not be used. The obstacles may be designed to require the horse to side pass either or both ways or in a pattern.
8. Mail Box—Side pass to and away from the mail box.
9. Lime Circle—Required turn of forehand with front feet inside and back feet turning on outside of lime circle.
10. Square—Ride into the square. While all four feet are confined in the square, make a 360 degree turn and ride out.
11. Drag or Pull—Any object other than animal or fowl which can reasonably be pulled or dragged without the contestant having to dally may be used. Dallying shall be option of the exhibitor.
12. Elevated Poles

V. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

A. Seat and Hands

1. General—Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse and suitability of horse and rider.
2. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them.
3. Mounting and Dismounting
 - a. Control the horse by taking up reins in left hand and adjusting reins evenly with enough tension to feel the bit and hold on the near side while mounting.
 - b. Place left foot in stirrup (if necessary, twist stirrup with right hand). Grasp saddle horn with right hand. Spring up with your right leg keeping your body close to the horse and settle easily into the saddle.
 - c. Slip the right foot into the off stirrup and assume signal to move out.
 - d. Horse should stand while mounting until given the signal to move out.
 - e. End of split reins should be carried on the side of the reining hand. (A Romal should be carried on the opposite side of the reining hand).
 - f. To dismount, reverse above procedure and step down facing the horse's head.
4. Hands—Upper arms to be in a straight line with body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Reins will be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance. Hand to be around reins if romal type reins are used. One finger is permitted between reins if split reins are used and rein ends must be hung on same side of horse as rein hand. Reins are to be carried immediately above or as near to the saddle horn as possible.
5. Basic Position—Rider should sit in saddle with legs hanging straight and slightly forward to stirrups or knees slightly bent and weight directly over balls of feet.

In either position, the stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with the weight on ball of foot. Consideration, however, should be given to width of which may vary on western saddles. If stirrups are wide, the foot may have the appearance of being “home” when in reality the weight is being properly carried on the balls of the foot.

6. Position in Motion—Rider should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, he should be close to the saddle. All movements of the horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids. Exaggerated shifting of the rider’s weight is not desirable.

B. Western Tack and Attire

1. See Western Pleasure Rules. EXCEPTION: Leg wraps and/or boots are optional at rider’s discretion. Safety helmet optional.

2. Class Routine

- a. The judge must first ask each horse to work individually. These individual works shall be any maneuvers normally required in a stock horse such as figure 8’s and square stops. Horse shall be required to back in a straight line in this class. It must be remembered that above all, a stock horse is one that responds instantly and smoothly to all aids.
- b. After the horses have been worked individually, the judge may then place the class based on individual work or call for rail work if additional work is necessary to break ties.
- c. The horses recalled are to enter the ring at a walk and be judged on the rail at a walk, jog and lope. They shall always be worked both ways of the ring and shall always be on the correct lead. The reverse is to be executed away from the rail. The horse should be in perfect balance at all times, working entirely off its haunches; neck and head should be in direct line with the body, mouth closed, and head at a normal height.
- d. Riders fourteen years old and older may be asked to dismount and mount. (Riders who have not reached their fourteenth birthday should not be required to dismount and mount). In a combined age class, none of the riders shall be required to dismount and mount.

VI. OPEN ENGLISH WALK TROT, OPEN WESTERN WALK TROT

- A. These classes are for all ages. The contestant in a walk trot class may show in other riding classes in the show.
- B. Classes will enter the ring at a flat-footed walk turning to the right and proceeding in a counter-clockwise direction on the rail. The class will be worked at a walk and trot both directions of the ring. In the line-up the judge may ask riders to back their horse to help him judge the extent of the rider’s horsemanship.
- C. The contestant will be judged on his or her ability to control and properly exhibit the mount s/he is riding.

VII. HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

- A. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Horses are required to back, but the judge may require, at his discretion, the backing of only the finalists in the class. Emphasis shall be placed on actual suitability to purpose.
1. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse the canter.
 2. Horses are to back easily and stand quietly.
- B. Light contact with horse's mouth is recommended. At the option of the judge, the top horses may be required to gallop collectively one way of the ring but never more than (10) at one time. At the hand gallop, the judge may ask the group to "halt" and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).
1. Walk—True and flat-footed for pleasure classes.
 2. Trot—Brisk, smart, cadenced and balanced without loss of form. Smoothness is more essential than extreme speed. Extreme speed shall be penalized.
 3. Canter—Smooth, collected and straight on both leads with the ability to push on if so required in a hand gallop.
 4. Hand Gallop—The hand gallop should be a brisk gallop with horses under control, after which horses will pull up (not a sliding stop) and stand quietly on the rail for a few moments, before being asked to line up for final inspection.
- C. Personal Appointments (English Attire)
1. Appropriate English attire (English shirts, pants, boots, coat and safety helmet). **Certified safety helmet is mandatory in arena and warm-up areas.** When the temperature exceeds 85 degrees or higher, show jackets will be worn at the discretion of the rider without penalty from the judge. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops, or bats are optional.
- D. English Tack
1. Appropriate tack (English saddle, bridle, and bit).
- E. Optional Appointments
1. Spurs of the unrowelled type
 2. Crops or bats
 3. Hunting breast plate
 4. Braiding of mane and tail in hunt style
 5. Roached mane allowed
 6. Hoof Boots (Easy Boots)
- F. Prohibited Equipment
1. Martingales
 2. Tie-downs
 3. Rowelled spurs
 4. Dropped nose-band (caveson and/or nose-band which is fastened below the bit or mouthpiece)
 5. Draw reins
 6. Leg wraps

VIII. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

A. Seat and Hands

1. General—Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat, hand light and supple conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise.
2. There will be no mounting or dismounting.
3. Hands—Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers.
4. Basic Position—The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be out at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; ankles flexed in, heels down, thighs and calves to be in contact with the horse's body.
5. Position in Motion—At the walk and slow trot, the body should be vertical. English riders may post to trot, being inclined forward to do so. Canter, half way between the posting trot and walk (slightly inclined).

B. Class Routine

1. The judge must first ask each horse to work individually using an appropriate test. After the horses have been worked individually, the judge may then place the class based in individual work or call for additional rail work if necessary to break ties.
2. If rail work is requested by judge, contestants shall proceed at least once around ring at each gait and on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with horse's mouth is required.

C. Tack and Attire—See Hunter Under Saddle.

RANCH CLASSES

GENERAL RANCH INFORMATION

A good Ranch horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with their conformation. **The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gait is a major consideration.** He/she should carry the head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He/she should not carry the head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The head should be level with the nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with the ears alert. A horse will be given credit for traveling with the head held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. He/she should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions. When asked to extend, he/she should move out with the same flowing motion. **Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced, and willing horse that gives the appearance of being a pleasure to ride. Credit will also be given for making a smooth transition between the gaits, for keeping the correct lead, and for maintaining the gait in the pattern.** The horse will have an alert, ready to do ranch work type look and

attitude, but possess calmness and willingness to perform requested maneuvers or gait transitions. The horse should look healthy and groomed, but without banded manes, painted hoofs, fake tails etc.

RANCH TACK should not be silver laden or covered in western bling, art work or fringe. Tack should be clean/good quality as would be used for ranch work.

RANCH ATTIRE Dress should be neat western-style boots, shirt, jeans, and hat. Scarf, vest, and chinks are optional, but do complement the look. Heavy sequined/bling tops and show pants are beautiful but not appropriate for these classes. Please refer to NOTE BELOW!

RANCH HORSE PRESENTATION Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to preserve a natural ranch horse appearance, such as removing bands or braids, artificial tails, hoof polish, etc.

All Ranch Horse contestants can cross show/ride in other traditional show classes but will be judged according to the requirements for a Ranch Horse. NOTE: Open type show associations, like CCOHSA, do allow an exception to grooming, attire, and tack codes required for Ranch Horse, **but not the way the horse and rider are judged as they perform or execute the gaits, transitions, maneuvers, etc.** If for valid reasons, the show schedule cannot allow for tack, grooming or attire changes before a ranch class begins, the rider **will not be penalized**. Riders must realize their horses are expected to travel or move in a totally different style than the more formal Western Pleasure type horse.

IX. RANCH TRAIL

- A. Riders may enter both Trail and Ranch Trail classes. Judging will be on the horse and rider's ability to ride the course based on the judge's criteria for scoring a Ranch Trail class. Please refer to the above description of a ranch horse so as to be aware of how the judge would expect a horse to travel in the class.
- B. Ranch Trail patterns shall be different than the Regular Trail patterns. It **may or may not** consist of the 6 mandatory obstacles, up to 3 optional obstacles, and props/decorations along a trail. These obstacles/props are to reflect maneuvers done/items seen on a Ranch. Riders are encouraged to practice these obstacles in between shows to enhance their safety and knowledge of the maneuver. Ranch Trail W/T will use the same Ranch Trail pattern as the Amateur, Youth, and Open but replace lope with an EXTENDED TROT.

MANDATORY OBSTACLES per Breed Show requirements which **may be** used.

1. Drag an object—For Open, Amateur, and L W/T adult riders only. Not to be used by any Youth. Drag may be a complete figure 8 around items and begin in either direction. The rider must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn in a half OR full dally for the duration of the drag.

2. Use Hinged Gate—To open, pass through, and close a hinged swinging gate (not a rope gate). Use a gate that requires minimum side passing and does not endanger the horse or rider.
3. Ride Overs—Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs). Walk, Trot, or Lope may be used but only 1 gait is required. Walk Over consists of no more than 5 logs no higher than 10 inches with spacing of 26-30 inches in a straight, curved, zig zagged or elevated formation. Trot Overs same requirements but spacing is 36-42 inches. Lope Overs same requirements but spacing is 6-7 feet.
4. Backing thru Obstacles—Spacing of minimum of 28 inches. If elevated 30 inches required. Back through and around at least 3 markers. Back through L, V, U, straight, or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 12 inches.
5. Side Pass obstacle—Any safe object of ANY length may be used to demonstrate response to leg cues.
6. Ride Over Wooden Bridge—Walk only over safe, sturdy bridge. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation. Suggested minimum width is 3 feet and length of 6 feet.

C. OPTIONAL OBSTACLES (up to 3 from list below but not limited to)

1. Checking the Mail—Rider walks to the box, Opens lid to remove the contents, Replaces the contents and closes the lid. Calmness and Handiness of horse is being demonstrated.
2. Rescuing Baby Calf or Colt—Rider walks to barrel with large stuffed animal on top, Picks up animal and places it in front of body across saddle, Rides to next barrel or person and Hands off animal. Calmness and Handiness of horse is being demonstrated.
3. Ground Tie Hoof Check—Rider walks to designated area marked with poles or cones and dismounts horse, Picks up a front foot, then Places one (1) rein on ground in front of horse and walks around horse on outside of cones/pole area demonstrating ability of horse to remain still. Return to horse and lead from arena.
4. Dummy Steer Roping—Rider with coiled rope in hand approaches an artificial object resembling a steer, Stops horse and builds or makes a loop, Throws rope in an attempt to catch the steer. If catch is made, arena worker will remove rope for rider. If no catch is made rider is responsible for recoiling or gathering of rope and then exits the arena. No Penalty is given for not roping the object. Credit for loop building and catch may be given. Remember: Your roping ability is not as important as the ability of horse/rider to remain calm and comfortable in the presence of a working rope.
5. Slicker/Jacket—When this obstacle is used, it will be so located that the rider can ride to the slicker, put it on and remove it and return it to a designated place. Reins may be held or dropped on the neck of the horse or over the saddle horn while so doing.
6. Log Roll—Rider will approach 2 parallel poles/logs with a 3rd pole/log lying on top at the end of these 2. Rider dismounts, ground ties horse, and proceeds to ROLL this top pole down to the other end of parallel poles as if clearing a fallen log. Rider returns to horse to lead out of the arena/area.

7. Rope and Brand—Rider attempts to rope dummy (see obstacle 4 above for roping instructions). Rider dismounts and ground ties horse. Rider then QUICKLY approaches the branding bucket, removes brand, and brands dummy steer on hip. Return to horse and lead out of arena.
8. Trot through obstacles (simulated trees, hay bales, cones) at least 6 feet apart
9. Lead at trot
10. Step in and out of obstacle
11. Stand to mount with block
12. Carry object from one part of arena to the other
13. Pick up feet

X. REINING

- A. Reining patterns are to be selected from various sources for Ranch Reining or the AQHA/ APHA reining patterns.
- B. The Reining class is not a Ranch W/T class due to the amount of loping required.
- C. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit is given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority in performing maneuvers while using controlled speed.

XI. RANCH RIDING

- A. Patterns for Amateur, Youth, and Open are to be selected from those posted and approved by AQHA/APHA for their Ranch Riding classes. Please refer to AQHA website for more information on how a class may be judged.
- B. L W/T Ranch Riding patterns will be a modified version of the above Ranch Riding patterns exchanging loping and extended loping for trotting and extended trotting, respectively. Riders are to refer to purpose of and class requirements listed below.
- C. The purpose of Ranch Riding is to reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This 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.
- D. Class Requirements
 1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
 2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope in both directions,

- and the extended jog and extended lope at least one direction, as well as stops and back. L W/T riders do not lope.
3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
 4. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS (refer to p. 124 of AQHA rule book, sec. SHW330), with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
 5. No time limit.
 6. Please refer to AQHA website for Scoring information.

XII. RANCH PLEASURE

- A. Patterns for this class will be provided even though signs are used to designate gait changes for the rider.
- B. The purpose of this class is 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. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits, and 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. The class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes or called on the public address system. If the class is held inside of an arena, the pleasure course shall be set up to make approximately one circle of the arena in each direction. If open terrain is available, the class may be held outside an arena. The pattern may be started either in the left or right direction. Any one of the 6 patterns may be used.
- C. Description of Ideal Pleasure Gaits—The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage – neither too high nor too low.
 1. Walk—A Ranch horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead.
 2. 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.
 3. 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. 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.

4. Lope—This gait should be a three-beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances.
5. Stop (from both lope and trot)—The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters.
6. Reverse—A horse should turn briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot. The reverse may be executed in either direction.
7. 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.

D. Part of the evaluation of this class is on the 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 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.

E. Scoring Ranch 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. 1-4 Points—Major faults – wrong lead, broken gait, lack of control, failure to perform requested gait, etc.
2. 5-8 Points—Average quality of movement of gaits and transitions with some or no faults.
3. 9-10 Points—High-quality mover that is functionally correct in all gaits, transitions well, is well-mannered and responsive, soft and cadenced in all gaits.

XIII. RANCH RAIL

- A. This is a group called class in which riders will perform the announced gait and/or maneuver requested by the judge. ALL Riders should be aware of spacing between horses and passing other riders because of speed of certain gaits.
- B. Amateur, Youth, and Open riders should be able to perform the same gaits and transitions as required in Ranch Riding or Ranch Pleasure.

- C. Ranch L W/T will not perform any form of Loping. Their required gaits are a Walk, Trot, and Extended Trot.

XIV. RANCH CONFORMATION

- A. Unlike the riding classes, Ranch Conformation focuses entirely on the horse's build and structure. Horses are evaluated in-hand rather than under saddle, meaning they're led alongside the handler while judges assess their physical form. The goal is to identify horses that are truly built for durability and function—balanced, athletic, and correctly structured enough to handle long days of real ranch work. It's all about practicality, strength, and long term soundness.
- B. To be eligible to compete in this class, the horse must be shown in at least one other class the day of the show. Judges are looking for balanced, structurally correct horses with adequate muscling. You'll need to show your horse in a good working halter – rope, braided, nylon or plain leather – exhibit your horse at a walk and trot, then line up for inspection by the judge.

LEAD LINE AND WALK-WHOA CLASSES (NO YEAR END AWARD)

A. Lead Line Halter

- a. This is a class for a child just learning. As a safety precaution, an adult must be with the child at all times. The age limit for the class is 3 to 10 years old. The child
- b. is to lead the horse in (with an adult holding onto the horse) and set the horse up. They are to walk to the judge and pick up trot to cone. At the cone, they are to turn to the left and walk to the side of the arena and line up head to tail. All will receive first place.

B. Lead Line Walk (riding)

- a. This is a class for a child just learning (3-10 years old). The child will be led in by an adult. They will be judged, with all receiving first place.

C. Walk-Whoa Class

- a. Walk-whoa is for children ages 5-10 who are past lead line, but not quite ready for walk trot classes. These kids will still be able to compete in lead line halter, but will not be able to compete in the lead line walk only class. English and Western attire are appropriate. A helmet must be worn with English attire. There will be a minimum of 4 spotters stationed around the pen during the class, but no side walkers are allowed.

D. In all Lead Line classes,

- a. the child is required to wear either Western attire (western hat, boots, jeans, and western shirt) or English attire, and both are equally acceptable. If wearing English attire, an approved safety helmet is required.
- b. A youth competitor must have a release signed by a parent or legal guardian – not a grandparent – before entering the arena.

- c. Helmets are optional by the parents in Western attire only and REQUIRED with English attire.
- d. An adult walker (over 18 years old) must be beside the horse in lead line. If the horse is ridden and shown by a youth and wants to lead the horse in lead line – an adult must also be beside the horse.

OPTIONAL CLASSES AND DIVISIONS THAT MAY BE OFFERED DEPENDING ON PARTICIPATION:

SMALL FRY CLASSES (NO YEAR END AWARD)

- A. Entries limited to exhibitors 3 – 10 years of age.
- B. No stallions permitted.
- C. Exhibitors showing the Small Fry Series may not show in riding classes in any other classes or division. They may show in Youth Halter and Youth Showmanship.
- D. Traditional Small Fry classes may be offered in Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, and Trail.

OPEN GAITED CLASS (JACKPOT CLASS, NO YEAR END AWARD)

This class is open to all gaited horse breeds. Every gaited breed can have quite different divisions and rules; therefore, we have endeavored to develop guidelines that are very general and take that into consideration.

A. Class Specifications

- 1. Enter to the right at a walk – relaxed or parade walk acceptable
- 2. Favorite gait -- should be a definite increase in speed or change in gait.
- 3. Walk and reverse at the walk
- 4. Repeat as needed for judging purposes
- 5. Back up on the rail or during line up, judge's discretion
- 6. Line up for inspection
- 7. The class will be judged on the performance and consistency of gaits, smoothness of transitions, with consideration given to the confirmation of the horse, and overall turnout of horse and rider, all at the discretion of the judge.

B. Overall Gait Description

- 1. Walk: This should be a true walk with a fairly light rein with little to no strain on the part of the horse or rider. The appearance should be that of a pleasurable ride that is relaxed, content and manageable, regardless of speed or style.
- 2. Favorite Gait: This gait is to be performed at moderate speed and can be a variation of any gaited horse gait with no preference given to any particular

gait over another. The gait should be consistent and balanced and should appear easy and comfortable to ride even if ground covering and/or fairly fast. Excessive speed at the expense of comfort should be penalized. Horses should stand quietly in line up. Positive credit to be given to horses that display such qualities as responsiveness, steadiness and manners.

C. Guidelines and Equipment

1. This class is open to all gaited horse breeds, with no preference for any breed over another.
2. All entries shall be clean, neatly trimmed, in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance, and outfitted in clean and appropriate tack.
3. Horses may be ridden in English, Western, or Saddle Seat style tack, but not a combination. Clothing and tack must match the riding style, and guidelines are located elsewhere in the rule book. No preference should be given to any style. Endurance or Australian saddles and tack are not allowed.
4. Regarding hand usage: Horse may be ridden with either one hand or two hands regardless of the bit type or age of horse, with no preference given to either riding style. However, hand use should be consistent throughout the judging, and switching between one and two hands should be penalized. ***Use of either one or two hands with any bit or bridle is acceptable in this class.*** At all gaits, bumping or pumping of the reins or saddle should be penalized. Please note that these are very general guidelines and are not breed-specific; therefore, they may or may not be acceptable at a particular breed's shows.
5. Tack and bits may be any configuration typically used on gaited horses, and are humane.
6. Horses can be shown with either a relatively loose rein or maintain contact on the bit with no drape in reins with no preference given to individual style.
7. The shoeing of gaited horses is varied among breeds and includes barefoot also. Judges are asked to note that all configurations of shoes should be accepted if acceptable by the breed's standard. However, all shoeing options must be humane.
8. Boots or collar devices may be used on a horse's front pasterns.
9. Names of horses, stables, trainers or exhibitors are prohibited on show equipment in the show ring.

CHALLENGED CLASSES (NO YEAR END AWARD)

A. Challenged Showmanship

1. Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right, one by one, and line up at the judge's or ring steward's direction. The horse handler will take a place on the rail directly behind their respective exhibitor's horse. Each exhibitor will execute the pattern as posted at least one hour before the class.
2. Exhibitors will remain in the ring throughout the class. No exhibitor will be disqualified except for safety reasons at the judge's discretion. Exhibitors

going off pattern will be penalized. After the class has been judged and the judge's card turned in, the handlers should join their exhibitor in the line and are allowed to snap onto the exhibitor's horse to receive their awards and retire from the ring.

B. Challenged Horsemanship

1. Riders may wear either English or Western attire. A safety helmet must be worn with English attire.
2. Assisted—All exhibitors will work as a group. Compete on the rail at a walk both ways and line up in the center for inspection by the judge. Handlers must have been trained and be 16 years old or older. A halter must be worn on the horse with a lead line attached to the halter.
3. Unassisted—Exhibitors are asked to walk and jog both directions of the arena and line up for inspection.

Revision Acknowledgement Signature Page

The undersigned acknowledge and approve the revisions made to the CCOHSA Rule Book.

Meeting Date: _____

Revision Date: _____

Description of
Revision: _____

Title

Signature

Date

President: Denise Herron

Vice President: Molly Trull

Treasurer: Leslie Vowles

Show Coordinator: Stephanie Sims

Secretary: