

COTTON COUNTRY



OPEN HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

RULE BOOK 2019



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NOTE: *Patterns have been removed from the rule book, but are available on our web site. The same patterns posted per class are the only ones that judges will choose from for that particular show season. This will allow exhibitors the same advantage in showing.*

RULE BOOK 2019

PURPOSE OF COTTON COUNTRY OPEN HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION

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

I. EXHIBITOR CONDUCT

- A. 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.

II. 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
 - Champion (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) ---- Blue & Red
 - Reserve Champion (Stallion, Mares, Geldings) ---- Red & Yellow
 - All-Around High Point (Youth, Amateur, Open, Limited) ---- Purple
 - Reserve All-Around High Point (Y, A, O, L) ---- Purple & White

III. ALL-AROUND (HIGH POINT) AWARD

- A. To be eligible for All-Around, a horse must compete in Halter and at least 3 performance events. Eligibility is limited to one horse, one rider. No multiple horses allowed.
- B. 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.

- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. **YEAR-END AWARDS**

To qualify you must be a member in good standing and have shown in at least 3 of the 6 shows in that class. For year-end all-around award, you must also show halter in 3 of the shows. In addition, a minimum of 1 sponsorship per membership (family or individual) for the season is required. Lastly, a minimum of 3 categories of classes per membership must be worked over the span of the 6 shows. Work time must be documented on a log sheet at each show in order for the time to be counted, and friends and/or family can work on your behalf. Categories of classes are classified as the following:

 - 1) Halter, Showmanship, and Leadline
 - 2) All English
 - 3) Western walk/trot, Pleasure, and Horsemanship
 - 4) All Trail
 - 5) All Ranch

IV. YOUTH ALL-AROUND (HIGH POINT) AWARD

- A. The same rules used to determine Open, Amateur All-Around will also apply to Youth.

V. HALTER CLASSES—GENERAL RULES

- A. Horses shall be exhibited in halter appropriate for the breed. Attire shall be suitable for exhibitor of the breed, and English or Western attire is equally appropriate.
- B. The following halter classes will be offered for each show:
 - 1. Open Stallions
 - 2. Amateur Stallions
 - 3. Open Geldings
 - 4. Amateur Geldings
 - 5. Youth Geldings
 - 6. Limited Geldings
 - 7. Open Mares
 - 8. Amateur Mares
 - 9. Youth Mares
 - 10. Limited Mares

11. Grand & Reserve Stallions, Geldings, Mares
 - a. Grand Champion chosen from first place winners in each class in a sex division.
 - b. Reserve Champion chosen from second place winner in the Grand Champion class and first place winners in the remaining classes—all remaining second place horses may be excused.

C. Must be 19 years of age or older to show a stallion.

VI. 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 and/or walk trot classes, the judge may request an Extended Trot gait when Lope is called for on the pattern being used.

VII. 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 cliches 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.

VIII. LEAD LINE AND WALK WHOA

A. Lead Line Halter

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 8 years old. The child is to lead the horse in with adult also having to hold on to the horse and set the

horse up. They are to walk to the judge and pick up trot to cone. At cone, they are to turn to the left and walk to side of arena and line up head to tail. All will receive first place.

- B. Lead Line Walk (riding)
This is a class for a child just learning (3-8 years old). The child will be lead in by an adult. They will be judged, with all receiving first place.
- C. In all Lead Line classes, 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.
- D. Walk Whoa Class
Walk whoa is for children ages 5-8 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 is 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.
- E. A youth competitor must have a release signed by a parent or legal guardian – not a grandparent – before entering the arena. Everyone must have this signed before competing but we were letting some grandparents sign in the past.
- F. Helmets are optional by the parents in Western attire only and REQUIRED with English attire.
- G. 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.

IX. 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

X. 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 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.

XI. WESTERN ATTIRE

- A. Exhibitors in CCOHSA shows are required to wear a minimum of a short sleeve button or snap down front with collar shirt, 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.

XII. 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.

XIII. TRAIL HORSE CLASS

- 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.
 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 Limited 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 mandatory 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. Mandatory 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 way 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.

XIV. 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.

XV. OPEN ENGLISH WALK TROT, OPEN WESTERN WALK TROT, AND AMATEUR SELECT WALK TROT

- A. These classes are for all ages, except Amateur Select which is for 50+ riders. 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.

XVI. 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.

XVII. RANCH HORSE CLASSES

These shall include **Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Stock Horse Pleasure (Jackpot), and Ranch Riding**. Currently no end-of-the-Year awards are given for these classes. Ranch Riders are encouraged to seek sponsors or do fundraisers for their end-of-the-year ranch class awards. **A sponsor must send written notice** to the club declaring the sponsorship shall be used only for the Ranch Horse class awards.

- A. These classes are for riders wanting to show a horse using or having a more natural, ground-covering way of traveling in their three (3) gaits.
- B. **A good Ranch Riding horse** has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gait is a major consideration. 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. 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. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions. 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 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 no banded manes, painted hoofs, etc.

- C. Rider's tack is not silver laden or covered in western bling, art work or fringe. It should reflect clean, good quality tack that would be used for ranch work.
- D. 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. However, show schedule time restraints may require an exception to the attire and tack code; but not the way the horse and rider are judged as they perform or execute the gaits, transitions, maneuvers, etc.

NOTE: If, for valid reasons, the show schedule cannot allow for tack or dress change before a ranch class begins, the rider **will not be penalized** for their dress or tack. Riders must realize their horses are expected to travel or move in a totally different style than the more formal Western Pleasure type horse. Riders are encouraged to make an effort to adhere to the tack and dress code if at all possible. Also, riders are asked to make grooming changes to their horses to create a natural ranch horse appearance, such as removing bands or braids, artificial tails, hoof polish, etc.

XVIII. RANCH TRAIL CLASS

- A. Riders may enter BOTH the Trail and Ranch Trail classes even though the dress and tack are different for this type of class (see note above). **Rider understands that 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 riders will use the same pattern as the regular trail classes. **There will be two (2) additional Ranch-type obstacle added at the END of the pattern for the ranch trail riders.** These obstacles will be chosen from the list below. Riders are encouraged to practice these obstacles in between shows.
 - 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 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. **Drag**—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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.

XIX. RANCH REINING

- A. If the more formal Western Rider has not had time for attire and tack change they will not be penalized for this (see Note above). **Rider understands, however, that judging will be on the horse and rider's ability to ride the pattern based on the judge's criteria for scoring a Ranch Reining 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. This class will demonstrate all the maneuvers required of a reining horse, but use a reduced number of spins, circles, etc., so as to encourage more riders to enter. **Three patterns have been chosen to be used throughout the show season. Each show judge will select one (1) pattern.** 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.

- C. If only one reining class is to be held at a show, it shall be the following. Reining all ages:
 - 1. Horses six years old and older must be shown in a bit.
 - 2. Horses five years old and younger may be shown in either a bit or hackamore at the discretion of the exhibitor.
(See Western Pleasure Rules)
 - 3. Riders must use one hand only on the reins in senior division but may use two hands for hackamore and snaffle bit horses in the junior division.
- D. Western Tack and Attire—See Western Pleasure.
EXCEPTION: Leg wraps and/or boots optional.
- E. Acceptable Bits—See Western Pleasure.
- F. Chain curbs are permissible but must be at least one-half inch in width, cannot be twisted, and must meet the approval of the judge.
- G. In case of doubt, a judge may require any contestant to repeat his or her performance of any or all of the various parts of the pattern.
- H. Any horse not following the pattern will be disqualified. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance.
- I. Faults against the horse:
 - 1. Opening mouth excessively in bit reining
 - 2. Breaking gaits
 - 3. Refusing to change leads
 - 4. Anticipating signals
 - 5. Stumbling and falling
 - 6. Wringing tail
 - 7. Bouncing sideways to stop
 - 8. Backing sideways
 - 9. Running circles outside the markers
- J. Faults against the rider:
 - 1. Losing stirrup
 - 2. Any unnecessary aid given by the rider to the horse (such as talking, petting, spurring, quirting, jerking on reins, etc.) to induce the horse to perform will be considered a fault and scored accordingly.
- K. Changing hands on reins, touching saddle with free hand or two hands except for horses being ridden in hackamore will result in disqualification.

- L. The patterns are to be worked as outlined and shall be used at any CCOHSA show. The judge shall select the pattern and all contestants shall use the same pattern in the same class.

XX. RANCH RIDING

- A. If the more formal Western Rider has not had time for attire and tack change they will not be penalized for this (see Note above). **Rider understands, however, that judging will be on the horse and rider's ability to ride the pattern based on the judge's criteria for scoring a Ranch Riding 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. 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.
- C. 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.
 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.

One of the suggested four patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included.

- A. Ranch Horse Apparel and Equipment
 1. No hoof polish.
 2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
 3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
 4. Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
 6. CCOHSA will not penalize a horse with hoof polish, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, or trimming of the inside ears.
 7. Competitors in Ranch Riding may cross over into other classes and vice versa.
- B. Ranch Horse Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:
1. One (1) point penalties
 - a. Too slow per gait
 - b. Over-bridled
 - c. Out of frame
 - d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
 - e. Split log at lope
 2. Three (3) point penalties
 - a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
 - b. Break of gait at lope
 - c. Wrong lead or out of lead
 - d. Draped reins
 3. Five (5) point penalties
 - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 4. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers
 - a. Eliminates maneuver
 - b. Incomplete maneuver
 5. Zero (0) score
 - a. Illegal equipment
 - b. Willful abuse
 - c. Major disobedience or schooling

XXI. STOCK HORSE PLEASURE, ALL AGE

If the more formal Western Rider has not had time for attire and tack change they will not be penalized for this (see Note above). **Rider understands, however, that judging will be on the horse and rider's ability to ride the pattern based on the judge's criteria for scoring a Stock Horse Pleasure 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.** A rider may enter this class two (2) times on the same horse, if desired.

This class serves to measure the ability of the cow 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 three (3) patterns may be used. Open, NonPro, Jr. Horse, Amateur, Novice, and Youth Pleasure patterns may be changed to include different maneuvers within the Pleasure pattern—trot-overs, circles, serpentines. Thirteen and under will run the regular patterns.

- A. Pattern 1 – Walk, Trot, Extended Trot, Lope, Stop & Reverse, Walk, Lope, Extended Lope, Seated Trot, Stop & Back
- B. Pattern 2 – Lope, Extended Lope, Walk, Trot, Stop & Reverse, Extended Trot, Seated Trot, Walk, Lope, Stop & Back
- C. Pattern 3 – Trot, Extended Trot, Walk, Lope, Stop & Reverse, Walk, Seated Trot, Lope, Extended Lope, Stop & Back

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

- A. Description of Ideal Pleasure Gaits – The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage – neither too high nor too low.
 - 1. Walk – A stock 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- B. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. There is no advantage to making these transitions with cues that are imperceptible to a judge. These horses have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. All transitions should be smooth. Please note the rules allow for a horse to be taken back (collected) a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is very difficult to

achieve; however, a good stock horse will have to make this transition several times during a day's work. This transition is down to the normal or sitting trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that bring the hocks together to go into a stopping position should be penalized according to the magnitude of the error.

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

XXII. GAITED CLASS, OPEN

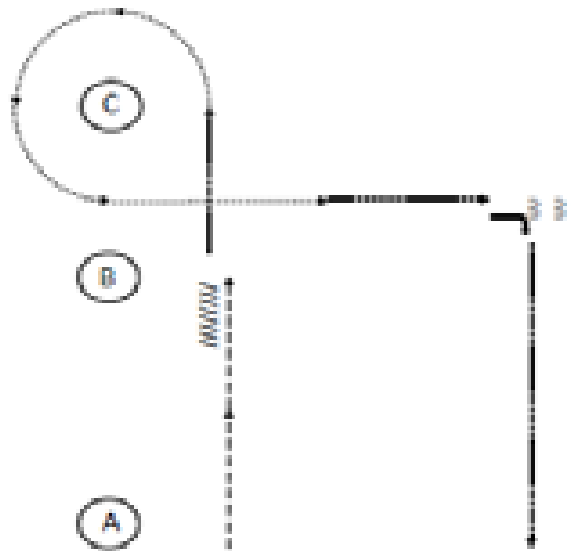
This class is open to all gaited horse breeds. Every gaited breed can have quite different divisions and rules; therefore, we have endeavored to develop guidelines that are very general and take that into consideration.

- 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.

SHOWMANSHIP PATTERN 2



1. Be ready at A, when acknowledged; trot from A to B.
2. Stop at B and back 3 steps.
3. Walk to and around C. Walk on to judge.
4. Stop and set up for inspection.
5. When dismissed, perform a 90 degree turn and walk away.
6. Return to line up.

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.

XXIV. LONGE LINE CLASS, OPEN JR. (For horses 2 and Under)

This class is limited to 2 year olds and younger. The purpose of showing longe line is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners, expression, attitude, and conformation to become competitive under saddle. Horses are to be shown in halter with the only attachment being the longe line. Horses will be allowed 10 minutes during the lunch break to warm-up and the class will start immediately after lunch.

When the class starts and the signal is given, the exhibitor is allowed 90 seconds to present the horse. The horse is scored at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions. A

bell will sound at 45 seconds to indicate the change of direction. At the end of 90 seconds, a signal will again be given to signify the end of the demonstration.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees will be \$25 for each individual and \$40 for family. You must be a paid member in order to show with Cotton Country. If a parent of a youth (18 and under), wants to vote on behalf of that youth, a family membership must be purchased.

AMATEUR DIVISION ELIGIBILITY

An individual must be nineteen (19) years of age or older as of January 1.

An individual shall 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, or judged.

YOUTH DIVISION ELIGIBILITY

Must be 18 years or younger on January 1 of that year. This will go by what age you are on January 1 of each year.

LIMITED DIVISION ELIGIBILITY

This division is for competitors who wish to only compete at the walk/trot gaits. Horse/Rider combinations competing in this division are eliminated from being able to compete in any other divisions for the current show only. You may, however, compete in the three walk/trot classes: Open English Walk/Trot, Open Western Walk/Trot, and Amateur Select Walk/Trot. The rider is eligible to ride other horses in the other divisions at the same show. The limitations are for the horse/rider combination only. However, to be eligible for High Point at the end of the year, you must show the same horse in the Limited division for at least three shows of the season.

There is a High Point and Reserve High Point at each show. In order to qualify for the High Point and Reserve High Point you must show in the Limited halter class and three (3) performance classes. EXCEPTION: In place of trot, gaited horses shall use their favorite gait other than a walk.

The rules for attire and tack will be the same as the other English and Western classes.

The classes are Limited Halter, Limited Showmanship, Limited Hunter Under Saddle, Limited Hunt Seat Equitation, Limited Western Pleasure, Limited Western Horsemanship, and Limited Trail. The judge may request an Extended Trot gait when Lope is called for on the pattern being used.

You can change at another show and ride in the 3-gait classes, but remember, to qualify for the end-of-the-year award you have to show three (3) times in the same class/division.

REGISTRATION

Registration consists of the entry form, current negative Coggins report (no older than one year), and a signed release waiver. Payment will be due the day of the show. If you withdraw on the day of the show, you will only be responsible for the registration fee. You must notify an Officer of your withdrawal. You may add or drop classes throughout the show day without penalty.