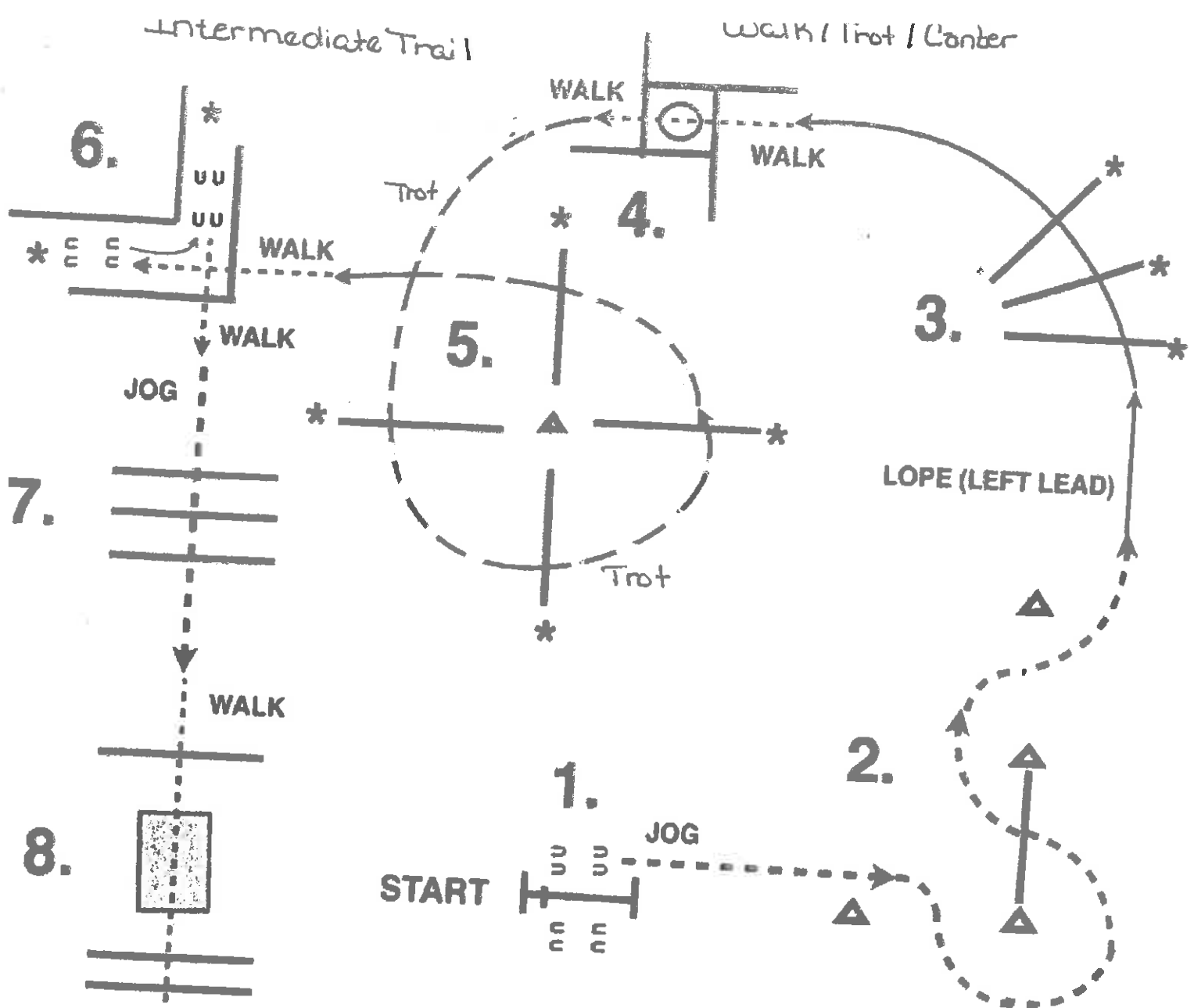


1. GATE RIGHT HAND OPEN, RIDE THRU AND CLOSE.
2. Trot THRU SERPENTINE, trot OVER POLE.
3. Trot OVER POLES
4. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO BOX, 360 TURN EITHER DIRECTION, WALK OUT BOX.
5. Trot OVER SPOKE
6. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO "L" BACK AROUND CORNER, WALK OUT "L".
7. JOG OVER POLES.
8. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK OVER POLES AND OVER BRIDGE.

Class 182
 183
 184

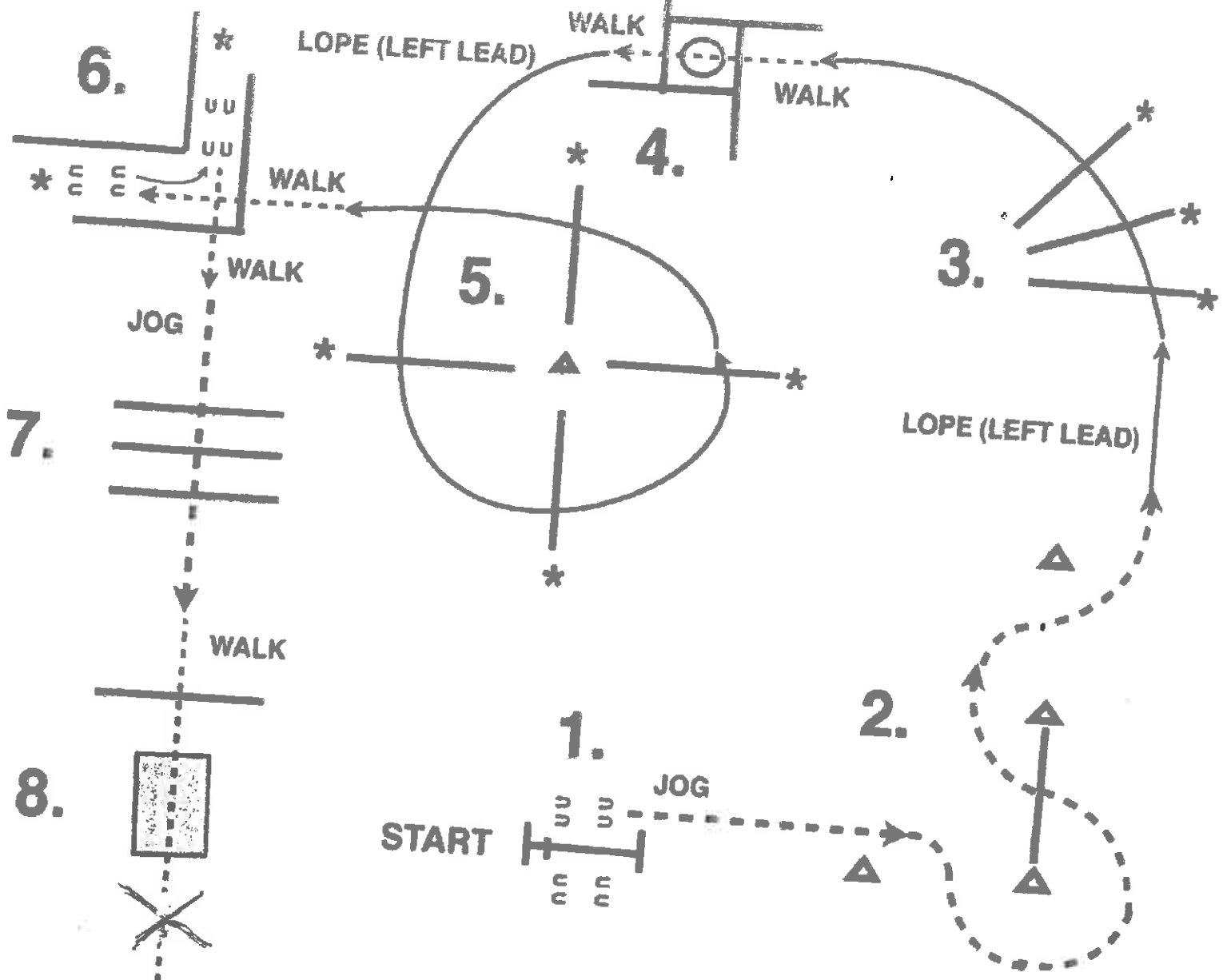


1. GATE RIGHT HAND OPEN, RIDE THRU AND CLOSE.
2. JOG THRU SERPENTINE, JOG OVER POLE.
3. LOPE OVER POLES (LEFT LEAD).
4. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO BOX, 360 TURN EITHER DIRECTION, WALK OUT BOX.
5. Trot OVER SPOKE.
6. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO "L" BACK AROUND CORNER, WALK OUT "L".
7. JOG OVER POLES.
8. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK OVER POLES AND OVER BRIDGE.

Class 186
 187
 188

Advance Trail

WOT/C



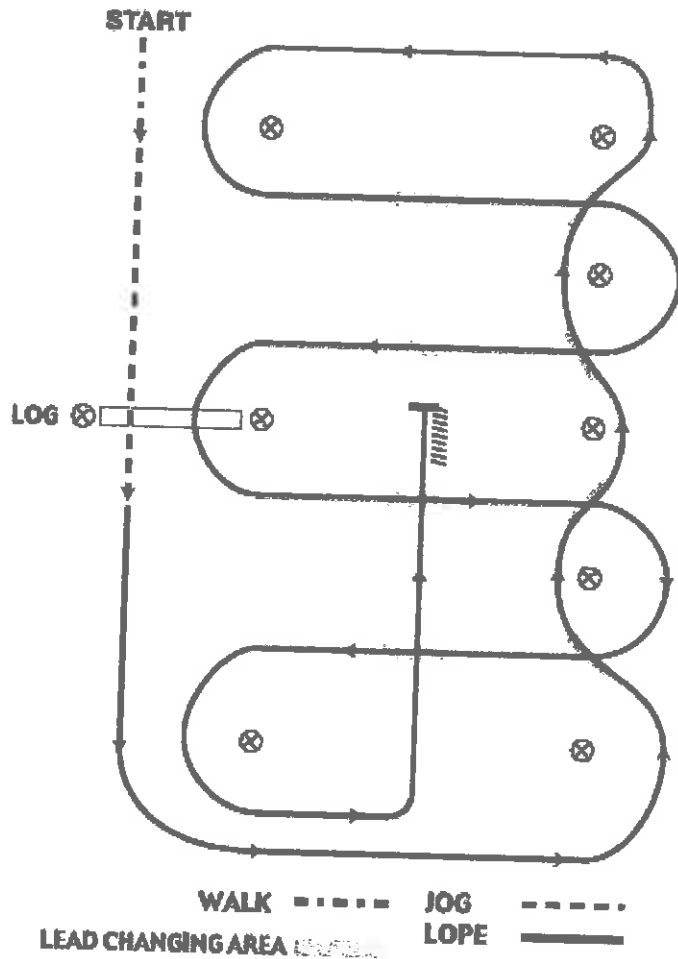
1. GATE RIGHT HAND OPEN, RIDE THRU AND CLOSE.
2. JOG THRU SERPENTINE, JOG OVER POLE.
3. LOPE OVER POLES (LEFT LEAD).
4. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO BOX, 360 TURN EITHER DIRECTION, WALK OUT BOX.
5. LOPE OVER SPOKE (LEFT LEAD).
6. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK INTO "L" BACK AROUND CORNER, WALK OUT "L".
7. JOG OVER POLES.
8. STOP OR BREAK TO THE WALK, WALK OVER POLES AND OVER BRIDGE. (Rised Cross Poles)

Class 190
 191
 192

Western Riding
Horse & Pony

Novice Age 15+ up CLASS 194
8-14 195

Advance 8-19 CLASS 196



should have a relaxed head carriage showing its response to the rider's hands, with moderate flexion at the poll. The tail should remain quiet throughout the pattern. The horse should cross the log at the jog or pleasure gait and lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.

3. Additional information about the pattern follows.

- The arrows on the lines indicate the direction of travel and the type of line indicates the gait.
 - The log should be at least 8 feet long and laid on the ground.
 - The markers should be cones or pylons. In the row of five markers, the markers are separated by equal distances of 30 to 50 feet. The markers in the row of three are aligned with the first, third, and fifth markers in the row of five.
 - After stopping and backing at least 10 feet at the end of the pattern, the rider will report to the judge to be excused.
4. A horse going off pattern is disqualified. Off pattern is any of the following: an incomplete pattern, incorrect order of maneuvers, knocking over markers, passing on the wrong side of markers, making extra loops in the pattern, missing the log, five or more simple lead changes, and failure to change leads.
5. The judge may require an exhibitor to repeat or reverse any part of the routine.
6. Only one hand is allowed on the reins and only the index finger is allowed between the reins. Except when negotiating the gate, the hand on the rein cannot be changed. When roma reins are used they will be carried as described under "Stock Seat Equitation" in the Western Division.
7. The running walk or other pleasure gait is acceptable for any horses that do not jog.
8. Each rider will enter the ring with a score of 70, which represents an average performance. Final scores will generally fall in a range from 40 to 80 points.
- **Scoring guidelines:** Points will be added or subtracted from the eight maneuvers on the following basis.
 - 1 = very poor
 - ½ = poor
 - 0 = correct
 - +½ = good
 - +1 = excellent
 - Sample scoresheets are available online from:
 - AQHA Resources (<https://aqha.com/forms-and-resources>)—Scroll to the "Score Sheets" section.
 - Appaloosa Horse Club Downloadable Forms (<https://appaloosa.com/all-forms>)—Scroll to the "Judges Score Sheets" section.
 - The maneuvers are:
 - a. Trot over the log
 - b. Trot and transition to lope
 - c. Line (side) lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)
 - d. First two crossing lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)
 - e. Lope over the log

f. Second two crossing lead changes (plus or minus 1 point per change)

g. Lope, stop, and back a minimum of 10 feet

- An additional score of plus or minus 1 point will be given for pattern accuracy and smoothness.

- Contestants will be penalized as follows:

5 points

- Failure to change leads where indicated in pattern.

3 to 5 points

- Using the free hand to instill fear in or to praise the horse.

3 points

- Breaking gait at a lope, including a simple lead change.
- Making extra lead changes anywhere on the course.
- Breaking gait at a walk or jog for two or more strides.
- Failure to begin lope within 30 feet after crossing log.

2 points

- Failing to take a prescribed gait at the designated point in the pattern.
- Failing to change lead behind until the next change point.

1 point

- Breaking gait at a walk or trot up to two strides.
- Hitting the log.

½ point

- Touching the log lightly.
- Failing to change lead behind from one-half stride up to a cone.

Disqualifications—Failure to perform at least four flying lead changes will result in disqualification.

- The following are considered faults and should be penalized at the judge's discretion:
 - Opening mouth excessively or throwing head on maneuvers.
 - Anticipating signals or early lead changes.
 - Stumbling.
 - Losing a stirrup or holding on.
 - Any unnecessary aid given by the rider, such as talking, petting, spurring, quirting, or jerking the reins.

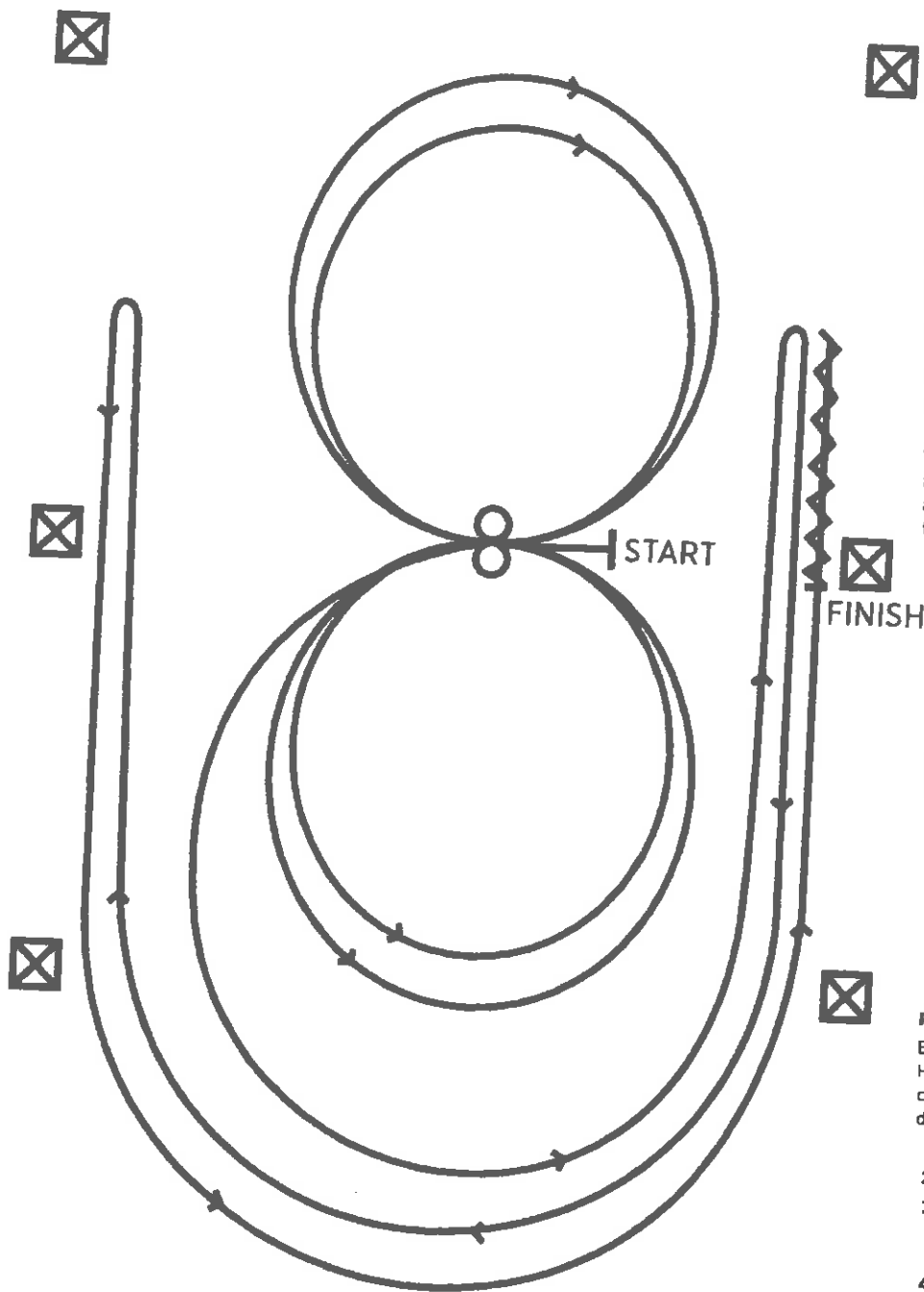
GREEN ENGLISH/WESTERN RIDING

This class will use the same rules, scorecard, scoring system, and evaluation criteria as English/western riding. Horses may perform simple lead changes without disqualification but will receive a 3-point penalty for each simple change performed. Riders are encouraged to advance their skill in 4-H, hence those horses who perform flying lead changes in the class will earn credit over those who perform only simple changes.

AQHA green western riding patterns 1, 2 or 4 should be used.

If a show offers English western riding and allows simple lead changes, the class should be listed on the show bill as green English/western riding. Only standard English/western riding (in which four or more simple lead changes results in disqualification) will be offered at the Michigan State 4-H Horse Show.

Reining
 Class 197 15+ Up Horse & Pony
 Class 198 8-14 Horse & Pony



Reining pattern 2
 Pattern 2

REINING DIVISION

"To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely." (*Jim Willoughby, quoted in the National Reining Horse Association 2022 Handbook: Rules, Regulations, and Judges Guide*)

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE & RIDER—See the "Western Appointments" section of the Western Riding Division. Skid boots, splint boots and protective leg wraps are optional in reining classes.

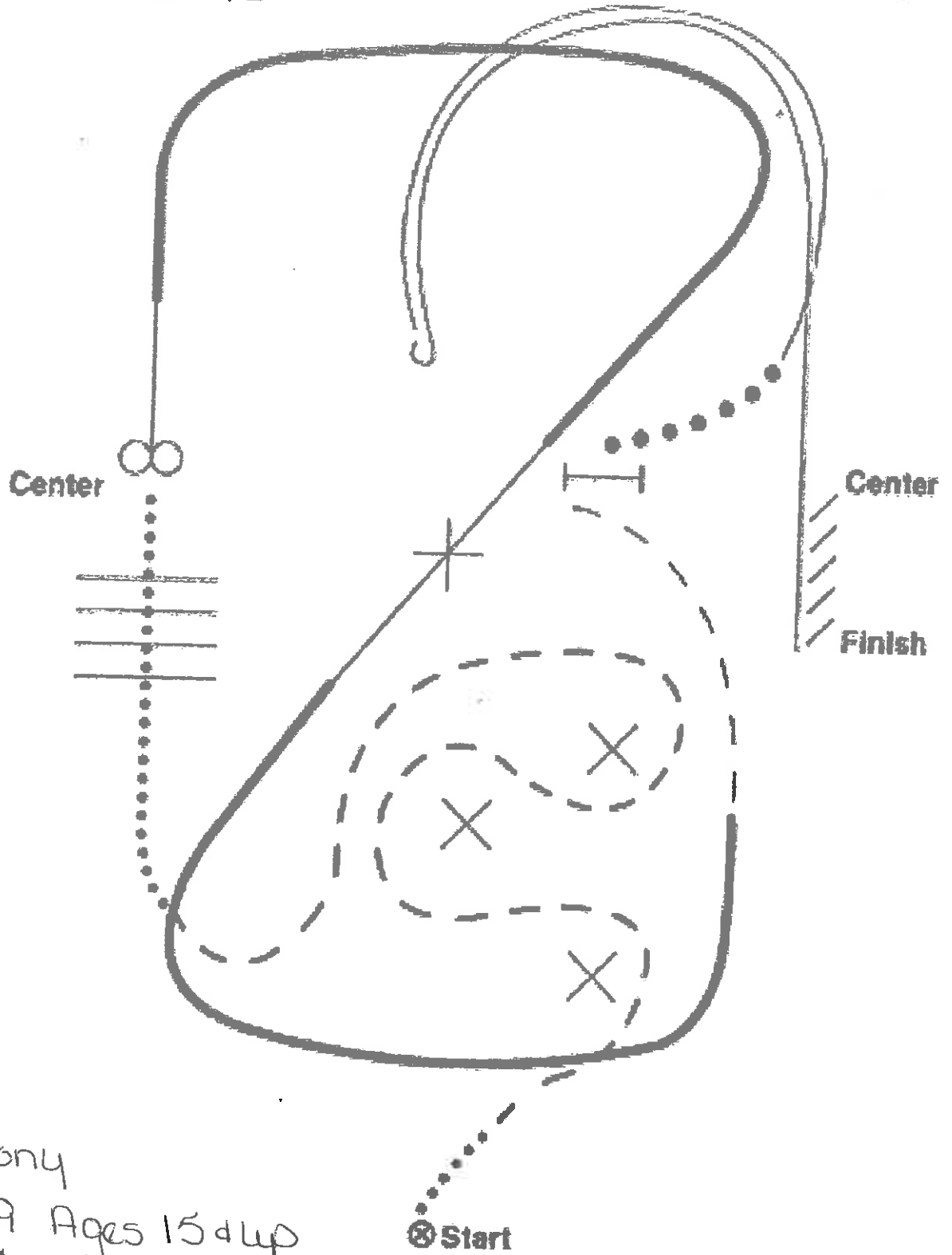
The judge will indicate the length of the pattern with markers on the arena fence or wall. Markers within the area of the pattern may be used as a guide, but circles, figure eights, and other movements do not have to be performed within the markers.

REINING PATTERN 2

Exhibitors may walk or trot their horses to the center of the arena. Horses must walk or stop before starting the pattern. Begin at the center of the arena facing the left wall or fence. (See fig. 19 for a diagram of reining pattern 2.)

1. Complete one spin to the right. Hesitate.
2. Complete one spin to the left. Hesitate.
3. Beginning on the left lead, complete two circles to the left, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
4. Complete two circles to the right, with the first circle large and fast, and the second circle small and slow. Change leads at the center of the arena.
5. Begin a large fast circle to the left but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a right rollback at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence—no hesitation.
6. Continue back around the previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the left side of the arena past the center marker and do a left rollback at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence—no hesitation.
7. Continue back around previous circle but do not close this circle. Run up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence. Back up at least 10 feet (3 meters). Hesitate to demonstrate that you have completed the pattern.
8. Dismount and drop the bridle to the designated judge.

Ranch Riding WITIC



Horse & Pony
CLASS 199 Ages 15 & up
CLASS 200 Ages 8 to 14

1. Walk into the arena
2. Extended trot around cones as shown
3. walk
4. Walk over logs and brush stop
5. 360 each direction, either direction first,
6. Lope right lead building to an extended lope around the end of the arena and across the diagonal, collect
7. Change leads on the diagonal
8. Left lead building to an extended lope around the bottom of the arena
9. Break to a trot. trot to the gate
10. Right handed gate
11. Extended walk
12. Lope left lead stop right roll back
13. Lope right lead around end past the center, stop and back
14. Exit at the trot

- Overflexion at the poll, indicating intimidation, or "nosing out," indicating a lack of respect for the bit.
- Sour ears, switching tail, and lugging on the bit.
- Altered tail carriage.
- Opening the mouth, failure to change gaits, wrong leads.
- Overly canted at lope (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside foot).
- Horse appears dull, sullen, lethargic, or overly tired.

WESTERN SNAFFLE BIT

Western Snaffle Bit Criteria	Points
Horse's performance, manners & quality of movement.....	90
Appointments of horse & rider.....	10
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

Riders must show with both hands on the reins and maintain light contact with the horse's mouth. For split reins, the right rein should pass through the right hand first, then through the left hand with the end of the rein on the left. The left rein should pass through the left hand first, then through the right hand with the end of the rein on the right (see fig. 17).

The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and no more than 4 inches out on either side of the saddle horn. The rider's hands must be steady, with very limited movement, and should be visible to the judge at all times.

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE & MANNERS—See the "Western Pleasure" section in this division.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE & RIDER—See the "Western Appointments" section in this division.

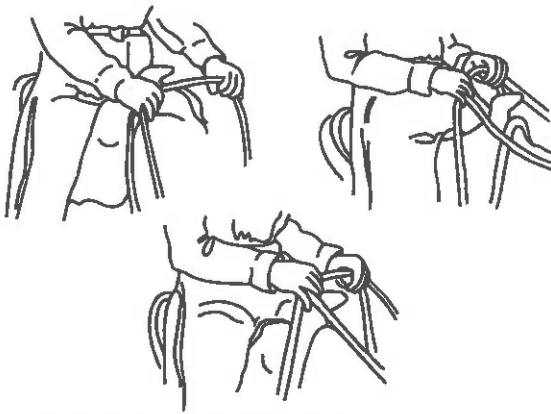


Figure 17. Acceptable hand positions for riders of western snaffle bit horses.

RANCH RIDING DIVISION*

A superior ranch horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if the horse and rider were traveling to do a ranch task in a timely fashion. The horse should not be a runaway.

Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of movement and consistency of gaits are major considerations.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE—Polished hoofs, braided manes, and trimmed ears are discouraged, though meeting this guideline may be difficult or impossible, depending on show schedules. Trimming the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive or long facial hair is allowed. Braided tails and tail extensions are prohibited.

Equipment with silver should not count over a good working rig. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. It is suggested that rigs include a breast collar and a rear cinch.

Snaffle bits and hackamores are acceptable under the terms of their use in the Western Riding Division of this book. When riding in a snaffle bit, the reins must be bridged with the option of carrying the right or one side.

For more information on tack that is acceptable in this division, please see the Western Riding Division.

APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER—See the Western Riding Division of this book.

GAITS

In all gaits, the movement of the ranch horse should simulate that of a working ranch horse that needs to cover long distances softly and quietly. The horse should display a bright, attentive expression.

Walk—The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering.

Extended Walk—The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner as if it were crossing a large open pasture.

Trot—The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog or jog-trot.

Extended Trot—The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should move as if it were covering a large open pasture.

Lope—The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward-moving stride.

Extended Lope—The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward working speed.

*Information in this division is adapted with permission from the "Ranchmanship" section of the 2022-2023 America Ranch Horse Association Rule Book (<https://www.americanranchhorse.net/forms.asp>) and the "Ranch Riding" section of the AQHA website (<https://www.aqha.com/ranch-riding/>).

RANCH PLEASURE

OVERVIEW

The rider should not be penalized for picking up the reins or moving the horse's body as long as the horse is soft, willing, and free of resistance and should receive credit. The horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena, which will be faulted according to its severity).

The horse should:

- Not wring its tail or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands.
- Drive off its hindquarters.
- Not carry its head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance.
- Have a bright expression with alert ears.
- Be mannerly.
- Not demonstrate a dull, sullen, lethargic, drawn, or overly tired attitude.
- Be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control.
- Be responsive yet smooth in transitions.
- Extend gaits on cue with the same flowing motion.

Maximum credit should be given to the horse that:

- Has a flowing stride.
- Is balanced.
- Gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert, and a pleasure to ride.
- Demonstrates great athletic ability and agility.

This class will be judged on the horse's performance, athletic ability, and condition.

CLASS ROUTINE

1. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability on both leads. At the judge's option, horses may be asked to extend the walk, trot, and lope one or both ways of the ring. The extended trot is an obvious two-beat lengthening of the stride, with a definite increase in pace. Cadence, balance, and smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized if the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
2. 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 will not be asked to reverse at the lope.
3. Riders will not be required to dismount unless the judge wishes to check equipment.
4. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and lope on a reasonably loose rein or with light contact without undue restraint.

SCORING

Faults:

Faults are to be scored according to severity:

- Excessive speed or excessive slowness at any gait.
- Incorrect lead.
- Breaking gait (including not walking when called for).
- Excessive slowness in any gait or loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated or artificial gait at the lope).
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized).
- Over flexing or straining the neck so that the nose is behind the vertical.
- Excessive nosing out.
- Opening or gapping the mouth excessively.
- Stumbling.
- Spurring in front of the cinch.
- Horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn, or overly tired.
- Quick, choppy strided or quick legged horse.
- Overly canted at the lope (horse lopes with its haunches toward the center of arena).
- Excessive head bobbing.
- Excessive tail ringing.

Credits:

1. Natural, ground-covering gaits.
2. Consistency at all gaits.
3. Smooth upward and downward transitions.
4. Working on a reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain a moderate pace.
5. Giving the appearance of being able to do a day's work.
6. Athletic ability and agility.
7. Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip, and being responsive through the whole body.

Disqualifications:

1. Grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle.
2. Illegal use of the hands on the reins (see the Western Riding Division).
3. Use of prohibited equipment (see the Western Riding Division).

RANCH RIDING

The ranch riding class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while carrying a rider between ranch tasks. The horse should:

- Possess the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse.
- Be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. (Cadenced refers to the proper footfall patterns described in the "Gaits" section of this division.)

- Emphasize free-flowing, ground-covering forward movement at all gaits.
- Perform transitions at designated points smoothly and responsively.
- Be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint but also without excessive drape or length of the reins.

The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse, and the quality of its movement, are primary considerations.

CLASS ROUTINE

Each horse and rider will work a designated pattern individually.

Ranch riding patterns are available in the "Ranchmanship" section of the 2022-2023 American Ranch Horse Association Rule Book (<https://www.americanranchhorse.net/forms.asp>, pp. 61-65) and in the "Ranch Riding" section of the AQHA website (<https://aqha.com/ranch-riding/>).

Ranch riding scoresheets are available from the AQHA website (<https://aqha.com/forms-and-resources>).

Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended, though standing in the stirrups or posting the extended trot and standing in the stirrups at the extended lope are acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

The use of natural logs in any pattern is encouraged.

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

All contestants will start the class with a score of 70, which represents an average performance. The scale is from 0 to 100. The starting score will be added to or subtracted from as maneuvers are performed and penalties are added. Each maneuver should be scored according to the following scale:

-1½ = extremely poor +½ = good

-1 = very poor +1 = very good

-.5 = poor +1½ = excellent

0 = correct

Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

PENALTIES

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications will be determined independently. Penalties will be applied to each occurrence and deducted from the final score.

The following will result in a 1-point reduction:

- Too slow (per gait).
- Over-bridled (per maneuver).
- Out of frame (per maneuver).
- Break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less.

The following will result in a 3-point reduction:

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides.
- Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead.
- Wrong lead or out of lead.
- Draped reins (per maneuver).
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads.

Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.

Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

The following will result in a 5-point reduction:

Blatant disobedience (such as kicking, biting, bucking, or rearing) for each refusal.

The following will result in a 10-point reduction:

Unnatural ranch horse appearance (for example, the horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver).

The following off-pattern issues will result in the horse being placed below horses performing all maneuvers:

- Eliminates or adds maneuver.
- Incomplete maneuver.
- Repeated blatant disobedience.

- Overflexion at the poll, indicating intimidation, or "nosing out," indicating a lack of respect for the bit.
- Sour ears, switching tail, and lugging on the bit.
- Altered tail carriage.
- Opening the mouth, failure to change gaits, wrong leads.
- Overly canted at lope (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside foot).
- Horse appears dull, sullen, lethargic, or overly tired.

WESTERN SNAFFLE BIT

Western Snaffle Bit Criteria	Points
Horse's performance, manners & quality of movement.....	90
Appointments of horse & rider.....	10
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

Riders must show with both hands on the reins and maintain light contact with the horse's mouth. For split reins, the right rein should pass through the right hand first, then through the left hand with the end of the rein on the left. The left rein should pass through the left hand first, then through the right hand with the end of the rein on the right (see fig. 17).

The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and no more than 4 inches out on either side of the saddle horn. The rider's hands must be steady, with very limited movement, and should be visible to the judge at all times.

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE & MANNERS—See the "Western Pleasure" section in this division.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE & RIDER—See the "Western Appointments" section in this division.

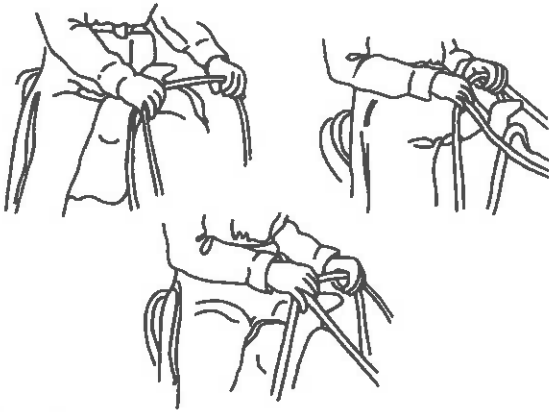


Figure 17. Acceptable hand positions for riders of western snaffle bit horses.

RANCH RIDING DIVISION*

A superior ranch horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if the horse and rider were traveling to do a ranch task in a timely fashion. The horse should not be a runaway.

Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of movement and consistency of gaits are major considerations.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE—Polished hoofs, banded manes, and trimmed ears are discouraged, though meeting this guideline may be difficult or impossible, depending on show schedules. Trimming the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive or long facial hair is allowed. Braided tails and tail extensions are prohibited.

Equipment with silver should not count over a good working rig. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. It is suggested that rigs include a breast collar and a rear cinch.

Snaffle bits and hackamores are acceptable under the terms of their use in the Western Riding Division of this book. When riding in a snaffle bit, the reins must be bridged with the option of carrying the right on one side.

For more information on tack that is acceptable in this division, please see the Western Riding Division.

APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER—See the Western Riding Division of this book.

GAITS

In all gaits, the movement of the ranch horse should simulate that of a working ranch horse that needs to cover long distances softly and quietly. The horse should display a bright, attentive expression.

Walk—The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering.

Extended Walk—The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner as if it were crossing a large open pasture.

Trot—The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog or jog-trot.

Extended Trot—The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should move as if it were covering a large open pasture.

Lope—The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward-moving stride.

Extended Lope—The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward working speed.

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RANCH PLEASURE

OVERVIEW

The rider should not be penalized for picking up the reins or moving the horse's body as long as the horse is soft, willing, and free of resistance and should receive credit. The horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena, which will be faulted according to its severity).

The horse should:

- Not wring its tail or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands.
- Drive off its hindquarters.
- Not carry its head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance.
- Have a bright expression with alert ears.
- Be mannerly.
- Not demonstrate a dull, sullen, lethargic, drawn, or overly tired attitude.
- Be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control.
- Be responsive yet smooth in transitions.
- Extend gaits on cue with the same flowing motion.

Maximum credit should be given to the horse that:

- Has a flowing stride.
- Is balanced.
- Gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert, and a pleasure to ride.
- Demonstrates great athletic ability and agility.

This class will be judged on the horse's performance, athletic ability, and condition.

CLASS ROUTINE

1. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability on both leads. At the judge's option, horses may be asked to extend the walk, trot, and lope one or both ways of the ring. The extended trot is an obvious two-beat lengthening of the stride, with a definite increase in pace. Cadence, balance, and smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized if the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
2. 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 will not be asked to reverse at the lope.
3. Riders will not be required to dismount unless the judge wishes to check equipment.
4. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and lope on a reasonably loose rein or with light contact without undue restraint.

SCORING

Faults:

Faults are to be scored according to severity:

- Excessive speed or excessive slowness at any gait.
- Incorrect lead.
- Breaking gait (including not walking when called for).
- Excessive slowness in any gait or loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated or artificial gait at the lope).
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized).
- Over flexing or straining the neck so that the nose is behind the vertical.
- Excessive nosing out.
- Opening or gapping the mouth excessively.
- Stumbling.
- Spurring in front of the cinch.
- Horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn, or overly tired.
- Quick, choppy strided or quick-legged horse.
- Overly canted at the lope (horse lopes with its haunches toward the center of arena).
- Excessive head bobbing.
- Excessive tail-ringing.

Credits:

1. Natural, ground-covering gaits.
2. Consistency at all gaits.
3. Smooth upward and downward transitions.
4. Working on a reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain a moderate pace.
5. Giving the appearance of being able to do a day's work.
6. Athletic ability and agility.
7. Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip, and being responsive through the whole body.

Disqualifications:

1. Grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle.
2. Illegal use of the hands on the reins (see the Western Riding Division).
3. Use of prohibited equipment (see the Western Riding Division).

RANCH RIDING

The ranch riding class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while carrying a rider between ranch tasks. The horse should:

- Possess the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse.
- Be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. (Cadenced refers to the proper footfall patterns described in the "Gaits" section of this division.)

- Emphasize free-flowing, ground-covering forward movement at all gaits.
- Perform transitions at designated points smoothly and responsively.
- Be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint but also without excessive drape or length of the reins.

The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse, and the quality of its movement, are primary considerations.

CLASS ROUTINE

Each horse and rider will work a designated pattern individually.

Ranch riding patterns are available in the "Ranchmanship" section of the *2022-2023 America Ranch Horse Association Rule Book* (<https://www.americanranchhorse.net/forms.asp>, pp. 61-65) and in the "Ranch Riding" section of the AQHA website (<https://aqha.com/ranch-riding/>).

Ranch riding scoresheets are available from the AQHA website (<https://aqha.com/forms-and-resources>).

Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended, though standing in the stirrups or posting the extended trot and standing in the stirrups at the extended lope are acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

The use of natural logs in any pattern is encouraged.

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

All contestants will start the class with a score of 70, which represents an average performance. The scale is from 0 to 100. The starting score will be added to or subtracted from as maneuvers are performed and penalties are added. Each maneuver should be scored according to the following scale:

- |-1½ = extremely poor
- |-1 = very poor
- |-½ = poor
- | 0 = correct
- | +½ = good
- | +1 = very good
- | +1½ = excellent

Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

PENALTIES

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications will be determined independently. Penalties will be applied to each occurrence and deducted from the final score.

The following will result in a 1-point reduction:

- ↳ Too slow (per gait).
- ↳ Over-bridled (per maneuver).
- ↳ Out of frame (per maneuver).
- ↳ Break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less.

The following will result in a 3-point reduction:

- ↳ Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides.
- ↳ Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead.
- ↳ Wrong lead or out of lead.
- ↳ Draped reins (per maneuver).
- ↳ Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads.
- ↳ Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.
- ↳ Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

The following will result in a 5-point reduction:

Blatant disobedience (such as kicking, biting, bucking, or rearing) for each refusal.

The following will result in a 10-point reduction:

Unnatural ranch horse appearance (for example, the horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver).

The following off-pattern issues will result in the horse being placed below horses performing all maneuvers:

- ↳ Eliminates or adds maneuver.
- ↳ Incomplete maneuver.
- ↳ Repeated blatant disobedience.