

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	2/27/2023	

## Rule Change Intent

The Western committee is looking to have all Ranch classes with patterns penalize an "off pattern" as a ten (10) point penalty. Currently Ranch Horse Riding and Ranch Horse Trail penalize "off pattern" as a zero score or as its own type of penalty. This change will increase consistency within the Ranch rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Committee	Nicole Zerbee <a href="mailto:nzerbee@usef.org">nzerbee@usef.org</a>

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

Committee Actions
American Saddlebred

Morgan
--------

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory
---

## SUBCHAPTER WS-6 RANCH SECTION

### WS139 Ranch Horse Riding

#### 4. Penalties

a. A contestant must be penalized each time the following occur:

1. One (1) point penalties:

- a. Too slow/per gait
- b. Over-Bridled
- c. Out of Frame
- d. Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less
- e. Splitting log or rail at lope

2. Three (3) point penalties:

- a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- b. Break of gait at lope; wrong lead or out of lead
- c. Excessive draped reins
- d. Severe disturbance of any obstacle
- e. Out of lead for more than 2 strides when changing leads
- f. Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

3. Five (5) point penalties:

- a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

**4. Ten (10) point penalties:**

**a. Off Pattern**

5. 4. Zero (0) score:

- a. Prohibited equipment including, but not limited to, hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions
- b. Willful abuse
- c. Major disobedience or schooling
- d. Lameness
- e. Eliminates or adds maneuver
- f. Incomplete maneuver
- ~~g. Off Pattern~~
- g. h.** More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins

### WS142 Ranch Horse Trail

#### 5. Credits and Penalties

c. Penalties are assessed as follows:

- i. One (1) Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite, or stepping on a log or rail, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one (1) or two (2) steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.
- ii. Three (3) Point Penalties: Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
- iii. Five (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 (5) or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
- iv. Ten (10) Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off pattern; **Breaking pattern; third refusal; Failure to dally and remain dallied**; Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate.
- v. Zero (0) Score: Repeated blatant disobedience; more than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins; Use of two (2) hands (except for junior horses five (5) years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore).
- ~~vi. Off Pattern (OP): Breaking pattern; 3rd refusal; and failure to dally and remain dallied. Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.~~
- Vi** ~~vii.~~ Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before the pattern is complete, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper Western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.