

SHW416. Ranch Riding / based on 2017 AQHA Rules

(a) The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse.

(b) 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 does not have to 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) Requirements:

(1) No horses less than 3 years of age.

(2) 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.

(3) The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions: and the extended jog and lope at least one direction; as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back.

(4) 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.

(5) The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

(6) The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in the AQHA Handbook, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

(7) No time limit.

(8) One of the suggested 4 patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers are included plus 3 or more optional maneuvers are included.

(9) Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all maneuvers

(10) The use of natural logs is encouraged.

(11) Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

(12) Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.