



# Horse Evaluation

## Purpose

*The purpose of the Tennessee FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to:*

- *Promote the study of and interest in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management and production through the agricultural education curriculum.*
- *Encourage experiential learning through practical skills, critical thinking and applied knowledge.*
- *Provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in equine science.*

## Objectives

By incorporating horse evaluation instruction in the agricultural education program, teachers can instill leadership and motivate learning in the classroom by developing student skills in cooperative learning, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication.

Through participation in the national event, participants will be able to

- Develop and exercise competitive spirit in a team atmosphere.
- Create a foundation for career choices by building an awareness of opportunities within the equine industry.
- Advance knowledge in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management and production of horses.
- Evaluate, make decisions and orally justify decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

## Event Rules

- Official FFA Dress is required for the state event. Black slacks and black boots are acceptable clothing choices during the selection and reasons portions of the event.
- All attire of riders and handlers and all tack is to be considered legal in the selection classes.
- All halter horses will be judged as sound, and all performance classes will be judged as they go regarding soundness.
- AQHA novice rules will be used in Hunter Under Saddle, Ranch Pleasure and Western Pleasure classes regarding head set and carriage.

## Event Format

Materials each participant needs to provide:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils for placing classes.
- No pre-printed materials are allowed during the event.

Tennessee FFA will provide:

- Scantron sheet(s) needed for the event.

## INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

### *Identification class (50 points)*

Participants will identify breeds and/or colors and markings of horses, tack and equipment as well as leg deviations (i.e., toed out, toed in, sickle hocked etc.) items. Each problem will be worth two points with 25 items total. All questions will be pulled from the last five years of National FFA exams.

### *Selection classes (400 points)*

There will be a total of six classes evaluated, consisting of halter and performance classes. There will be three classes of reasons, at least one set in each area, with the third being decided by the host facility. All classes will be 50 points.

Halter classes will be evaluated as sound, so no tracking or close inspection will be done. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types.

- Quarter Horse
- Conformation Hunter
- Appaloosa
- Arabian
- Tennessee Walking Horse
- Paint
- American Saddlebred
- Morgan
- Ranch Conformation
- Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat)
- Trail
- Hunter Hack. (2023 remaining year)
- Ranch Trail
- Showmanship at Halter
- Ranch Rail Pleasure/Working Western Rail
- Western Horsemanship
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Pleasure
- Ranch Riding
- Western Riding
- Reining
- English Pleasure (Saddle Seat)

Performance classes will be evaluated as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). Patterns and scoresheets will be provided to the teams prior to the start of the event for all classes requiring patterns. See the Resources AQHA Classes on page 10 for more information. Links are provided below for the included Performance classes:

- English Pleasure (Saddle Seat)
- [Hunt Seat Equitation](#)
- [Hunter Hack](#)
- [Hunter Under Saddle](#) (Hunt Seat)
- [Ranch Rail Pleasure/Working Western Rail](#)
- [Ranch Riding](#)
  - Western Horsemanship
  - Hunt Seat Equitation
  - Western Pleasure
  - Ranch Riding
  - Western Riding
  - English Pleasure (Saddle Seat)
  - [Hunt Seat Equitation](#)
  - [Hunter Hack](#)
  - [Hunter Under Saddle](#) (Hunt Seat)
  - [Ranch Rail Pleasure/Working Western Rail](#)
  - [Ranch Riding](#)
- [Reining](#)
- [Showmanship at Halter](#)
- [Trail](#)
- [Western Horsemanship](#)
- [Western Pleasure](#)
- [Western Riding](#)

### *Oral Reasons (200 points)*

Performance classes will be selected for oral reasons from Western Pleasure, Ranch Riding,

Western Riding, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), Trail and Hunter Hack.

Halter oral reasons classes will be selected from the halter classes listed above (50 points each).

Three sets of oral reasons will be given during the contest- with at least one set being halter and at least one set being performance. The third remaining class can come from either halter or performance at the discretion of the host facility.

## Scoring

The event is organized into the following parts, classes and point values:

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Identification class	50	200
Halter/Performance classes – six total classes	300	1200
Halter/Performance Reasons – three sets	150	600
<b>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE</b>	500	2000

### TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken in the following order:

#### Individual:

1. Oral reasons total.
2. Performance classes total.
3. Halter classes total.

#### Team:

1. Team oral reasons total.
2. Team performance classes total.
3. Team halter classes total.

## References

***This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized,***

**and** teachers are encouraged to use the best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

Past CDE materials and other resources are available on [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org).

- Performance Classes rules — These are updated from the current [AQHA Rulebook](#).  
*Please reference the AQHA Rulebook directly for the latest changes to their rules.*
- AQHA Forms and Resources, <https://www.aqha.com/forms-and-resources>.
- Score sheets
  - o Pattern Classes (Horsemanship, Showmanship & Hunt Seat Equitation)
  - o Trail
  - o Ranch Trail
  - o Western Riding
  - o Ranch Riding
  - o Reining
- Patterns
  - o Ranch riding
  - o Reining
  - o Western riding

- American Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo Texas — Video References, <https://www.aqha.com/-/educational-judging-videos>. Additional video packages are at <https://showing.aqhuniversity.com/pages/judge-home>
- AQHUniversity provides excellent video resources and tutorials on new classes starting in 2024. Many resources for youth are offered free once an account is set up by an adult.
- Heird, James C. and The American Quarter Horse Association, Competitive Horse Judging. First Edition. The American Quarter Horse Association, 1990. <https://equinehusbandry.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/AQHA-Competitive-Horse-Judging.pdf?fwd=no>
- American Paint Horse Association, Fort Worth Texas-Judging References, <https://www.horseiq.com/>  
FFA Chapters are eligible for a \$150 discount for 25 student seats on horseIQ
- CEV Videos on horse judging, <https://store.icevonline.com/>
- Knowledge exam questions will be modeled after the iCEV Equine Management and Evaluation Certification <https://www.icevonline.com/equine>
- Evans, J. Warren, Borton, Anthony, Hintz, Harold F., and Van Vleck, L. Dale, The HORSE, current edition. W. H. Freeman and Company, 41 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010 ISBN 0-7167-1811-1
- The American Youth Horse Council, <http://ayhc.com>, then select Resources
- Equine Science Curriculum – a special project from the National Council for Agricultural Education, <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil/resources>
- Tack Identification: Horses and Tack, Howard Ensminger, <http://teskeys.com>, then select Tack
- Oklahoma State University horse breed website, <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
- University of Kentucky Agripedia website, search horse judging, <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/>
- Texas A&M Agrilifelearn Online Horse Judging Course, <https://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/online-judging/>
- Black Hawk Horse Judging Manual available for purchase, <http://bookstore-east.bhc.edu/MerchDetail?MerchID=1522504&CategoryName=horse%20judging%20manual&CatID=34342&Name=horse%20judging%20manual>
- National Horse Judging Team Coaches' Association offers DVD's, [www.nhjtca.org](http://www.nhjtca.org)
- Official Judging Guide from each of the various breed associations and audiovisuals

## Resources – USEF Performance Classes\*

*\*These are updated from the current USEF Rulebook. Please reference the [USEF Rulebook](https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook) directly for the latest changes to their rules. The USEF Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations is available online as a free PDF at <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook>. Select the current year Rulebook, choose English Pleasure Division*

### CHAPTER EP ENGLISH PLEASURE DIVISION SUBCHAPTER EP-1 GENERAL EP101

**Eligibility** Horses may be of any breed or combination of breeds. Junior exhibitor classes are open to horses and ponies. Horses must be serviceably sound, in good condition and of English Pleasure type. Animals with complete loss of sight in one eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion. Stallions are not permitted in Junior Exhibitor classes.

#### EP102 Appointments

1. The use of artificial appliances or devices such as chains, shackles, rubber bands, blinkers (except when driving) or blindfolds is prohibited on the grounds before or during a competition. Any animal with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Tails must not be gingered or put in any device (e.g., tailset, bustle, braced, tied, etc.) which alters their carriage while on the grounds. The fact that a horse's tail has previously been set does not exclude participation. Tongue ties and inconspicuously applied hair in the tail and/or mane are permitted.
2. ENGLISH PLEASURE SADDLE SEAT CLASSES: A full bridle, pelham or curb, English-type saddle (No forward seat or dressage seat saddles allowed). Horses must be shown with a full mane and tail without braids or ornamentation of any kind. For rider, informal saddle seat attire with coat and hat or protective headgear. In all classes, gloves, crop, and spurs are optional. Gaudy colors should be avoided. Prohibited: A single snaffle, hackamore, martingale, or tie-down.

#### EP103 Gait Requirements

1. UNDER SADDLE CLASSES. a. Saddle Seat Classes: To be shown at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. Horses may or may not stretch in the line-up. b. Hunter Seat Classes: To be shown at a flat walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Entries may be asked to hand gallop one or more directions of the ring at the discretion of the judge. For safety reasons the judge may limit the number of horses to hand gallop at one time. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. Horses must not stretch in the line-up.

#### EP104 Judging

1. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Horses must be obedient with prompt transitions. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk with special consideration being given to those entries that represent a true recreational type, general riding mount. Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, or resistance of any type. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. To be penalized: Pulling, head tossing, laboring action, extreme motion or speed, going sideways, tail switching, and interference from attendant during the line up in driving classes.

## Resources – AQHA Performance Classes\*

*\*These are updated from the current AQHA Rulebook. Please reference the [AQHA Rulebook](http://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook) directly for the latest changes to their rules. The AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations is available online as a free PDF at [www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook](http://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook). Select the current year Rulebook.*

### SHW616. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT.

Available only in the amateur and youth divisions. The purpose is to evaluate the ability of the hunter rider to perform various maneuvers on his/her horse which provides a base for natural progression to over fence classes. The communication between horse and rider through subtle cues and aids should not be obvious. Equitation is judged on the rider and his/her effect on the horse. Hunt seat equitation on the flat provides a base for a natural progression to over fence classes. The poll should be level with, or slightly above the withers, to allow proper impulsion behind. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

**SHW617. Pattern.** All patterns must include a walk, trot, canter and back. Horses' gaits are to be ridden with the same cadence and speed as you would find in the rail phase. All ties will be broken at the discretion of the judge.

**SHW618. Basic Position.** Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

**SHW618.1** Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional, and bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

**SHW618.2** The eyes should be up and shoulders back.

**SHW618.3** Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse.

**SHW618.4** Iron should be on the ball of the foot. Iron or stirrup leather may not be connected by string or any other material to the girth.

**SHW618.5** Appropriate English attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in a disqualification.

**SHW619.** Class Procedure: Exhibitors may be worked individually from the gate or they may all enter at once, but a working order must be drawn regardless. The entire class, or only the finalists, must work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. Rail work can be used to break ties and possibly adjust placings.

**SHW619.1** A turn on the forehand to the right is accomplished by moving haunches to the left.

**SHW619.2** A forehand turn to the left is accomplished by moving haunches to the right.

**SHW619.3** If riders are asked to drop their irons, they can leave them down or cross them over the withers.

**SHW619.4** When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body straight with a slight flexion of the head in the opposite direction of lateral movement. When a horse yields to the right, the head is slightly (just to see the eye of the horse) to the left. A horse yielding to the left, the head is slightly flexed to the right.

**SHW619.5** When a lead change is a required maneuver, it may be designated as a simple change or the exhibitor has the option to perform either a simple or flying lead change.

**SHW620.** Individual works may be comprised of any of the following:

- Group #1 - Walk, Sitting Trot, Extended Trot, Posting Trot, Canter, Circles, Figure 8, Halt, Back, Sidepass, Address Reins, Demonstrate Change of Diagonal;
- Group #2 - Serpentine (Trot or Canter), Turn on Haunches or Forehand, Leg-Yield, Flying or Simple Change of Lead (A simple change of lead is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for 1 to 3 strides); or



- Group #3 - Canter and Hand Gallop in a straight or curved line, Counter-Canter Figure 8, Drop or Pick-up Irons without stopping.

**SHW620.1 THE WALK:** Should be a four-beat gait with the rider in a vertical position with a following hand.

**SHW620.2 THE POSTING TROT:** Figure 8 at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when left front leg is on the ground; at right diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground; when circling clockwise at a trot, rider should be on left diagonal; when circling counter-clockwise, rider should be on right diagonal. The rider should close his/her hip angle to allow his/her torso to follow the horizontal motion of the horse. The upper body should be inclined about 20 degrees in front of the vertical.

**SHW620.3 SITTING TROT AND CANTER:** At the sitting trot, the upper body is only slightly in front of the vertical. At the canter, the body should be positioned slightly more in front of the vertical. As the stride is shortened, the body should be in a slightly more erect position.

**SHW620.4 TWO-POINT POSITION:** The pelvis should be forward, but relaxed, lifting the rider's weight off the horse's back and transferring the weight through the rider's legs. In this position the two points of contact between horse and rider are the rider's legs. Hands should be forward, up the neck, not resting on the neck.

**SHW620.5 HAND GALLOP:** A three-beat, lengthened canter ridden in two point position. The legs are on the horse's sides while the seat is held out of the saddle. When at the hand gallop, the rider's angulation will vary somewhat as the horse's stride is shortened and lengthened. A good standard at a normal hand gallop should be about 30 degrees in front of the vertical.

**SHW621. SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from plus 3 to minus 3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor to result in the following scores: -3 extremely poor, -2 very poor, -1 poor, 0 average or correct, +1 good, +2 very good, +3 excellent. Exhibitors overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 average, 3 good, 4 very good, 5 excellent. Exhibitors should also be judged on the rail, and their pattern score and/or ranking may be adjusted as appropriate.

**SHW621.2 Penalties.** Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score:

**SHW621.2.1** Three (3) points

- Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
- Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- Tick or hit of cone
- Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail

**SHW621.2.2** Five (5) points

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
- Incorrect lead or break of gait at the canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- Complete loss of contact between rider's hand and the horse's mouth
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Loss of iron
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation
- Obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals
- Missing a diagonal for more than 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail

### **SHW621.2.3** Ten (10) points

- Loss of rein
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Spurring or use of the of crop in front of girth
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing

### **SHW621.2.4** Disqualifications (should not be placed)

- Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number in visible manner
- Willful abuse of horse or schooling
- Fall by horse or exhibitor
- Illegal use of hands on reins
- Use of prohibited equipment
- Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait, lead, or diagonal; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

**SHW622.** Rookie/Level 1 Classes Only. Exhibitor going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, lead or diagonal, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

### **SHW625. HUNTER HACK.**

The purpose of hunter hack is to give horses and opportunity to show their expertise over low fences and on the flat. The hunter hack horse should move in the same style as a working hunter. The class will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners and way of going. The poll should be level with, or slightly above the withers, to allow proper impulsion behind. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

**SHW625.1** Horses are first required to jump two fences, two feet three inches (69 cm) to three feet (91 cm). Show management has the option to allow a third fence, except in Rookie classes. However, if the jumps are set on a line, they are recommended to be in increments of 12 feet (3.5 meters) but adjusted to no less than two strides. A ground line is recommended for each jump.

**SHW625.2** Horses being considered for placing are then to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring with light contact.

**SHW625.3** At the discretion of the judge, contestants may be asked to hand gallop, pull up or back and stand quietly following the last fence.

**SHW625.4** When necessary to split large classes by running more than one go-round, finalists must both be re-jumped and reworked on the flat.

**SHW625.5** Placing for the class shall be determined by allowing a minimum of 70 percent for individual fence work and a maximum of 30 percent for work on the flat.

**SHW625.6** Faults over fences will be scored as in the working hunter class. Horses eliminated in the over-fence portion of the class shall be disqualified.

**SHW625.7** With the exception of eligibility requirements, heights of jumps and distances between jumps in a line, the same rules applying rookie over fence events as apply in the corresponding over fence class.

**SHW625.8** Fence Heights: Minimum height for rookie class must be a 2'with maximum height of 2'3". Due to low fence height in rookie over fence events it is recommended that the distance between fences be in 11 feet increments. Also recommended that the course not contain combinations such as one or two stride elements or oxers for use in Level 1 and rookie events.

**SHW626.** Faults to be scored accordingly, but not necessarily cause disqualification during the rail work, include: Being on wrong lead and/or wrong diagonal at the trot

- Excessive speed (any gait)
- Excessive slowness (any gait)
- Breaking gait
- Failure to take gait when called
- Head carried too low or too high
- Nosing out or flexing behind the vertical
- Opening mouth excessively
- Stumbling

**SHW627.** Faults which will be cause for disqualification, except in Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth classes, which shall be faults, scored according to severity:

- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

### **SHW601. HUNTER UNDER SADDLE.**

The purpose of the hunter under saddle horse is to present or exhibit a horse with a bright, alert expression, whose gaits show potential of being a working hunter. Therefore, its gait must be free-flowing, ground covering and athletic. Hunters under saddle should be suitable to purpose. Hunters should move with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears, and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. Horses should be responsive and smooth in transition. When asked to extend the trot or hand gallop, they should move out with the same flowing motion. The poll should be level with, or slightly above, the withers to allow proper impulsion behind. The head position should be slightly in front of, or on, the vertical.

**SHW601.1** This class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation. Maximum credit shall be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse.

**SHW601.2** At the judge's discretion, horses may be asked to change to canter from the flat-footed walk or trot. They may also be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk, trot or canter, one or both ways of the ring. An extension is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a slight increase of pace while exerting less effort and appears smooth to ride.

**SHW601.3** At the option of the judge, all or just the top 12 horses may be required to hand gallop, one or both ways of the ring. Never more than 12 horses to hand gallop at one time. At the hand gallop, the judge may ask the group to halt and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).

**SHW602.** Horses to be:

**SHW602.1** shown under saddle, not to jump.

**SHW602.2** shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Horses should back easily and stand quietly.

**SHW602.3** reversed to the inside away from the rail.

**SHW603.** Faults scored according to severity:

- Quick, short or vertical strides
- Being on the wrong lead
- Breaking gait
- Excessive speed at any gait
- Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for
- Head carried too high
- Head carried too low (such that poll is below the withers)
- Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- Excessive nosing out
- Failure to maintain light contact with horse's mouth
- Stumbling
- If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
- Consistently showing too far off the rail

**SHW604.** Faults which will be cause for disqualification, except in Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth, which shall be faults scored according to severity:

Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

## **SHW416 RANCH RIDING**

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

### **SHW417 Class requirements**

**SHW417.1** Each horse will work individually. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ poor, 0 correct, +½ good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

**SHW417.2** One of the 15 approved patterns must be used, except at AQHA World and Level 1 Championship events where alternate patterns may be used.

**SHW417.3** The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, (SHW334 Ranch Riding) with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

**SHW417.4** No time limit.

**SHW417.5** The use of natural logs is encouraged.

**SHW417.6** Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

**SHW417.7** Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

## **SHW418 Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment**

**SHW418.1** No hoof polish, hoof black.

**SHW418.2** No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.

**SHW418.3** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

**SHW418.4** Trimming bridle path, fetlock and/or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

**SHW418.5** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

**SHW418.6** It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

**SHW418.7** When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

### **SHW419 Ranch Riding penalties**

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

#### **SHW419.1 One (1) point**

- Too slow (per gait)
- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

- Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less

#### **SHW419.2 Three (3) point penalties**

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides.
- Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- Wrong lead or out of lead for more than 2 strides
- Draped reins (per maneuver)
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- Trotting more than 3 strides when making a simple lead change
- Trotting for more than 3 strides in lope departures or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

#### **SHW419.3 Five (5) point penalties**

- Blatant disobedience (including, kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking) for each refusal.

#### **SHW419.4 Off Pattern (OP)** Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates or adds maneuver
- Incomplete maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)

#### **SHW419.5 Zero score**

- Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions.
- Willful abuse.

**SHW419.6** No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

**SHW419.7** No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

### **SHW480 REINING**

Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse in the confines of a show arena. In reining competition, contestants are required to run one of several approved patterns. Each pattern includes small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, rollbacks over the hocks, a series of 360 degree spins done in place, and the exciting sliding stops that are the hallmark of the reining horse. 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. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. Any one of the 18 approved reining patterns may be used and is to be selected by the judge of the class and used by all contestants in the class. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena. Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored accordingly. 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 will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

#### **SHW 481 Scoring**

Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to Infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following bases, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 average, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

#### **SHW482 The following will result in no score:**

- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.
- Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains.
- Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains. When using a snaffle bit, an optional curb strap is acceptable; however, curb chains are not acceptable;
- Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;
- Use of whips or bats;

- Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;
- Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;
- Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor;
- Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins and mecates on bosals in classes where the use of two hands is allowed;
- Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to the rein hand is to be considered use of two hands a penalty score of zero will be applied. In addition, should the judge determine the free hand is being used to instill fear or praise, a penalty five will be applied, and a reduction in the maneuver score.

**SHW482.1** The following will result in a score of zero:

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins;
- Use of two hands (exception in junior, snaffle bit, or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands;
- Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT;
- Failure to complete pattern as written;
- Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order or exceeding greater than one quarter of the circle out of order;
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to:
  - Backing more than two (2) strides;
  - Turning more than ninety (90) degrees;
  - On run in patterns, once beginning a lope, a complete stop prior to reaching the first marker. (Exception: a complete stop in the 1st quarter (1/4) of a circle after a lope departure is not to be considered an inclusion of maneuver; a two (2) point break of gait penalty will apply.)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion;
- Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;
- Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena;
- Overspins of more than 1/4 turn;
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider;
- When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line;

**SHW483** Neither a no score nor a zero are eligible to place in a go round or class single go round, but a zero may advance in a multi-go event while a no score may not.



**SHW484 The following will result in a reduction of five points:**

- Spurring in front of cinch;
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
- Holding saddle with either hand;
- Blatant disobediences including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking;
- Horse dropping to its knees or hocks.

**SHW485 The following will result in a reduction of two points:**

- Break of gait;
- Freeze up in spins or rollbacks;
- On walk-in patterns, loping prior to reaching the center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure; On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to the first marker.
- On run-in patterns, failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker or break of gait prior to the first marker;
- If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.

**SHW486 Starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows:**

**SHW486.1** Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to penalize by one point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will deduct one penalty point for each one quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse 1/2 point for a delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.

**SHW486.2** Deduct 1/2 point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two strides. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena, deduct two points.

**SHW486.3** Deduct 1/2 point for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn; deduct one point for over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. A horse can only be assessed one over or under spin penalty per maneuver.

**SHW486.4** A 1/2-point penalty deduction will be given for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) from the side of the arena when approaching a stop and/or rollback.

**SHW487** In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows: for 1/2 the turn or less, one point; for more than 1/2 turn, two points.

**SHW487.1** In a pattern requiring a run-around, there will be a one half (1/2) point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 10 feet from either side of the center of the arena; for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion.

**SHW487.2** A horse which severely stumbles, significantly detracting from the maneuver shall have the maneuver reduced by one half (1/2) point.

**SHW488 Faults against the horse to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:**

- Opening mouth excessively when wearing bit;
- Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head raising on stop;
- Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches — bouncing or sideways stop;
- Refusing to change leads;
- Anticipating signals;
- Stumbling;
- Backing sideways;
- Knocking over markers;

**SHW370. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER.**

Available only in the amateur and youth divisions, showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

**SHW371. CLASS PROCEDURES:** All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

**SHW372.** Showmanship whips (dressage whips etc.), war bridles or like devices or any type of wire or rope over a horse's head are not permitted for showmanship purposes.

**SHW372.1** A minimum gauge link of 4.0 mm is required.

**SHW373. SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from plus 3 to minus 3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor to result in the following scores: -3 extremely poor, -2 very poor, -1 poor, 0 average or correct, +1 good, +2 very good, +3 excellent. Exhibitors overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 average, 3 good, 4 very good, 5 excellent.

**SHW374.** Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse. The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

**SHW375.** Presentation and Position of Exhibitor. Appropriate western attire must be worn; clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid including, but not limited to lighters, hay, dirt, sharp pins, magnetic device, etc. will result in a disqualification.

**SHW375.1** Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge. The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.

**SHW375.2** The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand. The exhibitor's hand shall not be on the chain portion of the lead. The excess lead should never be tightly coiled, rolled or folded. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.

**SHW375.3** Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.

**SHW375.4** The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.

**SHW375.5** When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the exhibitors left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg.

**SHW375.6** When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the horse. The exhibitor is required to use the Quarter Method when presenting the horse. The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. The position of the exhibitor should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position at all times. The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail. When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

**SHW375.7** Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set-up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during



the set-up.

**SHW376.** Presentation of Horse. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed. The hair coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. The mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments (ribbons, bows, etc.), but may be braided or banded for English or western. The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The mane should be even in length or may be roached, but the forelock and tuft over the withers must be left. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped, except where government regulations prohibit. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may be painted black or with hoof dressings, or shown naturally. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

**SHW377.** Pattern Performance. The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of speed. Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty, however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.

**SHW377.1** The horse should be led directly to and away from the judge in a straight or curved line and track briskly and freely at the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.

**SHW377.2** The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.

**SHW377.3** The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.

**SHW377.4** On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.

**SHW377.5** A pull turn to the left is an unacceptable maneuver.

**SHW377.6** The horse should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a horse that stops square.

**SHW378.** Penalties. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score:

**SHW378.1** Three (3) points

- Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
- Over or under turning up to 1/8 of a turn
- Ticking or hitting cone
- Sliding a pivot foot
- Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot and replacing it in the same place
- Lifting a foot in a set-up and replacing it in the same place after presentation

**SHW378.2** Five (5) points

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Splitting the cone (cone between the horse and exhibitor)
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn
- Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation
- Horse resting a foot or hipshot in a set-up
- Over or under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn

### SHW378.3 Ten (10) points

- Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank, holding chain or two hands on shank
- Blatant disobedience including biting, kicking, rearing or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn more than one time

### SHW378.4 Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:

- Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses, or judge
- Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
- Failure to display correct number
- Willful abuse
- Excessive schooling or training; use of artificial aids
- Illegal equipment
- Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

**SHW380.** Rookie/Level 1 Classes Only. Exhibitor's going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

### SHW461 TRAIL

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, positive expression, and minimal visible or audible cueing, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

### SHW463 Scoring

Scoring will be on the basis of zero to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

**SHW464.** Penalties. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

#### SHW464.1 One-half point.

- Each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle.

#### **SHW464.2 One point**

- Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.
- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Split pole in lope-over.
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified.

#### **SHW464.3 Three points**

- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e., back through, 360-degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

#### **SHW464.4 Five points**

- Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
- First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e., back through, 360-degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
- Holding saddle with either hand.

#### **SHW464.5 Disqualified 0 – Score**

- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT, or to straighten reins when stopped.
- Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order;
- No attempt to perform an obstacle;
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern;
- Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head;
- Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction;
- Working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn;
- Riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area;
- Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing;
- Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated;
- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles;
- Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course;
- Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate (except for Level 1 youth, Level 1 amateur, or rookie classes where they place below all who complete course correctly)

**SHW464.6** Faults scored according to severity which occur on the line of travel between obstacles include:

- Head carried too high;
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.
- Opening mouth excessively.

**SHW464.7** Faults which will be cause for disqualification that occur on the line of travel between obstacles, except in rookie/ Level 1 amateur or rookie/Level 1 youth classes which shall be faults scored according to severity, include (1) head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers consistently); (2) over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

**SHW466.** Mandatory trail course obstacles include the following:

**SHW466.1** Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.

**SHW466.2** Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured, and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trotovers and lopeovers cannot be elevated in rookie/Level I classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trotovers and lopeovers should be as follows or increments thereof.

**SHW466.2.1** The spacing for walkovers shall be 20 to 24 inches (50–60 cm) and may be elevated to 12 inches (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22 inches (55 cm) apart.

**SHW466.2.2** The spacing for trotovers shall be 3 feet to 3 feet 3 inches (90–100 cm) and may be elevated to 8 inches (20 cm).

**SHW466.2.3** The spacing for lopeovers shall be 6 feet to 6 and 1/2 feet (1.8–2 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8 inches (20 cm).

**SHW466.3** Backing obstacle. Backing obstacles are to be spaced a minimum of 28 inches (70 cm). If elevated, 30 inches (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.

**SHW466.3.1** Back through and around at least three markers.

**SHW466.3.2** Back through L, V, U, straight or similar-shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24 inches (60 cm).

**SHW467** Optional trail course obstacles include but are not limited to:

**SHW467.1** Optional trail course obstacles include but are not limited to: Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slickbottom boxes will be used. When a water hazard/box is used, it shall remain dry at all times in all divisions.

**SHW467.2** Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6 feet (1.8 meters) for jog.

**SHW467.3** Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.)

**SHW467.4** Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches (90 cm) wide and at least 6 feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.

**SHW467.5** Put on and remove slicker.

**SHW467.6** Remove and replace materials from mailbox.

**SHW467.7** Side pass (may be elevated to 12 inches (30 cm) maximum).

**SHW467.8** An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, laid in a square. Minimum width of the square should be 6 feet (1.8 m). Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.

**SHW467.9** Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.

**SHW467.10** A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.

**SHW468**

Unacceptable trail course obstacles include the following:

- Tires
- Animals
- Hides
- PVC pipe
- Dismounting
- Jumps
- Rocking or moving bridges
- Water box with floating or moving parts
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
- Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll ground ties

**SHW430. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP.**

Available only in the amateur and youth divisions, western horsemanship is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

**SHW430.1 Pattern.** It is mandatory that the judge post the initial pattern to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class; however, if the judge requires additional work of exhibitors for consideration of final placing, an additional pattern may be posted. All patterns must include a walk, jog, lope, and a back. Pattern(s) should be designed to test the horseman's ability. All ties will be broken at the judge's discretion.

**SHW431. CLASS PROCEDURES:** All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line or fall into place on the rail after their work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern: walk, jog, extended jog, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle, figure 8 or combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop; back in a straight or curved line; turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand; sidepass, two-track or leg-yield; flying or simple change of lead; counter-canter; or any other maneuver; or ride without stirrups. A back should be asked for at some time during the class. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

**SHW432. SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from plus 3 to minus 3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor to result in the following scores: -3 extremely poor, -2 very poor, -1 poor, 0 average or correct, +1 good, +2 very good, +3 excellent. Exhibitors overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 average, 3 good, 4 very good, 5 excellent. Exhibitors should also be judged on the rail, and their pattern score and/or ranking may be adjusted as appropriate.

**SHW433. Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse.** The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class as well as the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

**SHW434. Presentation and Position of Exhibitor.**

Appropriate western attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in disqualification.

**SHW434.1** The exhibitor should appear natural in the seat and ride with a balanced, functional and correct position regardless of the maneuver or gait being performed. During the railwork and pattern, the exhibitor should have strong, secure and proper position. Exhibitors should sit and maintain an upright position with the upper body at all gaits.

**SHW434.2** The rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. The heels should be lower than the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly under the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched lower back will be penalized. The shoulders should be back, level and square. The rider's base of support should maintain secure contact with the saddle from the seat to the inner thigh. Light contact should be maintained with the saddle and horse from the knee to mid-calf. The knee should point forward and remain closed with no space between the exhibitor's knee and the saddle. The exhibitor will be penalized for positioning the legs excessively behind or forward of the vertical position. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. The rider's toes should be pointing straight ahead or slightly turned out with the ankles straight or slightly broken in. Riding with toes only in the stirrup and riding without contact of bottom of boot securely on pad of stirrup, will be penalized. Those exhibitors that can maintain the proper position throughout all maneuvers should receive more credit. When riding without stirrups, the exhibitor should maintain the same position as previously described. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

**SHW434.3** The rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Excessive turning of the head to the inside of the circle, or down at the horse's head or shoulder will be penalized.

**SHW434.4** The exhibitor should not crowd the exhibitor next to or in front of them when working on the rail and should pass to the inside of the arena. When reversing on the rail, the exhibitor should always reverse to the inside of the arena.

**SHW435. Presentation of Horse.** The horse's body condition and overall health and fitness should be assessed. The horse should appear fit and carry weight appropriate for the body size. A horse that appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired should be penalized according to severity. Tack should fit the horse properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

**SHW436. Pattern Performance.**

The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of promptness. Increasing speed of the maneuvers performed increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. Exhibitors that perform the pattern sluggishly and allow their horse to move without adequate impulsion, collection or cadence will be penalized.

**SHW436.1** The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.

**SHW436.2** The horse should track straight, freely and at the proper cadence for the prescribed gait. Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern and on the rail, and should be performed when called for on the rail. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with their body while performing straight lines and slightly arched to the inside on curved lines or circles. Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern. The counter-canter should be performed smoothly with no change in cadence or stride unless specified in the pattern.

**SHW436.3** The stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver. The back should be smooth and responsive.

**SHW436.4** Turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the horse should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs. A rollback is a stop and 180 degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely.

**SHW436.5** The horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the sidepass, leg-yield and two-track. The side pass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction. When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move



forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arced opposite to the direction that the horse is moving. In the two-track, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.

**SHW436.6** A simple or flying change of lead should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple change of lead is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three strides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely. When a lead change is a required maneuver, it may be designated as a simple change or the exhibitor has the option to perform either a simple or flying lead change.

**SHW436.7** Position of the exhibitor and performance of the horse and rider on the rail must be considered in the final placing.

**SHW437.** Penalties. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score:

**SHW437.1** Three (3) points

- Break of gait at the walk or jog up to 2 strides
- Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- Tick or hit of cone

**SHW437.2** Five (5) points

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet (3 meters) of designated location
- Incorrect lead or break of gait at the lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- Loss of stirrup
- Bottom of boot not touching pad of stirrup at all gaits including backup
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation
- Obviously looking down to check leads

**SHW437.3** Ten (10) points

- Loss of rein
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Cueing with the end of the romal
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing
- Spurring in front of the cinch

**SHW437.4** Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:

- Failure to display correct number
- Abuse of horse or schooling
- Fall by horse or exhibitor
- Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins
- Use of prohibited equipment
- Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

**SHW438.** Rookie/Level 1 Classes Only: Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or lead or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

## **SHW402. WESTERN PLEASURE.**

A good western pleasure horse has a free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits 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. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. 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 fit and a pleasure to ride. This class will be judged on the performance, condition and

conformation of the horse.

**SHW404.** Horses 6 years old and older must be shown on a curb bit.

**SHW405.** Horses 5 years old and younger may be shown in either curb bit, hackamore or snaffle bit.

**SHW408.** Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk or lope, one or both ways of the ring. It is mandatory that a moderate extension of the jog be asked for in at least one direction with the exception of Level 1 classes, the youth 11 and under, the youth 13 and under, select western pleasure and 2-year-old western pleasure. However, the moderate extension of the jog remains optional in the above classes. A moderated extension of the jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of stride, covering more ground. Cadenced and balanced with smoothness is more essential than speed. Riders should sit at the moderated extension of the jog. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.

**SHW409.** Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

**SHW410.** Judge may ask for additional work of the same nature from any horse.

**SHW411.** Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

**SHW412.** Horses to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

**SHW413.** Faults to be scored according to severity:

- Excessive speed (any gait)
- Being on the wrong lead
- Breaking gait (including not walking when called for)
- Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized)
- Touching horse or saddle with free hand
- Head carried too high
- Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- Excessive nosing out
- Excessive movement of the topline at the lope
- Opening mouth excessively
- Stumbling
- Use of spurs forward of the cinch
- Horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
- Quick, choppy or pony-strided
- Overly canted at the lope (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside front foot).

**SHW414.** Faults that will be cause for disqualification, except in Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth classes, which shall be faults scored according to severity:

Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

#### **SHW451. WESTERN RIDING.**

The horse is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes at the lope, response to the rider, manners and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be sensible, wellmannered, free and easy moving. Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits (i.e., starting and finishing pattern with the same cadence), and the horse's ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously both hind and front at the center point between markers. In order to have balance, with quality lead changes, the horse's head and neck should be 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. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll.



Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. The horse should cross the log both at the jog and the lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.

**SHW452.** The judge will select one of the 15 patterns to be performed. The judge is responsible for the pattern being correctly set. The 6 Level 1 western riding patterns may be used for rookie and Level 1 classes. On the pattern:

**SHW452.1** The small circles represent pylon markers which are recommended. These should be separated by a uniform measured distance of not less than 30 feet (9 meters) nor more than 50 feet (15 meters) on the sides with 5 markers (see diagram). In patterns 1 and 6, the three markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers. It is recommended that markers be set a minimum of 15 feet (4 1/2 meters) from the fence and with 50 to 80 foot (15 to 24 meters) width in the pattern, as the arena permits.

**SHW452.2** A solid log or pole should be used and be a minimum of 8 feet (2.5 meters) in length.

**SHW452.3** The long serpentine line indicates the direction of travel and gaits at which the horse is to move. The shaded area represents the lead changing area between the markers. The dotted line (...) indicates walk, the dash line (- - -) jog, and the solid line ( - ) lope.

**SHW452.4** A cone shall be placed along the wall or rail of the arena to designate where the exhibitor should initiate the walk. On western riding patterns 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and Level 1 patterns 1 and 6, the start cone should be placed a minimum of 15 feet before the first pattern maker. On western riding patterns 2, 4, 7, 9 and Level 1 patterns 2, 4, 7 and 9, the start cone should be placed even with the first pattern marker. The on-deck exhibitor should not go to the start-cone until the contestant on pattern has cleared the working area by the startcone for the final time.

**SHW453. SCORING.** Exhibitors will be scored on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following bases, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 average, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

**SHW454. PENALTIES.** Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

**SHW454.1** One-half (1/2) point

Tick or light touch of log

**SHW454.2** One (1) point

- Hitting or rolling log
- Out of lead more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers
- Splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope
- Break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides
- Non-simultaneous lead change (including front to hind, hind to front, front or hind legs coming together during the change)

**SHW454.3** Three (3) points

- Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or not stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet (3 meters) of the designated area
- Simple change of leads
- Out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area
- Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
- In patterns 1 and 6 and Level 1 pattern 1 and 6 failure to start the lope within 30 feet (9 meters) after crossing the log at the jog
- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
- Break of gait at the lope

**SHW454.4** Five (5) points

- Out of lead beyond the next designated change area (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two five point penalties).
- Blatant disobedience including kicking out, biting, bucking and rearing
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise

**SHW454.5** Disqualified - 0 score

- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- Off course
- Knocking over markers
- Completely missing log
- Major refusal - stop and back more than two strides or four steps with front legs
- Major disobedience or schooling
- Failure to start lope prior to end cone in patterns 1 and 6 and Level 1 patterns 1 and 6
- Four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads (except for Level 1 and rookie classes)
- Failure to start lope beyond 30 feet of designated area in patterns 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and Level 1 patterns 2, 4, 7 and 9.
- Overturn of more than 1/4 turn

**SHW454.6** Faults scored according to severity, which will be cause for disqualification, except in Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth classes, include:

- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

**SHW454.7** The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly in maneuver scores:

- Opening mouth excessively
- Anticipating signals
- Stumbling
- Head carried too high
- Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- Excessive nosing out

**SHW454.8 Credits**

- Changes of leads, hind and front simultaneously
- Change of lead near the center point of the lead change area
- Accurate and smooth pattern
- Even pace throughout
- Easy to guide and control with rein and leg
- Manners and disposition
- Conformation and fitness

**SHW425. Working Western Rail.**

The working western rail class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The movement of the working western rail horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a natural flowing stride and consistent, ground covering gaits. Transitions should be performed when requested, with smoothness and responsiveness. The ideal working western rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint while being responsive to the rider and making timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle, yield to contact and shall not be shown on a full drape of rein. Riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control by the rider. The horse shall be balanced and appear willing and a pleasure to ride in a group situation.

**SHW426. Class Requirements**

**SHW426.1** All exhibitors will work as a group. Individuals working off the rail will not be penalized and passing is permissible.

**SHW426.2** Horses must work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot and lope. Horses must work at least one way of the ring at the extended trot and extended lope. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend their stride at the walk.

**SHW426.3** The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in SHW334 GAITS with an emphasis on forward, free-flowing, and ground-covering movement.

**SHW426.4** At the extended trot and lope, the exhibitor may post or stand in the stirrups.

**SHW426.5** Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.

**SHW426.6** 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 at the lope.

**SHW426.7** Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses may be brought to the center or backed on the rail.

**SHW426.8** The rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

**SHW427. Working Western Rail Apparel and Equipment**

**SHW427.1** No hoof polish or hoof black.

**SHW427.2** No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.

**SHW427.3** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

**SHW427.4** Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

**SHW427.5** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

**SHW427.6** It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

**SHW427.7** When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

**SHW427.7.1** Use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein) shall be cause for disqualification.

**SHW428.** Faults scored according to severity:

- Too slow (any gait)
- Excessive speed (any gait)
- Over-bridled (nose behind the vertical)
- Head carried too low such that the poll is below the withers
- Out of frame
- Head carried too high
- Break of gait
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called
- Opening mouth excessively
- Draped reins
- Use of spurs forward of the cinch
- Canted at the lope
- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)

**SHW429.** Faults which will be cause for disqualification: Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.