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**Rule Change Intent**

To add a Ranch Trail to the Saddlebred Chapter of the rulebook. Ranch Trail is a rapidly growing division with many breeds. By adding this division we are offering more opportunities for Saddlebred exhibitors to compete in. Adding this division will increase participation at shows and possibly bring in new competitors whom otherwise would have no interest in these licensed shows. This effort not only supports the emerging grass roots level but enhances opportunities for breeders to have another avenue to sell their horses. This will definitely grow the sport. The horse show organizers will be able to grow their entries by offering this division.

**Proponent Details**
ASHA

**Contact Information**
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**Linked Rules**

**Comments**

**Committee Actions**

**American Saddlebred**

**Draft 1**: Recommends Approval 02/25/2021

**Council - Natl Breed & Discipline**

**Draft 1**: Recommends Approval 04/26/2021
**SUBCHAPTER SB-24 RANCH TRAIL**

**SB216 General**

**SB217 Mandatory Obstacles and Maneuvers**

**SB 218 Optional Obstacles**

**SB219 Apparel and Equipment**

**SB220 Credits and Penalties**

**SUBCHAPTER SB-24 RANCH TRAIL SECTION**

**SB 216 General**

1. The Ranch Trail class should test the horse’s ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and manners exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive, and well- mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural appearance from head to tail in all maneuvers.

2. The ranch trail course will include no less than six and no more than 10 obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. Walk can be part of the obstacle score or be scored while approaching the obstacle. Lope must be lead---specific in the pattern. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

3. When setting courses, management will be mindful not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle overly difficult. All courses and obstacles should be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee will have the option of setting up the course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is encouraged wherever available.

4. The judge or judges must walk the course and should alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe or unnecessarily difficult.

5. Prohibited obstacles: Tarps, water obstacles with slick surface, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rails elevated in a manner that permits the obstacle to roll in a dangerous manner.

**SB217 Mandatory Obstacles and Maneuvers**

1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (wooden rails). Walk, trot, or lope may be used.
2. Walk-overs. No more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high and spacing of 28-32 inches.
3. Trot-overs. Trot over no more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high. The space between the rails should be 38-42 inches.
4. Lope overs: Lope over no more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6-7 feet.
5. Opening, passing through and closing a gate. A solid gate is suggested when available.
6. Ride over a wooden bridge. Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.
7. Backing obstacle: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 36 inches. If elevated, spacing should be wider than the minimum. Suggested obstacles: Back through or around 3 markers, back an “L” “V” or “U” or back an elevated chute (no more than 24 inches high)
8. Side pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length. Raised side-pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.

**SB218 Optional Obstacles**

1. Optional obstacles may be used provided the items can be found in everyday ranch work.
2. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:
   a. A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 12 inches and not more than 18 inches.
   b. Carry object from one part of the arena to another.
   c. Drag an object. Object being dragged should be of a reasonable size and weight to challenge the horse but not so heavy as to not be manageable by all riders. Dally is required. Dally is defined as at least half a wrap around the saddle horn.
   d. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
   e. Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head.
   f. Put on or pick up a slicker or coat.
   g. Walk through a water obstacle
   h. Lead horse through a gate.
i. Pick up horse's feet.

j. Ground tie.

3. The trail course should be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for the riders are helpful and encouraged. If mounting/dismounting is required in the pattern, a safe mounting step is provided. Use of a ground tie maneuver in a pattern is only to be used if there is an appropriate arena enclosure. Use of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) is allowed but only where there is appropriate livestock containment equipment. Riders will not be penalized for touching/holding the saddle horn during extended gaits (extended trot, extended lope) or while working obstacles where rider safety is a concerned.

SB219 Apparel and Equipment
1. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver headstalls and saddles are discouraged.
   a. Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.
   b. No braiding or banding of manes, no switches or tail extensions.
   c. Trimming of bridle path, fetlocks, or whiskers is permitted. A horse left in a natural state is not to be penalized.
   d. Split or rommel reins are permitted.
   e. Riders must wear long sleeved, collared shirt, cowboy hat or helmet and boots. Chaps or chinks are permitted. Scarves or wild rags are permitted.

SB220 Credits and Penalties
1. All entries will be judged upon entering the arena and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle in the pattern; however, this will result in being “off pattern” (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern entirety. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. 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. 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 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. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

2. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Penalties are assessed as follows:
   a. 1 point penalties: Out of frame (head tossing or resistance to the bridle); Hit or stepping on a log, cone, marker or any component of an obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single- stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping or failing to step into required space; split log in lope- over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; moving one or two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting for balance.
   b. 3 point penalties: Wrong lead or cross lead; break of gait at lope, except when correcting and incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides; moving 3 4 steps while mounting/dismounting or ground tie.
   c. 5 point penalties: Spurring in front of cinch: blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
   d. Off-pattern (OP): Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience; failure to daily and remained dallied during the drag; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore); more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between rommel reins; failure to open and close gate. Exhibitors with an OP cannot place above other who complete the pattern correctly.
   e. Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area.