

| Rule Change Type | Effective Date | Draft Received | Board Action |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Standard | 12/1/2023 | 3/1/2023 | |

Rule Change Intent

The Working Western disciplines have seen evolution and growth since this subchapter was written and is currently in need of updating due to industry changes. Many of the references within USEF SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION to other areas are cumbersome to locate in a timely manner. There is a desire to incorporate those references within that subchapter for ease of time and relevance as they may be modified. There is a need to become more nimble and adjust more timely with rules that change within the disciplines in the equine industry; Therefore AHA is proposing that the USEF rules AR209 through AR233, and subchapter AR-28, be amended by striking out the current language and the proposed language take there place as a new Working Western subchapter.

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Arabian

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR209 Conduct

1. ~~The order of go will be drawn in a random manner (computer/electronically, shuffling cards, drawing numbers, etc.).
When the draw is determined manually:
 - a. ~~The competition management shall announce to the exhibitors a specified time and place the drawing will occur. The management will have numbers (one through the total number entered) equal to the number of horses entered in the class.
 1. ~~At the announced specified time that the draw will take place, all exhibitors wishing to make their own draw will assemble with the management. The management will call, in program order, the exhibitors with multiple horses to draw first.~~
 2. ~~Exhibitors with multiple horses will not be back to back, where total number of horses entered will permit. If an exhibitor with multiple horses draws back to back there will be a re-draw. The management will then call the remaining exhibitors, in program order, to draw. When the number of horses in a class permits, riders with multiple horses must be drawn with a minimum of two horses spread between runs.~~
 3. ~~No horse shall perform as the first horse in more than one class (go-around/section) per competition unless there are more classes than horses. If a horse is drawn up first for the second time there will be a re-draw.~~
 4. ~~The number drawn will be that exhibitor's order of go. NO CHANGES with the exception of an extraordinary circumstance as determined by the judge(s) and steward(s).~~
 5. ~~Management will draw for those exhibitors who do not appear for the announced drawing.~~~~
 - b. ~~When the draw is determined by computer/electronically:
 1. ~~Exhibitors with multiple horses will not be back to back where the total number of horses entered will permit. When the number of horses in a class permits, riders with multiple horses must be drawn with a minimum of two horses spread between runs.~~
 2. ~~No horse shall perform as the first horse in more than one class (go-around/section) per competition unless there are more classes than horses. The number drawn will be that exhibitors order of go. No changes with the exception of extraordinary circumstance as determined by the judge(s) and steward(s).~~~~~~
2. ~~The order of go will be posted at least one hour before the start of the class.~~
3. ~~When specified patterns are required, patterns for each class must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. The posted pattern is to be followed unless a change becomes necessary due to safety considerations. If a pattern or course is posted and publicly announced and there is a discrepancy between the posted and the announced pattern, the posted pattern is to be followed.~~
4. ~~Use of videotape. Videotape may be used by the judge(s) to review any entry's performance only in a class in which entries perform individually.
 - a. ~~The videotape must be provided by an "official competition videographer," and the judge must have reason to believe all horses have been videotaped;~~
 - b. ~~Whether or not to review the videotape is the sole discretion of the judge(s), and the decision of the judge(s) in this regard is non-protestable;~~
 - c. ~~The judge's decision to review the videotaped performance must be made prior to announcing the official results of the class;~~
 - d. ~~If a judge decides to review any videotaped performance in a class, the official results of the class must be delayed until after the review and a decision has been made.~~
 - e. ~~Judges may not confer as to any penalty or maneuver score prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, a 0, or a 5 point penalty or greater) is unclear, a judge will submit their score and ask that the score be held, pending a conference and/or review of the official video at the earliest appropriate time. Should the judges determine via conference or official video replay that a penalty was incurred, it should be applied. If, however, no penalty occurred, the score will be announced as originally submitted. No judge shall be required to change their score following a conference or official video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call and based on individual decision from a conference or official video replay. The use of official video equipment by the judges is only permissible if the judge has reason to believe that all entries have been videotaped.~~
 - f. ~~For reined cow horse and working cow horse classes, refer also to NRCHA. For all events at which multiple judges are utilized, major penalties must be reviewed in accordance with current NRHA rules for reining~~~~

classes and current NRCHA rules for reined cow horse and cow horse classes. Similarly, major penalties must be reviewed for trail and ranch riding classes when there is a major penalty marked by at least one judge and at least one of the other judges did not. A major penalty shall be deemed a 0 score and all penalties 5 points or greater.

AR210 Appointments

1. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR144 Horses entered in Junior Horse classes must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (See AR144).
2. Junior Horses competing in any non-Junior Horse Working Western class wearing a bridle may compete in any Junior Horse Working Western class wearing a hackamore or snaffle.
3. Boots and/or bandages are permitted in Ranch Horse Riding, Reining, Reined Cow Horse, Working Cow and Cutting classes (See AR106.14).

AR211 General Scoring

1. It is mandatory that judges use the prescribed AHA score sheet for Reining, Working Cow, Reined Cow Horse, all Ranch classes (exception Ranch Rail Pleasure), and Trail classes and it is mandatory that the score sheet (or a copy) be posted immediately after each class. Score sheets may be obtained by writing: AHA, 10805 E. Bethany Drive, Aurora, CO 80014 or score sheets may be downloaded at www.arabianhorses.org
2. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores should be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.
3. All individual judges of working western classes are required to announce the score of each horse immediately following the horse's work and prior to the work of the subsequent horse. If a score is being held for review, this is announced instead of the score.
 - a. When one judge is used, their score will place the class.
 - b. When more than one judge is used, scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.
 - c. When five judges are used, one high and one low score will be eliminated and the remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.
4. Ties for, Champion, and Reserve Champion, and any other placing requiring a work-off, will be broken by using the same pattern, order of go and scoring technique as was used in the event; however, there will not be more than one work off.
 - a. Tied exhibitors can choose to forego a work-off and be named co-champions but must determine the winner of the awards by consensus or by a flip of a coin. If they do not agree, the exhibitor(s) who does not want to work-off will forfeit first place to the other. Prize money (if any) for the tied placing(s) involved will be added together and equally split between the respective exhibitors.
 - b. Exhibitors disqualified in a work-off cannot be placed any lower than the lowest consecutive placing which results from breaking the tie.
 - c. In all Working Western classes (except Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes, and Reining Seat Equitation), ties for fifth in a Top 5 and tenth in a Top 10 or any tie, other than Champion or Reserve Champion, that may require being broken will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points". Should the tie persist, the tie shall then be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If the tie continues to persist, then it shall require a work-off in accordance with AR211.4
 1. In Reined Cow and Limited Reined Cow Horse classes, ties shall be broken first by the highest score of the "Fence" or "Cow Work." In Reining Seat Equitation, ties shall be broken first by the highest "Equitation" score.
 - a. If a tie persists in Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow, or Reining Seat Equitation, it shall then be broken by the horse with the lowest total penalty points. Should the tie persist, the tie shall then be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If a tie continues to persist it shall require a work-off in accordance with AR211.4.
 - d. Ties for any placing in a non-championship class will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points". Should the tie persist, the tie shall then be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If the tie continues to persist all horses tied will stand tied and all involved exhibitors will qualify for AHA Regional competition; prize money (if any) for the placings involved will

- be added together and equally split between the respective exhibitors.
- e. In classes with multi go-rounds, ties will be broken in accordance with AR211.4a, b, and c utilizing the Total Penalty Points and/or maneuver/obstacle score of the "Final" go-round.
 - f. In classes with five judges, ties will be broken in accordance with AR211.4a,b,c, and e utilizing the Total Penalty Points and/or maneuver/obstacle scores of only the judges' scores utilized in the final go-round.
5. If a mathematical error on a score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of the competition management.
 6. A class will be complete and the posted scores will be considered "official" thirty minutes following the last class of the day.
 7. In Working Western classes where there is more than one go-round, all horses will compete in both go-rounds. The top horses will then return for the Final go-round. The order of go shall be drawn for all sections. Scores will be accumulative through the Final class. Champion and Reserve Champion, Top Five and Top Ten will be determined by total accumulated score of all works. Ties will be broken in accordance with AR211.4.

AR212 Reining Horse – General

1. The Arabian reining horse section shall be conducted in accordance with the current NRHA Handbook as modified by the following Arabian rules. Where the Arabian rules are silent, NRHA rules prevail.
 - a. There is no restriction on the number of horses a rider may show in a class.
 - b. Refer to AR144 Western Pleasure Appointments for rules regarding attire and tack. Refer to AR211.4 for ties
 - c. Exception to NRHA rules see AR105.2
 - d. Arabian breed restricted competitions that offer reining classes, but are not licensed as a Reining competition, are not required to have video instant replay available to the judges. (Exception: Video Instant Replay is required at the Regional and National level competitions).
 - e. For Reining Horse class specifications, refer to AR214.
 - f. Equipment checks are to be conducted either by the (call) judge prior to leaving the arena or by the Steward immediately outside of the performance arena after the run.
 - g. Patterns must be posted.

AR213 Reining Horse Patterns

Judges must choose from patterns in the current NRHA Handbook.

AR214 Reining Horse Class Specifications

1. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN, JUNIOR HORSE, HACKAMORE (BOSAL). Exhibitors to perform a pattern from NRHA Handbook, as instructed by the judge.
2. To be held following NRHA definitions. Placings in the Non-Pro Divisions do not affect eligibility in the Open Section.
 - a. Open– Follows NRHA Open Criteria excluding NRHA Membership or eligible as an AHA Member to compete in Open Reining classes.
 - b. Intermediate Open– Follows NRHA Open Rider criteria excluding NRHA Membership or rider who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - c. Limited Open– Follows NRHA Limited Open Rider criteria excluding NRHA Membership or rider who has not receive more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - d. Non Pro– Follows NRHA Non Pro criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or any amateur rider with a valid AHA Competition Card.
 - e. Intermediate Non Pro– Follows NRHA Intermediate Rider criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or rider who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - f. Limited Non Pro– Follows NRHA Limited Rider criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or rider who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - g. Rookie Non Pro rider – Follows NRHA Rookie Level 1 Rider criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or amateur rider who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - h. Primetime Non Pro Rider– amateur rider must be at least 50 years of age as of December 1st. The Primetime rider must also be entered in one or more of the above classes.

3. Short Stirrup Reining 10 & under.
 - a. Open to Exhibitors 10 years old and under as of December 1st of the current competition year.
 - b. Riders are allowed to choose the size and speed of the circles. Excessive speed will result in maneuver deduction.
 - c. There will be no penalty for holding the saddle with either hand.
 - d. The rider may ride with standard reins, or with any type of closed reins and may ride with one or two hands on the reins any time during the class.
 - e. This class is to be run with any current NRHA Short Stirrup pattern.

AR215 Working Cow Horse – General Conduct

1. It is the intent of the Arabian Horse Association to comply with the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) rules. Refer to Chapter 6 Broken Equipment, Chapter 15 Self Adjusted Monitor System, Chapter 18 Scoring, Chapter 19 Judging for herd work, reined work, and cow work, and Chapter 22 Judges Score Sheet regarding working cow and reined cow horse classes held at licensed competitions. For further information regarding the conduct of Working Cow competitions, contact the NRCHA, 13181 US Highway 177, Byars, OK 74831; (580) 759-4949 phone; www.nrcha.com.
2. Exceptions and Notes: The working cow horse class consists of only the cow work.
 - a. See AR144 Arabian Western Pleasure for Appointments.
 - b. See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress.
 - c. See AR211 for scoring Working Cow classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties.
3. The Reined Cow Horse classes consist of the reined work (dry pattern) and fence work (cow work).
 - a. Reined work (dry work) patterns (NRCHA patterns) must be posted.
 - b. Limited Reined Cow Horse consists of the reined work (dry pattern) and the boxing phase only of the cow work.
 - c. Herd Work may be run as a stand-alone class, or may be incorporated as a 3rd phase of a Reined Cow Horse Futurity or Bridle Spectacular, Hackamore Spectacular or Two Rein Spectacular.
4. Working Cow Horse classes consist of only the cow work (fence work).
 - a. No patterns: only the fence work (boxing, turns on the fence and circling). *BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22*

AR216 Working Cow Horse Class Specifications

1. BITTED, HACKAMORE (BOSAL), For competitions offering only one Working Cow Horse class, bitted and hackamore horses shall compete together. Dry work will not be required.
2. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN, JUNIOR HORSE classes may be offered.

AR217 Reined Cow Horse – General

It is the intent of the Arabian Horse Association to comply with the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) rules and refer to Chapter 6 Broken Equipment, Chapter 17 Scoring, Chapter 19 Judging for herd work, reined work, and cow work, Chapter 20 Patterns, Chapter 21 Pattern Description (Maneuvers) and Chapter 22 Judges Score Sheet regarding working cow classes held at licensed competitions. For further information regarding the conduct of Reined Cow classes contact the NRCHA, 13181 US Highway 177, Byars, OK 74831; (580) 759-4949 phone; www.nrcha.com.

Exceptions:

1. See AR144 Arabian Western Pleasure for Appointments.
2. See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress.
3. See AR211 for scoring Reined Cow Horse classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties.

AR218 Reined Cow Horse Conduct

1. The Reined Cow Horse class consists of two mandatory phases, the reined work and the cow work (boxing, fence turns and circling in that order). Each phase will have equal bearing and the final placings will be determined by the total of both scores (Exception: Limited Rein Cow Horse).
2. In cases of ties, refer to AR211.4c. Horses receiving a zero score in one phase and a score in the other are eligible for placing. Horses receiving a zero in both phases or a no score in either or both phases are ineligible for placing.

3. ~~Limited Reined Cow Horse: This class introduces the rider to the boxing phase of the cow work. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. Schooling is not permitted between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty is a score of zero. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. It is permissible to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow. Time must begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge shall signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. The horse must be scored using the "limited cow work scoring guidelines".~~
4. ~~See Appointments AR144 (Western Pleasure Section). Effective 12/1/22~~

AR219 Reined Cow Horse Class Specifications

1. ~~BITTED, HACKAMORE (BOSAL). For competitions offering only one Reined Cow Horse class, bitted and hackamore horses shall compete together.~~
2. ~~OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN, JUNIOR HORSE. Classes may be offered~~
3. ~~LIMITED REINED COW HORSE, AMATEUR. Limited Reined Cow Horse classes are for amateur and junior riders who cannot have shown down the fence 3 actual runs in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. Being entered in a class that includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence regardless if the rider boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. This class is also open to approved Non-Pro Limited riders who comply with all eligibility rules (See NRCHA Non-Pro eligibility rules/Federation Amateur rules). After Non-Pro competitors reach the age of fifty (50), they may fall back into the Non-Pro Limited class (Limited Reined Cow Horse). The Non-Pro Limited Competitors;~~
 - a. ~~May not go down the fence again in any judged class(es) or event(s) with the exception of horse sales.~~
 - b. ~~May fall back into the Non-Pro Limited Reined Cow Horse division/class only once.~~
 - c. ~~Ranch classes do not impact the eligibility of the Limit Reined Cow Horse Class.~~

AR220 Cutting General

~~Cutting classes held in the Arabian Division shall be conducted in accordance with the rules adopted by the Working Western Committee of the Arabian Horse Association. Refer to the AHA Handbook, Chapter 11, COMP. 807.~~

AR221 Western Riding General

~~Western riding classes held in the Arabian Division to be conducted in accordance with Western Chapter WS, Subchapter WS-5 Western Riding. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN, JUNIOR HORSE.~~

AR222 Scoring for Ranch Horse Classes

~~SCORING SYSTEM: Each horse/exhibitor team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/exhibitor team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g. -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, + 1/2 good, +1 very good and +1 1/2 excellent). Pluses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. (Exception: Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure and Ranch Horse Conformation)~~

AR223 Ranch Horse Riding

~~1. General Information~~

- ~~a. 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.~~
- ~~b. 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.~~
- ~~c. 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.~~
- ~~d. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.~~

- ~~e. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.~~
 - ~~2. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR144.~~
 - ~~3. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions: and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.
Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s); or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.~~
 - ~~4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.~~
 - ~~5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering for all gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.~~
 - ~~6. No time limit.~~
 - ~~7. One of the suggested patterns may be used (from the current AQHA Handbook and found on AHA website), however, a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of their own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.~~
 - ~~8. The use of natural logs is encouraged.~~
 - ~~9. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.~~
 - ~~10. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.~~
 - ~~11. Hoof polish is discouraged.~~
 - ~~12. It is customary to not remove the hair from the insides of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.~~
 - ~~13. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.~~
 - ~~14. Appointments with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins is discouraged.~~
 - ~~15. Ranch Horse Penalties – A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:
 - ~~a. One (1) point penalties
 - ~~1. Too slow/per gait~~
 - ~~2. Over-bridled~~
 - ~~3. Out of frame~~
 - ~~4. Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less~~~~
 - ~~b. Three (3) point penalties
 - ~~1. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides~~
 - ~~2. Break of gait at lope~~
 - ~~3. Wrong lead or out of lead~~
 - ~~4. Draped reins~~~~
 - ~~c. Five (5) point penalties
 - ~~1. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)~~~~
 - ~~d. Ten (10) point penalties
 - ~~1. Eliminates or adds maneuver~~
 - ~~2. Incomplete maneuver~~
 - ~~3. Off pattern~~~~
 - ~~e. Zero (0) score
 - ~~1. Willfull abuse~~
 - ~~2. Major disobedience or schooling~~
 - ~~3. Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins~~
 - ~~4. Lameness~~~~
 - ~~f. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs/poles but deduction may be made in maneuver score.~~
 - ~~g. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.~~~~
- Effective 12/1/22*

AR224 Ranch Horse Cow Work

1. General Information

- ~~a. The ideal ranch horse must also be a cow horse and the purpose of this class is to demonstrate and measure~~

~~the horse's ability to do cow work. It should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.~~

~~b. There is a time limit per horse/exhibitor team to perform the work and the time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the area. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.~~

~~1. The Judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons.~~

~~2. Judges will give credit for what they have seen.~~

~~c. Only the judge may award a new cow to an exhibitor to replace a cow that will not honor a horse.~~

~~1. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work.~~

~~2. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over.~~

~~3. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately.~~

~~4. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.~~

~~2. Exhibitors in Ranch Horse Cow Work are allotted one minute and thirty seconds to complete the work. The announcer will announce, when there are thirty seconds remaining. At one minute and thirty seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time, but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; boxing the cow at the opposite end of the arena; and, then driving the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a "fence turn," rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.~~

~~Part One- Boxing the Cow: The exhibitor shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the exhibitor shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate the horse's ability to drive and block the cow.~~

~~Part Two- Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of the Arena: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the exhibitor shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of the corner, the horse shall be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the arena. The exhibitor will then stop and release the cow and move the horse toward the center of the arena to set the cow up for boxing on the opposite end of the arena.~~

~~Part Three- Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena: The exhibitor will regain control or "hold" the cow at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow.~~

~~Part Four- Drive the Cow Back Down the Fence: Past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. The cow should be driven back down the same side of the fence.~~

~~3. Credits and Penalties for Ranch Horse Cow Work: All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During the "Boxing" portion of the run, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its "cow sense" (i.e. making moves with little exhibitor assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during the "Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence" for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow.~~

~~a. One Point Penalties:~~

~~1. Over-bridled (per maneuver)~~

~~2. Out of frame (per maneuver)~~

~~3. Loss of working advantage~~

~~4. Driving cow down the opposite fence (changing sides)~~

~~5. Working out of position~~

~~6. Slipping rein~~

~~7. Failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired~~

~~b. Three Point Penalties:~~

~~1. Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage~~

~~2. Losing a cow while boxing~~

~~c. Five Point Penalties:~~

~~1. Spurring in front of the cinch~~

~~2. Blatant disobedience~~

~~3. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise~~

~~d. Ten Point Penalties:~~

~~1. Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner)~~

in every maneuver)

2. Off Pattern

e. Zero Score:

1. Turning tail

2. Repeated blatant disobedience

3. Schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow

4. Schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded

5. Use of two hands (except for junior horses 5 years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore)

6. More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins

7. Improper western attire

8. Fall of horse/rider

9. Failure to attempt any part of the class

f. No score

1. Lameness: Abuse; Prohibited equipment

2. Disrespect or misconduct

3. Leaving arena before run is complete

4. Exhibitors in the Ranch Horse Cow Work cannot compete in both the Ranch Horse Cow Work, Reined Cow Horse or Working Cow Horse class at the same show with the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross-enter Ranch Horse Cow Work and Limited Reined Cow Horse classes.

AR225 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under

1. Riders must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter.

3. The rider must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope.

Exception: Short Stirrup Reining riders and Cross Rails 10 & Under.

4. Class Specifications:

a. Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge.

b. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at both qualifying gaits the walk and the trot.

c. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

d. Part of the evaluation in a walk-trot class is on smoothness of transitions. The transitions from trot down to walk is expected within three (3) strides calmly and obediently.

e. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to walking will be penalized. *BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22*

AR226 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under

1. Riders must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter.

3. The rider must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope.

(Exception: Short Stirrup Reining riders and Cross Rails 10 & Under).

4. Acceptable Obstacles:

a. The ranch trail walk-trot course will include between six (6) and nine (9) obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk and trot during the course. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacles. Trot must cover at least 35 feet and be scored with the approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacle that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

b. Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs). Walk or trot may be used, but only one gait is required.

1. Walk-overs- no more than five (5) logs no more than ten (10) inches high and spacing between 26 to 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, or zig-zagged, but not raised.

2. Trot-overs- no more than five (5) logs no more than ten (10) inches high and spacing 36 to 42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, or zig-zagged, but not raised.

c. Open Gates- The actual opening and closing of a gate may not be negotiated; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is encouraged. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the "open" gate.

d. Ride over a wooden bridge. A safe unobstructed bridge (no poles or obstacles on the bridge). Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only.

e. Straight Back Through- of reasonable width 40 inches or greater.

f. A live or stuffed animal which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse.

g. Trot through cones spaced a minimum of ten (10) feet apart.

h. Swing rope or throw a rope at a dummy steer head.

i. Step in and out of obstacle. Turns of 90 or 180 degrees within a box or confined area no smaller than 8' x 8' or turns of 270 or 360 degrees within a box or confined area of no less than 10' x 10'.

5. Prohibited Obstacles:

a. Water or Water boxes

b. Drags

c. Closed gates

d. Pick up objects

e. Side pass

BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22

AR227 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure

1. General Information

~~_____ a. The ranch horse rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as _____ a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another 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 horse _____ should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse _____ should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage _____ at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long _____ distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work _____ at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the _____ maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.~~

~~_____ b. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized and riders are _____ encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required.~~

~~_____ c. Offered for horses three years of age or older.~~

2. The following qualifying gaits shall apply:

a. Walk — The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, _____ the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

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

c. Extended Trot — The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The _____ horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

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

e. Extended Lope — The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

3. Class Specifications: Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at all qualifying gaits. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. *Effective 12/1/22*

4. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot, not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues and when cues are applied correctly, it could be a credit earning situation.

5. A ranch horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on its own must be considered a lack of control.

6. Penalties. An exhibitor shall be penalized for:

d. Too slow a gait

e. Over-bridled

- f. Out of frame
 - g. Break of gait
 - h. Wrong lead, out of lead, or cross-cantering
 - i. Draped reins
 - j. Trotting more than two strides when taking lead
 - k. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 - l. Schooling
 - m. Spurring in front of cinch
 - n. Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
7. A horse shall be disqualified for lameness.
 8. Apparel and Equipment: For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR 144.
 9. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
 10. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
 11. Hoof polish is discouraged.
 12. It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.
 13. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.
 14. Appointments with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins are discouraged.
 15. It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch.
 16. Horses 5 years and under, may be shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore.
 17. Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales.
 18. Horses may cross-enter with any other pleasure class at the same show.

AR228 Ranch Horse Trail

1. General Information

— a. The purpose of the ranch trail class is to test the horses' 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/exhibitor team is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms 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 ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

— b. The ranch trail course will include between six and nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must cover at least 35 feet and be scored with the approaching obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and scored with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

— c. When setting courses, competition management must be mindful that the purpose is not to trap a horse/exhibitor team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles must be constructed with safety in mind. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each single performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on the class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.

— d. Judges must walk the course and may 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, unnavigable, or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the obstacle cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class.

— e. The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles if needed. Combining two or more of the obstacles is permitted.

2. Prohibited obstacles: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk-over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.

3. Mandatory obstacles and/or maneuvers:

a. Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs). Walk, trot, or lope may be used, but only one gait is required.

1. Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high and spacing between 26 to 30

- inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zig-zagged, or raised.
2. Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36 to 42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
 3. Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
- a. Opening, passing through, and closing a gate: Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing.
 - b. Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.
 - c. Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30 inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.
 - d. Side-pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side-pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.
 - e. Drag an object: For Open and Amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in Youth classes. Drag may be a complete figure-eight (or another shape) and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag. *Effective 12/1/22*
4. Optional obstacles:
- a. A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 24 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle
 - b. A live or stuffed animal which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse
 - c. Carry object from one part of the arena to another
 - d. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox
 - e. Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart
 - f. Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments
 - g. Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head
 - h. Step in and out of obstacle
 - i. Put on slicker or coat
 - j. Stand to mount with mounting block
 - k. Walk through water obstacle
 - l. Open gate on foot
 - m. Pick up feet
 - n. Walk through brush
 - o. Ground tie (Hobbles are allowed)
 - p. Lead at the trot
5. At show management option the competition trail course may be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for exhibitors are helpful and encouraged.
6. Credits and Penalties:
- a. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.). The exhibitor has the option to pass any obstacle; however, it will result in 20 penalty points. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.
 - b. Credit is given to horse/exhibitor 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 exhibitor'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:
 1. One Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, 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 or two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.
 2. Three 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.
3. Five 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.
 4. Ten Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver) Off pattern; Third refusal; Failure to dally and remain dalled; Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate.
 5. Zero Score: Repeated blatant disobedience; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins; Use of two hands (except for junior horses 5 years and under in snaffle bit/hackamore).
 6. No score: Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper Western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.
 7. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
 8. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
 9. Hoof polish is discouraged.
 10. It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean-clipped ears will not be penalized.
 11. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.
 12. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR144.
 - a. Appointments with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins are discouraged.
 13. Horses may cross-enter with any other Trail class at the same show.

AR229 Ranch Reining

1. GENERAL INFORMATION: The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner. The ideal Ranch Reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
2. CONDUCT: Horses will be shown individually. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins (except for junior horses 5 years & under wearing a snaffle bit or hackamore), using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc. Patterns may be chosen from any ranch reining patterns found in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section of the AQHA Handbook or on the AHA website.
3. CREDITS AND PENTALITIES: To rein a horse is not only to guide the horse but also to control its 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 its own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary, loss of control; and, therefore, a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exiting and a pleasure to watch.
 - a. One-half (1/2) Point Penalties: Starting a circle or exciting a roll-back at a trot for up two (2) strides; Delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; Failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; Over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.
 - b. 1 Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Out of lead in the circles, figure eights, or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn; Slipping rein.
 - c. 2 Point Penalties: Break of gait; Freeze up in spins or roll-backs; Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; Failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns, Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position; Trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.
 - d. 5 Point Penalties — Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands per maneuver (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 the bridle to the rein hand is considered use of two hand and a 5-point penalty will be applied); More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.
 - e. 10 Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off Pattern; Inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.).
 - f. Zero Score: Leaving the arena before the pattern is complete; Repeated blatant disobedience;
 - g. No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall

of _____ horse and/or rider.

4. Show Management has the discretion to prohibit the cross-entering of Ranch Reining with Reining by the same horse/rider combination at their show, but the prohibition must be clearly stated in the prize list.

AR230 Ranch Cutting

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. A Ranch Cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. The objective will be to cut one or two cows, based on the division, from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders.

2. **CONDUCT:**

- a. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, they may use the horse that they are competing on, or use a different horse.
- b. Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses should be Arabian or Half-Arabian horses.
- c. For Open and Amateur division competition there will be a two-minute time limit. Each exhibitor must work two head and has the option of ending their run before the two-minute limit or working the full two minutes.
- d. For youth competition, there will be a one and one-half minute time limit. Each exhibitor may work one or two cows and has the option of ending their run before the one and one-half minute time limit or working the full one and one-half minutes. Working two cows does not assure extra credit to the run.
- e. Time will begin when a rider crosses a timeline just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The rider will then separate quietly their cow from the herd.
- f. Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.

3. **CREDITS AND PENALTIES:** Ultimate credit will be given to the horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd. The horse will be judged on its performance and natural ability. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

Penalties should be assessed as follow:

- a. 1 Point Penalties: Over bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Losing working advantage; Toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; Working out of position.
- b. 3 Point Penalties: Cattle picked up or scattered; Spurring on shoulder; Pawing or biting cattle; Back fence; Hot quit.
- c. 5 Point Penalties: Horse quitting cow; Losing cow; Changing cattle after a specific commitment; Failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; Blatant disobedience; Use of two hands (per cow) except for junior horses 5 years and under wearing a snaffle bit or hackamore; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (per cow).
- d. 10 Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Turn tail; Failure to cut two cows in Amateur or Open division.
- e. Zero Score: Repeated blatant disobedience.
- f. No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or rider; Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the area.

AR231 Versatility Ranch Riding

1. **General Information:**

- a. A superior ranch riding horse has a free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with its conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if the horse was going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion.
- b. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm reflecting the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The ideal ranch horse will travel forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
- c. 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.
- d. The overall manners and responsiveness of the Versatility Ranch Riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are of major

consideration.

- e. The ideal Versatility Ranch Riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
2. ~~CONDUCT: Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot, and lope in each direction of the arena. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. The selected pattern must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. The pattern may be set outside or inside an arena. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. One of the suggested patterns for Versatility Ranch Riding may be used from the current AQHA Handbook in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section or on the AHA website. The judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required gaits and maneuvers are included.~~
3. ~~CREDITS AND PENALTIES: Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. Penalties will be assessed as follows:~~
 - a. ~~One Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less.~~
 - b. ~~Three 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 (2) strides.~~
 - c. ~~Five Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands per maneuver; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.~~
 - d. ~~Ten Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver) breaking pattern; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Repeated disobedience.~~
 - e. ~~No Score: Lameness; Abuse, prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse/rider.~~
4. ~~No horse may cross enter Western Pleasure and Versatility Ranch Riding at the same show regardless of the section (Open, Amateur or Youth). However, horses may cross-enter Versatility Ranch Riding and Ranch Horse Riding.~~

AR232 Ranch Horse Conformation

1. ~~GENERAL INFORMATION: The purpose of Arabian Ranch Horse Conformation is to preserve Arabian type and conformation best suited to the function of a natural ranch horse. Selection is based upon well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal that possess the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement. Individuals should possess appropriate breed and sex characteristics with adequate muscling. The ideal Arabian ranch horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail.~~
2. ~~CONDUCT: To be eligible to complete in the ranch horse conformation class the horse must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one riding class in the Ranch division at that show. Horses must be at least 3 years of age. Horses in each division may be shown together as one class or divided into Purebred, Half-Arabian, Stallions, Mares, Geldings, Open, Amateur, Youth, or in any combination deemed appropriate by show management. All stallions shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares shall be examined for over-shot and under-shot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse is a cryptorchid or has an over-/under-shot mouth, the judge shall not use such horse in the final placings of the class.~~
3. ~~APPOINTMENTS: Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Any horse shown in the ranch horse conformation class may not be shown with a lip cord/chain, however a lead shank with an attached chain may be used under the chin.~~
 - a. ~~No whips, nor any other attention getting devices (i.e. treats, candy) are permitted.~~
 - b. ~~For rules regarding correct western attire refer to AR144.3.~~
4. ~~CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:~~
 - a. ~~Each horse enters the arena and walks towards the judge. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. No hard stand-up is permitted. The judge(s) shall inspect~~

each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

- b. Exhibitors may qualify and show more than one horse in ranch horse conformation classes. Once a horse has entered the arena and been trotted for the judge, a designated handler may hold the horses in the line-up while the exhibitor shows additional horses.
- c. Any person designated as a handler must also be an exhibitor at same show.
- d. Back tag with horse's entry number remains with the horse.
- e. In order to earn the title of Arabian (or Half-Arabian) All -Around Ranch Horse a horse must show in a Ranch Horse Conformation class.

AR233 Ranch Working Cow

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- a. The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition, the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Holding the saddle horn is permitted.
- b. There is a time limit per horse/rider team to perform the work and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.
- c. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons. One whistle will terminate the work, two whistles will award a new cow. *Effective 12/1/22*
- d. Judge will give credit for what they have seen.
- e. Only the judge may award a new cow to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately.
- f. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.

2. CONDUCT: Exhibitors in the open, amateur and youth divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At three minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.

- a. **Part One – Boxing the Cow:** The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate the horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.
- b. **Part Two – Fence Work:** After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end of the fence.
- c. **Part Three – Roping or Circling:** The amateur and youth exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or youth exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open exhibitors must rope the cow.
 - 1. To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop.
 - 2. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is permitted as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied or dallied. If exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for tracking and rating and will be assessed the appropriate penalty.
 - 3. To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. *Effective 12/1/22*

3. ~~CREDITS AND PENALTIES: All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its cow sense (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during Fence Work for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow. If Roping, credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow rider the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from -1 ½ to +1 ½ points. If Circling, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledge the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from -1 ½ +1 ½ points for each direction.~~

~~Penalties will be assessed as follows:~~

- ~~a. One Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of the arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.~~
 - ~~b. Two Point Penalties: Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; a prohibited catch, or failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.~~
 - ~~c. Three Point Penalties: Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in Open Class.~~
 - ~~d. Five Point Penalties: Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of the cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; a prohibited catch or failure to catch when roping in Open class.~~
 - ~~e. Ten Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver); Off-Pattern.~~
 - ~~f. Zero Score: Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class (includes failure to attempt to rope in the Open class); repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, complete loss of rope in Open class; complete loss of rope in amateur or youth classes once committed to roping; 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.~~
 - ~~g. No Score: bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider. Note: If the Open rider runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 5-point penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/rating, control/position and speed/degree of difficulty.~~
4. ~~Exhibitors in the Ranch Working Cow cannot compete in both the Ranch Working Cow and the Ranch Horse Cow Work or Limited Reined Cow Horse at the same show on the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross-enter Ranch Working Cow and Working Cow Horse and Reined Cow Horse.~~

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 WESTERN OR ENGLISH TRAIL HORSE SECTION

AR236 General

1. ~~A trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider/handler with no apparent resistance. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe~~

- and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles.
2. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and with the course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.
 3. No time outs will be allowed.
 4. The order of go to be drawn. See AR209.
 5. If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If it can not be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
 6. The course must be posted at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled starting time for the class. Exception: one (1) hour at AHA One Day Shows and twenty-four (24) hours at Regional and National Championship Shows.
 7. There shall be a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of ten (10) obstacles on any course. (Exception: National Championship classes have no maximum number of obstacles).
 8. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk.
 9. Trail Horse – Under Saddle
 - a. Trail classes may be offered for Western or English, but the two styles are not to be combined into one class at any time as there are distinct differences.
 - b. There is no rail work. The course must be designed to require each horse to show all three (3) gaits, (walk, jog/trot at least thirty (30) feet, lope/canter right and left lead) somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. Unnecessary delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle shall be penalized.
 - c. ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes.
 10. Trail Horse – In-hand
 - a. In-hand trail classes may be offered for Western and English styles which may be combined.
 - b. Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning, grooming and the equipment in the overall score. Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling the lead shank around the hand, or dragging the lead shank must be penalized.
 - c. There is no rail work. To include a walk and jog/trot of suitable duration to determine the way of going. Management is encouraged to design courses that can be negotiated in ninety (90) seconds.

AR237 Trail Course Designers

1. It is recommended that a Course Designer be contracted for all competitions and their name appears in the prize list. It is recommended that the Course Designer be present and available to the trail arena at all times during the trail classes.
2. It is required that a Course Designer, separate from one of the judges, be contracted at every National Championship Competition and their name appears in the prize list. At National Competitions, the Course Designer must be present and available to the trail arena at all times during the trail classes.
3. The Course Designer may judge (except at AHA National Championship competitions) or be an official.
4. Neither the Course Designer nor a member of their family may be a trainer, coach, exhibitor or rider in classes which they design.
5. The Course Designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day, to comply with course posting requirements.
6. The Course Designer must be a Federation/EC Senior Member in good standing.

AR238 Trail Definitions

1. Knockdown: When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position by horse or rider/handler.
2. Refusal: Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Balking: (Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's/handler's command).
 - b. Evading or running past an obstacle to be negotiated.
 - c. Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.

- d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle
3. At the judge's discretion or when a judge has deemed three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle the exhibitor will proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judging situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle.) Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle, a five (5) point penalty will apply for being asked to move to another obstacle and as such is not in accordance with course direction. This penalty is in addition to the two (2) five (5) point penalties received for refusals or blatant disobedience for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.
4. Off Course:
- a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
 - b. Deliberately failing to enter, exit, or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
 - c. Negotiating an obstacle in the wrong sequence including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
 - d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and Judge's instruction/direction).
 - e. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or vice versa).
 - f. Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.
 - g. Riding or leading outside designated boundary marker of the course.

AR239 Trail Obstacle Mandatory Dimensions

All elevated poles must be in a pole holder e.g. trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type supports. The judge has the right to alter the course.

1. WALK-OVERS

- a. Single Poles: Maximum height 16". In-Hand: Maximum height 12"
- b. Multiples: Maximum height 10". In-Hand: Maximum height 8"
- c. Minimum width between poles 20" to 24" or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. No rolling poles

2. LOPE OVERS WESTERN (not allowed In-Hand)

For lope overs, a distance of 6'-6" is preferred.

3. CANTER OVERS ENGLISH (not allowed In-Hand)

Canter overs: 6'6" to 8' apart 7'6" is preferable for most English horses.

4. JUMPS

(Note: ASTM helmets are not required for Western trail classes with jump obstacles. ASTM Helmets are required for all under saddle English Trail classes.)

- a. Mounted: Maximum height 24"
- b. Amateur and Junior to ride classes mounted, must be cross rails and may not exceed 18"). The height of a cross rail shall be measured at the top of the center of the intersection of the poles. The height of the jump cups should be set so the angle of the poles does not exceed approximately 30 degrees.
- c. Lead Over: Maximum height 12"
- d. Minimum width between standards of a jump: 4 feet
- e. Combinations: 12 feet for a one stride; 6 feet for a no stride
- f. Box Jumps and L Jumps: Poles must be at least 12 feet long.

5. CVALETTI/JOG OVERS WESTERN

- a. Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles)
- b. Lope overs: 6 to 7 feet apart or multiples thereof – 6 feet is preferable for most horses.

6. CVALETTI/TROT OVERS ENGLISH

Trot overs: 3'6" to 4' apart (space is measured between poles). 4 feet is preferred for most English horses.

7. CVALETTI/TROT/JOG OVERS IN-HAND

Single or Multiples: In-Hand Maximum height 6"

8. BACK THROUGHHS

- a. On ground: 28" between Min.
- b. Elevated: 30" between Min.
- c. Barrels: 32" between Min.

9. SIDE PASSES

- a. Single pole: Up to 24" high. In-Hand Trail up to 6"
- b. Slots: Never closer than 24" wide (space is measured between poles).

10. ~~SERPENTINES (trot/jog arounds)~~
- ~~Pylons 6 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should be 3 feet to either side of the pylons.~~
 - ~~Pylons 3 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should be 6 to 8 feet to either side of the pylons.~~
- ~~If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser.~~
11. ~~GATE~~
- ~~Approximately 60" high with latch available at that height. (Exception: In-Hand Trail gate must be operable by all handlers).~~
12. ~~BRIDGE - Suggested (not mandatory) dimensions:~~
- ~~Bridges must be built of sturdy design non-slip surface and a bridge should be approximately 3' wide and approximately 6' long. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.~~
 - ~~minimum of 36" wide~~
 - ~~minimum of 6' long~~
 - ~~no higher than 12"~~
13. ~~ANY OTHER MANEUVERS: Figure horse's wheelbase at five feet front hooves to back hooves.~~
14. ~~UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES~~
- ~~Live Animals~~
 - ~~Hides~~
 - ~~PVC poles~~
 - ~~Dismounting~~
 - ~~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~~
 - ~~Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle, defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, trot/jog, canter/lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured.~~
 - ~~Hay bales~~
 - ~~Rolling Poles~~
15. ~~WALK/TROT-JOG OBSTACLES~~

See AR242 for class requirements. *Effective 12/1/22*

AR240 Trail Scoring General

- ~~All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.~~
- ~~Judge(s) may review official video (if available) on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR209.4 (Video review is solely the judge(s) decision.)~~
- ~~Each obstacle will be scored as follows:~~

~~Half point increments can be used from +3 to -3.~~

~~+3 EXCELLENT: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism, while maintaining the qualities of an ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE.~~

~~+2 VERY GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse definitely displays many qualities of the ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE.~~

~~+1 GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY PLEASING.~~

~~0 AVERAGE: For the most part, horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse they are negated by slight errors in form. The horse's performance over the obstacle leaves a visually NEUTRAL IMPRESSION.~~

~~-1 POOR: The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Willingness to guide or control may have been compromised but not safety.~~

~~-2 VERY POOR: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle, but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised. The horse~~

exhibits noticeable resistance.

~~-3 EXTREMELY POOR: The horse approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is probably reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the rider's commands.~~

AR241 Scoring Procedures

- ~~1. The class conduct and scoring system procedures stated herein shall be used in adjudication of all Trail classes in the Arabian division. Competition Management shall provide scribe(s) at judge(s) request.~~
- ~~2. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores should be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.~~
- ~~3. All individual judges of Trail classes are required to announce the score of each horse immediately following the horse's work and prior to the work of the subsequent horse. If a score is being held for review, this is announced instead of the score.
 - ~~a. When one judge is used, their score will place the class.~~
 - ~~b. When more than one judge is used, scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.~~
 - ~~c. When five judges are used, one high and one low score will be eliminated and the remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.~~~~
- ~~4. The prescribed AHA score sheet must be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.~~
- ~~5. Score sheets must be posted.~~
- ~~6. For method of breaking ties in Trail classes see AR211. In the event of a further tie, refer to the order of the judges cards (i.e. #1, #2, #3).~~
- ~~7. Judge(s) may review official video (if available) on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR209 (Video review is solely the judge(s) decision.)~~

AR242 Scoring Penalties

- ~~1. NO SCORE
 - ~~a. Prohibited equipment. (AR144). This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.~~
 - ~~b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.~~
 - ~~c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.~~
 - ~~d. No whips allowed in In-Hand Trail.~~~~
- ~~2. Disqualified 0 – Score
 - ~~a. Use of two hands (except 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 Art. 144, or to straighten reins when stopped (Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)~~
 - ~~b. Failure to maintain 16" of rein between hands. (Exception: Does not apply to English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)~~
 - ~~c. No attempt to perform an obstacle.~~
 - ~~d. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.~~
 - ~~e. Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.~~
 - ~~f. Working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than ¼ turn.~~
 - ~~g. Riding outside designated boundary maker of the arena or course area.~~
 - ~~h. Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait as designated.~~
 - ~~i. Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.~~
 - ~~j. Baiting is not allowed in In-Hand Trail.~~~~
- ~~3. 5 POINT PENALTIES
 - ~~a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course, each refusal (three refusals move to the next obstacle), balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.~~
 - ~~b. Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.~~
 - ~~c. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.~~~~

- d. ~~Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into the obstacle.~~
 - e. ~~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.~~
 - f. ~~Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.~~
 - g. ~~Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).~~
 - h. ~~Holding saddle with either hand (EXCEPTION: Jumps, Elevated Lope Overs, or Elevated Jog Overs).~~
 - i. ~~Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-Hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.~~
 - j. ~~Performing entire obstacle on the wrong lead.~~
4. ~~3 POINT PENALTIES Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot/jog for more than two strides.~~
- a. ~~Out of lead or break of gait at canter/lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead.)~~
 - b. ~~Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle.~~
 - c. ~~Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or 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 part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.~~
5. ~~1 POINT PENALTIES~~
- a. ~~Each hard hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant, or a component of the obstacle.~~
 - b. ~~Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot/jog for two strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or trot/jog.~~
 - c. ~~Skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in canter/lope over.~~
 - d. ~~Incorrect number of strides, if specified. *Effective 12/1/22*~~

AR243 Trail Appointments

~~1. Trail - Under Saddle~~

- a. ~~Horses entered in a Western Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (See AR144)~~
- b. ~~A Trail Junior Horse that has been shown in a Western event in a bridle may compete in a Western Junior Horse Trail class wearing a hackamore (Western only) or snaffle (Western or English).~~
- c. ~~For rules regarding correct English Trail appointments refer to Park Horse, English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, English Show Hack, Hunter Pleasure, Dressage, or Working Hunter – Appointments.~~
- d. ~~Horses entered in English Junior Horse Trail classes must be shown in a snaffle bit as appropriate to style of attire. Hackamores are not permitted in English Trail.~~

~~2. Trail - In-Hand~~

~~a. Tack:~~

~~1. Suitable halter (leather preferred with or without sliver trim), leather lead with or without a chain to be used. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.~~

~~b. Attire~~

~~1. Western style:~~

- a. ~~Western hat, long sleeve shirt or tunic, long pants, western boots. Optional: Western jacket, vest, belt, tie and gloves~~

~~2. English style:~~

- a. ~~Hunter — hunt coat, breeches, hunt boots, hunt style shirt with collar. Optional: Hunt cap or helmet with harness, gloves~~
- b. ~~Saddle Seat — long sleeve shirt, long pants, vest, tie, paddock or jodhpur boots. Optional: Derby or soft hat, saddle suit, gloves~~
- c. ~~Dressage or Show Hack: Dressage coat or shadbelly dark conservative color, shirt with collar or stock tie, light or white breeches, boots. Optional: helmet or top hat, gloves~~
- d. ~~Sport Horse/Halter — long sleeve shirt, long pants, shoes or boots. Optional: hat, gloves, vest sweater or jacket, tie~~

~~3. Crop, whip, chaps, chinks or spurs are not allowed.~~

AR244 Class Specifications

1. Under Saddle
 - a. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN.
 - b. JUNIOR HORSE (See AR132.1.a, AR136.1.a, AR144.2.b and DR121).
 - c. GREEN: A Green Trail Horse is a horse of any age in its first or second competition year showing in any under saddle trail class at AHA/Federation/EC competition.
2. In-Hand
 - a. OPEN, AMATEUR, JUNIOR EXHIBITOR.
 - b. Weanlings, Yearlings, Two year olds, Two & under, Three & over.
 - c. Colts, Stallions, Fillies, Mares and Geldings.

AR245 Walk-Trot/Jog Trail Class Requirements

~~WALK-TROT/JOG TRAIL – Riders may not be more than ten years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter for a Western Trail Walk/Jog class and the Arabian English Pleasure Sub-Chapter for an English Trail Walk/Trot class. The rider must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining Riders and Cross Rails 10 & Under.~~

~~Acceptable Obstacles:~~

1. Walk-overs – No more than 5 consecutive poles, of which no more than 2 may be elevated with a maximum height of 8”.
2. Trot/Jog-overs – No more than 5 consecutive non-elevated poles.
3. Serpentine – Walk Around – No more than 5 consecutive pylons.
 - a. Western Trail Walk/Jog minimum 6 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 3 to 4 feet to either side of the pylons.
 - b. English Trail Walk/Trot minimum 8 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 4 to 5 feet to either side of the pylons.
4. Serpentine – Trot/Jog Around – No more than 5 consecutive pylons
 - a. Western Trail Walk/Jog minimum of 10 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 8 to 10 feet on either side of pylons.
 - b. English Trail Walk/Trot minimum of 12 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 10 to 12 feet on either side of pylons.
5. Open Gates – The actual opening and closing of a gate may not be negotiated, however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is encouraged. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the “open” gate.
6. Bridge – A safe unobstructed bridge (no poles or obstacles on the bridge) Bridges should be of sturdy design with a non-slip surface.
 - a. Minimum 40” wide
 - b. Minimum 6 feet long
 - c. Maximum 8” in height
7. Straight Back Through – of reasonable width 40” or greater.
8. Turns of 90 or 180 degrees within a box or confined area no smaller than 8’ x 8’; 270 or 360 degrees within a box or confined area of no less than 10’ x10’.
9. Prohibited Obstacles:
 - a. Water
 - b. Water boxes (empty)
 - c. Drags
 - d. Pick-up object
 - e. Closed gates
 - f. Side pass

SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR209 Working Western General

1. *The Arabian Working Western Horse possesses athletic ability, maneuverability, and reliability while*

performing one or more Western task-oriented disciplines. The performance of a Working Western horse is pleasing to the eye with a willing and engaged attitude while precise in the execution of its task. It is the intent of the Arabian Horse Association to mirror whenever appropriate and or possible the organization that is deemed the leader of the specific Working Western Discipline.

2. *The verbiage "Amateur" and "Non-Pro" are to be considered interchangeable throughout the Working Western rules where applicable.*
3. *Tails*

The Arabian Working Western Horse should exhibit breed type while performing its task-oriented disciplines. Breed type includes a natural tail carriage. No horse may compete in a class in the Arabian Division with a tail that has been altered in any manner or by any means. See AR105.2b.

- a. *Judges must penalize horses exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance (unnatural tail carriage). Conversely, horses with natural Arabian appearance (tail carriage) showing expression that is not angry or offensive must not be penalized.*
- b. *A horse's tail carriage must be considered altered when it is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner.*
- c. *In all scored Working Western classes, a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance must be assessed a 10-point penalty.*
- d. *In non-scored Working Western classes, a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance must be penalized and positioned last in the class.*

AR210 Working Western Definitions

1. Gaits Definitions for non-Ranch classes

- a. *The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.*
- b. *The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.*
- c. *The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. The head should be carried at an angle which is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits.*

2. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

- a. *The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.*
- b. *The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.*
- c. *The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.*
- d. *The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.*
- e. *The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.*
- f. *The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.*

AR211 Appointments

1. Western Equipment:

- a. *Bridle. Any western type of headstall without noseband in conjunction with any standard western bit must be allowed. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are permitted and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of two 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" with roller(s) and covers. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces, flat polo mouthpieces, and roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at the center of the crossbar are prohibited. Reins must be attached to each shank. When a curb bit is used, either a curb chain or flat leather chin strap is required and must be at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal, or other substance can be used*

in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap, or curb chain. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited, except when used on a ring snaffle when applied below the reins. A light lip strap is permitted. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard Western bit is prohibited.

- b. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a round or oval bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be metal, rubber, or synthetic material and may be inlaid but must be smooth or only latex wrapped. The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs, or rivets designed to intimidate the horse.*
- c. A standard Western snaffle bit is defined as a single center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped, smooth metal mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee, or center mounted without cheeks.*
- d. A snaffle bit or hackamore is required in classes restricted to junior horses. Hackamore/ Bosal or standard snaffle are permitted in any class on horses five years old and under, unless prohibited in the prize list. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e., steel, metal, or chains (Exception: smooth, plastic electrical tape is permitted if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner). Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather. Both hands must be visible to the judge. Two hands may be used on hackamore (Bosal) and Western snaffle reins.*
- e. Split reins or romal (closed) reins are permitted. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class. While working a cow in herd work and Limited Reined Cow Horse, it is permissible to hold the reins and the romal in one hand (rein hand), while doing so, the other hand may be used to hold the saddle horn. The hand must be completely around the reins. When ends of split reins fall on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. When using a romal or when the ends of split reins are held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held with at least 16" of rein between the hands, no finger between reins is permitted.*
- f. Rope, riata, and/or hobbles (used in trail) are optional.*
- g. Hackamore bits, cavesson type nosebands, martingales, draw reins, and tie-downs are prohibited.*
- h. Junior Working Western Horses may compete in any permitted bridle when showing in Working Western classes not restricted to junior horses. If shown in Junior horse restricted Working Western class(es), they must compete in a hackamore bridle or snaffle bit, as required in the class specifications.*
- i. Boots and/or bandages are permitted in Reining, Reined Cow Horse, Working Cow, Cutting, Ranch Horse Riding and Versatility Ranch Horse classes (exception VRH Ranch Conformation and VRH Ranch Trail).*
- j. The use of 'two-rein equipment' is permitted in Two-Rein Reined Cow Horse and all VRH classes. The two-rein option is intended to be a transition between the hackamore and bridle; can be used on any aged horse in the above stated classes for one year only.
 - 1. In the two-rein class, bosals (also referred to as a bosalito) may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used. The exhibitor must use one hand on the reins. Any number of fingers between the reins will be permitted. Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.*
 - 2. In two-rein classes the use of an approved bit with an approved bosal underneath the bridle in accordance with AR211.1 is required. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Any number of fingers between reins will be permitted.**
- k. When riding with a romal in Ranch and VRH Classes, a get down rope may be used. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the exhibitor or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. Hobbles (used in trail) are allowed.*
- l. Saddle: Standard stock saddle with a horn is required. Silver equipment will not count over good working tack. Tapaderos are prohibited.*

2. English Trail Equipment:

- a. The bridle must be light, show type; either snaffle (including full or half cheek), pelham, full bridle or kimberwick bit permitted. Browband/cavessons are required. Drop nosebands are permitted in dressage attire.*
- b. Junior Horse classes require a snaffle bit. An English Snaffle bit is defined as snaffle bit of at least 3/8" diameter as measured 1/2" from the ring. The snaffle bit may be jointed, double jointed or unjointed. For*

all junior horse performance classes, all snaffle bits must have a round, egg butt or "D" shaped ring with no attachments to the headstall or reins through a hook (except for keepers for a full cheek snaffle when section rules allow a full cheek). Full cheek, (with or without keepers), Half cheek, French, and Dr. Bristol snaffle bits are permitted).

- c. Breastplate or breast collar is optional.*
- d. No martingales or tie-downs.*
- e. Type of English saddle is optional.*
- f. Whips, crops, and spurs are optional.*

3. In-Hand Trail Equipment:

a. Halter: Suitable halter (leather preferred with or without sliver trim), leather lead (with or without a chain) to be used. If a chain is used with the lead, it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.

4. Attire:

a. Horse/Exhibitor number must be placed on the left side, both sides of the saddle pad or on the exhibitor's back. Exception: Ranch Rail Pleasure, the number must be on the exhibitor's back or both sides of the pad. Horses shown without a number, or with a wrong number may be required to pay a \$25 fee at the discretion of show management.

b. Western:

1. Exhibitors must wear Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants (one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is permitted provided it includes a collar); chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score. Exception: in ranch rail and ranch conformation exhibitors with incomplete attire must be eliminated from placing (chaps are not required in ranch conformation).

2. Spurs are optional and are at the discretion of the exhibitor; whips are not allowed except with side saddle. (See GR1310 Dispensations.)

c. English:

1. Informal or formal Saddle Seat, Hunt, Show Hack, or Dressage attire is permitted. Incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.

2. ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. Per AR111 exhibitors may not enter the arena without protective headgear.

d. In-Hand Trial

1. Western and English - refer to AR211.4

2. Crop, whip, chaps, chinks, and spurs are not permitted.

3. Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.

AR212 Judging of Gaits

1. There will be an order of priority for evaluating gaits. This hierarchy of consideration must be adhered to by judges and will be a great aid to exhibitors for how their horses should be presented and are listed in order of importance.

a. Correctness-the most important element judges must assess if the exhibitor has performed each gait correctly during all, or the majority of the class, in order to have a correct or positive evaluation. For western and English gaits, this includes a four-beat walk, two-beat jog/trot and three-beat lope/canter. The distinctness of the designated cadence for the gait being performed is essential.

b. Quality-is the second most important element and can only be considered positively if the gait performance has complied with the first element of correctness. When evaluating the pleasing characteristics of a gait, among many considerations, judges must consider overall gracefulness, relaxed expression, topline, softness of movement, consistency, and length of stride of the designated gait.

c. Degree of Difficulty-is the least important and must only be considered if the requirement for correctness has been met and combination of correctness and quality allow the performance to be considered for placement. Difficulty is greatly influenced by exhibiting a pleasure horse at a pace and speed that allows for correctness and best quality of a gait for that individual. A performance of a walk that is ground covering and free flowing has a high degree of difficulty. A jog/trot or lope/canter that is performed with a slow rhythm without sacrificing correctness or quality has a high degree of difficulty. Slowness that sacrifices correctness or negatively impacts quality must be considered incorrect and a poor performance at best.

AR213 Conduct

1. Order of Go

a. The order of go will be drawn in a random manner (computer/electronically, shuffling cards, drawing numbers, etc.).

1. Exhibitors with multiple horses will not be back-to-back, where total number of horses entered will permit. When the number of horses in a class permits, exhibitors with multiple horses must be drawn with a minimum of two horses spread between runs.
 2. No horse can perform as the first horse in more than one class (go-around/section) per competition in a specific discipline unless there are more classes than horses.
 3. The order of go will be posted at least one hour before the start of the class.
 4. When the draw is determined manually:
 - a. If an exhibitor with multiple horses draws back-to-back there will be a re-draw. The management will then call the remaining exhibitors, in program order, to draw.
 - b. If a horse is drawn up first for the second time, there will be a re-draw.
 - c. The competition management must announce to the exhibitors a specified time and place the drawing will occur. The management will have numbers (one through the total number entered) equal to the number of horses entered in the class.
 - d. At the announced specified time that the draw will take place, all exhibitors wishing to make their own draw will assemble with the management. The management will call, in program order, the exhibitors with multiple horses to draw first.
 - e. The number drawn will be that exhibitor's order of go. No changes with the exception of a valid circumstance as determined by the judge(s), and/or steward(s), and /or show management.
 - f. Management will draw for those exhibitors who do not appear for the announced drawing.
 5. When the draw is determined by computer/electronically: The number drawn will be that exhibitors order of go. No changes with the exception of a valid circumstance as determined by the judge(s), and/or steward(s), and/or show management.
2. **Patterns:** When specified patterns are required, patterns for each class must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class. The posted pattern must be followed unless a change becomes necessary due to safety considerations. If a pattern or course is posted and publicly announced and there is a discrepancy between the posted and the announced pattern, the posted pattern must be followed.
3. **Time Out:** When exhibitor equipment failure causes a delay or a run to be discontinued, the judge will excuse the horse and the entry must receive a zero score. Exception: In Ranch Rail Pleasure and Ranch Conformation an exhibitor is entitled to request one time out for a period not to exceed five minutes in order to make obvious adjustments, repair broken equipment, rectify a similar condition, or to replace a shoe. (refer to AR 108 for other time out rules).

AR214 General Scoring

1. Judges must use the prescribed AHA score sheet for Reining, Working Cow, Reined Cow Horse, Cutting, all Ranch, and VRH classes (exception Ranch Rail Pleasure and VRH Conformation), and Trail classes. The score sheet must be posted immediately after each class.
2. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores must be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.
3. In Working Western classes each individual judges scores and cumulative score are required to be announced. If a score is being held for review, this is announced instead of the score.
 - a. When one judge is used, their score will place the class.
 - b. When more than one judge is used, scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.
 - c. When five judges are used, one high and one low score will be eliminated, and the remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.
4. Ties for Champion, Reserve Champion, and any other placing requiring a work-off, will be broken by using the same pattern, order of go, and scoring technique as was used in the class. There will not be more than one work off.
 - a. Tied exhibitors must declare immediately after the class is complete on how they want to proceed with the tie. They may agree to forego a work-off and be named co-champions. If named co-champions, prize money will be split evenly, and any awards will be divided in a manner both champions agree upon. If they cannot agree on the distribution of awards, a flip of a coin for each award will determine which award goes to which co-champion. If they do not agree on being named co-champions, any exhibitor(s) who chose not to work-off will forfeit first place to the other exhibitor(s) who chose the work-off.
 - b. When breaking a tie, exhibitors disqualified in the work-off cannot be placed any lower than the bottom place of the current tie being broken.
 - c. In all Working Western Championship classes (except Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes, and Reining Seat Equitation), ties for placings other than Champion and Reserve Champion that may require being broken, will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points." Should the tie persist, the tie must be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If the tie continues to persist, then it must require a work-off.
 - d. In Reined Cow and Limited Reined Cow Horse classes, ties must be broken first by the highest score of the "Fence" or "Cow Work." In Reining Seat Equitation, ties must be broken first by the highest "Equitation" score. If a tie persists in Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow, or Reining Seat Equitation, it

must be broken by the horse with the lowest total penalty points. Should the tie persist, the tie must be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If a tie continues to persist it must require a work-off.

- e. *Ties for any placing in a non-championship class will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points." Should the tie persist, the tie must be broken by the highest maneuver/obstacle score of a predetermined maneuver or obstacle. If the tie continues to persist all horses tied will stand tied, prize money (if any) for the placings involved will be added together and equally split between the respective exhibitors.*
 - f. *In classes with multi go-rounds, ties will be broken in accordance with AR214.4.a, b, and c utilizing the Total Penalty Points and/or maneuver/obstacle score of the "Final" go-round.*
 - g. *In classes with five judges, ties will be broken in accordance with AR214.4.a,b,c, and e utilizing the Total Penalty Points and/or maneuver/obstacle scores of only the judges' scores utilized in the final go-round.*
 - h. *If a mathematical error on the score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition management within one hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of the competition day. Competition management must announce said posting and must make score sheets available to competitors immediately.*
 - i. *A class will be complete, and the posted scores will be considered "official" thirty minutes following the last class of the day.*
 - j. *In Working Western classes where there is more than one go-round, all horses must compete in both go-rounds. The top horses will then return for the Final go-round. The order of go must be drawn for all sections. Scores will be accumulative through the Final class. Champion and Reserve Champion, Top Five, and Top Ten will be determined by total accumulated score of all works. Ties will be broken in accordance with AR214.4.*
 - k. *The use of prohibited equipment must result in a no score or elimination.*
- may be used by the judge(s) to review any entry's performance only in a class in which entries perform individually. Videotaping of such classes is required at AHA National Shows.*
- a. *The videotape must be provided by an official competition videographer and the judge must have reason to believe all horses have been videotaped.*
 - b. *The decision to review the videotape is the sole discretion of the judge(s), and the decision of the judge(s) in this regard is final.*
 - c. *The judge's decision to review the videotaped performance must be made prior to announcing the official results of the class.*
 - d. *If a judge decides to review any videotaped performance in a class, the official results of the class must be delayed until after the review and a decision has been made.*
 - e. *Judges may not confer as to any penalty or maneuver score prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, a 0, or a 5-point penalty or greater) is unclear, a judge will submit their score and ask that the score be held, pending a conference and/or review of the official video at the earliest appropriate time. Should the judges determine via conference or official video replay that a penalty was incurred, it should be applied. If, however, no penalty occurred, the score will be announced as originally submitted. No judge is required to change their score following a conference or official video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call and based on individual decision from a conference or official video replay.*
 - f. *For reined cow horse and working cow horse classes, refer also to NRCHA. For all events at which multiple judges are utilized, major penalties must be reviewed in accordance with current NRHA rules for reining classes and current NRCHA rules for reined cow horse and cow horse classes. Similarly, major penalties must be reviewed for trail and ranch riding classes when there is a major penalty marked by at least one judge and at least one of the other judges did not. A major penalty must be deemed a 0 score and all penalties 5 points or greater.*

AR215 Reining General

1. *The Arabian Reining Horse section must be conducted in accordance with the NRHA Handbook for class conduct, judging, specific scoring and patterns as modified by the following Arabian rules. Where the Arabian rules are silent, NRHA rules prevail.*
 - a. *There is no restriction on the number of horses an exhibitor may show in a class.*
 - b. *Equipment checks are to be conducted either by the (call) judge prior to leaving the arena or by the Steward immediately outside of the performance arena after the run.*

AR216 Reining Horse Patterns

1. *Judges must choose from patterns in the current NRHA Handbook.*
2. *Patterns must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class.*

AR217 Reining Horse Class Specifications

1. **Open, Amateur, Ladies, Gentlemen, Junior Horse, Hackamore (Bosal).** Exhibitors will perform a pattern from NRHA Handbook, as instructed by the judge.
2. **Classes must be held following NRHA definitions. Placings in the Non-Pro Divisions do not affect eligibility in the Open Section.**
 - a. **Open-** Follows NRHA Open Criteria excluding NRHA Membership or eligible as an AHA Member to compete in Open Reining classes.
 - b. **Intermediate Open-** Follows NRHA Open Rider criteria excluding NRHA Membership or exhibitor who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - c. **Limited Open-** Follows NRHA Limited Open Rider criteria excluding NRHA Membership or exhibitor who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - d. **Non-Pro-** Follows NRHA Non-Pro criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or any amateur exhibitor with a valid AHA Competition Card.
 - e. **Intermediate Non-Pro-** Follows NRHA Intermediate Rider criteria excluding NRHA Membership) or exhibitor who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - f. **Limited Non-Pro-** Follows NRHA Limited Rider criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or exhibitor who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - g. **Rookie Non-Pro rider -** Follows NRHA Rookie Level 1 Rider criteria (excluding NRHA Membership) or amateur exhibitor who has not received more than the specified number of AHA National Achievement points in the Reining Section.
 - h. **Primetime Non-Pro Rider-** amateur exhibitor must be at least 50 years of age as of December 1st. The Primetime exhibitor must also be entered in one or more of the above classes.
3. **Short Stirrup Reining 10 & under**
 - a. **Open to Exhibitors 10 years old and under as of December 1st of the current competition year.**
 - b. **Exhibitors are allowed to choose the size and speed of the circles. Excessive speed will result in maneuver deduction.**
 - c. **There will be no penalty for holding the saddle with either hand.**
 - d. **The exhibitor may ride with standard reins, or with any type of closed reins and may ride with one or two hands on the reins any time during the class.**
 - e. **This class is to be run with any current NRHA Short Stirrup pattern.**

AR218 Reining Scoring – Refer to NRHA handbook

1. **Exception: 10-point penalty: Unnatural Arabian appearance, see AR105.2b.**

AR219 Western/English/In-Hand Trail General

1. **A Trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression, and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude, and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the exhibitor with no apparent resistance. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, and shows curiosity, expression, smoothness and style. The horse should negotiate the course in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles.**
2. **No time outs will be allowed.**

AR220 Trail Class Types

1. Trail Horse - Under Saddle

- a. **Trail classes may be offered for Western or English, but the two styles are not to be combined into one class at any time.**
- b. **The course must be designed to require each horse to show all three (3) gaits, somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. Unnecessary delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle must be penalized.**
- c. **The horse must walk and jog/trot a minimum of thirty (30) feet.**
- d. **The lope/canter must be done on the right and left lead.**

2. Trail Horse - In-hand

- a. *In-hand trail classes may be offered for Western and English styles and may be combined.*
- b. *Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning, grooming and the equipment in the overall score. In addition to the overall appearance, the correctness of the horse being led will be considered. For safety reasons, handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling the lead shank around the hand, or dragging the lead shank must be penalized.*
- c. *The course is to include a walk and jog/trot of suitable duration to determine the way of going.*
- d. *Management must design a course that can be negotiated between one (1) and three (3) minutes.*

AR221 Class Specifications

1. Under Saddle

- a. *Open, Amateur, Ladies, Gentlemen*
- b. *Junior Horse (See AR132.1. a, AR136.1. a, AR144.2. b and DR121)*
- c. *Green: A Green Trail Horse is a horse of any age in its first or second competition year showing in any under saddle trail class at AHA/Federation/EC competition.*

2. In-Hand

- a. *Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor*
- b. *Weanlings, Yearlings, Two-year-old's, Two & under, Three & over*
- c. *Colts, Stallions, Fillies, Mares, and Geldings*

AR222 Trail Course information

1. General

- a. *The order of go to be drawn.*
- b. *The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk.*
- c. *All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.*
- d. *If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle be deducted. No horse can be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.*
- e. *The course must be posted at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled starting time for the class. Exception: twenty-four (24) hours at AHA Regional and National Championship Shows. At Show management's discretion, patterns may be posted on-line up to 30 days prior to a show.*
- f. *There must be a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of ten (10) obstacles on any course. (Exception: AHA National Championship classes have no maximum number of obstacles).*

2. Definitions

- a. *Knockdown: When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position-by horse or exhibitor.*
- b. *Refusal: Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 1. *Balking: (Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing an exhibitor's command).*
 2. *Evading or running past an obstacle to be negotiated.*
 3. *Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.*
 4. *Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.*
 5. *At the judge's discretion or when a judge has determined that three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle the exhibitor will proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judging situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle.) Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle, a five (5) point penalty will apply for being asked to move to another obstacle and as such is not in accordance with course direction. This penalty is in addition to the two (2) five (5) point penalties received for refusals or blatant disobedience for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.*
- c. *Off Course:*
 1. *Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.*
 2. *Deliberately failing to enter, exit, or work obstacle from correct side or direction.*
 3. *Negotiating an obstacle in the wrong sequence including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.*

4. **Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and Judge's instruction/direction).**
 5. **Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or vice versa).**
 6. **Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.**
 7. **Riding or leading outside designated boundary marker of the course.**
- 2. Mandatory Trail Obstacles - All elevated poles must be in a pole holder e.g., trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type supports. The judge has the right to alter the course.**
- a. **Walk-Overs**
 1. **Single Poles: Maximum height 16". In-Hand: Maximum height 12"**
 2. **Multiples Poles: Maximum height 10". In-Hand: Maximum height 8"**
 3. **Minimum width between poles 20" to 24", or multiples of the given dimensions-between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. Rolling poles are prohibited.**
 - b. **Lope Overs for Western (not allowed In-Hand)**
For lope overs, a distance of 6'- 6'6"
 - c. **Canter Overs for English (not allowed In-Hand)**
Canter overs: 6'6" to 7'6" apart
 - d. **Jumps**
 1. **Mounted: Maximum height 24"**
 2. **Amateur and Junior to ride classes mounted, must be cross rails and may not exceed 18"). The height of a cross rail must be measured at the top of the center of the intersection of the poles. The height of the jump cups should be set so the angle of the poles does not exceed approximately 30 degrees.**
 3. **Lead Over: Maximum height 12"**
 4. **Minimum width between standards of a jump: 4 feet**
 5. **Combinations: 12 feet for a one stride; 6 feet for a no stride**
 6. **Box Jumps and L Jumps: Poles must be at least 12 feet long.**
 - e. **Jog Overs for Western**
Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart, or multiples of the given dimension (space is measured between poles)
 - f. **Trot Overs for English**
Trot overs: 3'6" to 4' apart (space is measured between poles).
 - g. **Trot/Jog Overs In-Hand**
Single or Multiples: In-Hand Maximum height 6"
 - h. **Back Throughs**
 1. **On ground: minimum of 36" between**
 2. **Elevated: minimum of 40" between**
 3. **Barrels: minimum of 42" between**
 - i. **Side Passes**
 1. **Single pole: Up to 24" high. In-Hand Trail up to 6"**
 2. **Slots: Never closer than 36" wide (space is measured between poles).**
 - j. **Serpentines (jog arounds)**
 1. **Cones 8 feet apart (base to base) minimum. Guardrails, if used, should be 6 feet (minimum) to either side of the cones.**
(Note: If tall standards are used, dimensions should be looser)
 - k. **Gate- Approximately 60" high with latch available at that height. (Exception: In-Hand Trail gate must be operable by all handlers). The gate may be a fixed/hinged gate or rope gate.**
 - l. **Bridge -Suggested (not mandatory) dimensions:**
 1. **Bridges must be built of sturdy design with a non-slip surface. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.**
 2. **Minimum of 3' wide**
 3. **Minimum of 6' long**
 4. **No higher than 12"**
 - m. **Any Other Maneuvers: When determining dimensions for a maneuver, the course designer must use a measurement of five feet from the front hooves to back hooves.**
- 3. Prohibited Obstacles**
1. **Live Animals**
 2. **Hides**
 3. **PVC poles**
 4. **Dismounting**
 5. **Rocking or moving bridges**
 6. **Water box with floating or moving parts**
 7. **Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.**
 8. **Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll**

9. Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle, defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, jog, lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured.
10. Hay bales
11. Rolling Poles

AR223 Trail Scoring

1. General

- a. All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.
- b. Judge(s) may review official video (if available) on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR214.5.
- c. Each obstacle will be scored as follows: Half point increments can be used from +3 to -3.
 - i. +3 Excellent: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism, while maintaining the qualities of an ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is Visually Impressive.
 - ii. +2 Very Good: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse displays many qualities of the ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is Visually Attractive.
 - iii. +1 Good: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse but lacks those qualities to the degree exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. The horse's performance over the obstacle is Visually Pleasing.
 - iv. 0 Average: For the most part, horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse, they are negated by slight errors in form. The horse's performance over the obstacle leaves a visually Neutral Impression.
 - v. -1 Poor: The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Willingness to guide or control may have been compromised but not safety.
 - vi. -2 Very Poor: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle, but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised. The horse exhibits noticeable resistance.
 - vii. -3 Extremely Poor: The horse approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is probably reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the exhibitor's commands.
- d. Penalties
 - i. No Score
 1. Prohibited equipment. (AR144). This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
 2. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank, or hip areas.
 3. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.
 4. Use of whips in In-Hand Trail.
 - ii. Disqualified 0 - Score
 1. Use of two hands (except 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 permitted to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in AR211.1e, or to straighten reins when stopped (Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)
 2. Failure to maintain 16" of rein between hands. (Exception: Does not apply to English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)
 3. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
 4. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
 5. Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.
 6. Working obstacle, the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn.
 7. Riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
 8. Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait as designated.
 9. Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.

10. Baiting in In-Hand Trail.

iii. 10 Point Penalties

- 1. Unnatural Arabian appearance, see AR105.2b.**

iv. 5 Point Penalties

- 1. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course, each refusal (three refusals move to the next obstacle), balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.**
- 2. Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.**
- 3. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.**
- 4. Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or water box with more than one foot once the horse has gotten onto or into the obstacle.**
- 5. 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.**
- 6. Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.**
- 7. Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).**
- 8. Holding saddle with either hand (Exception: Jumps, Elevated Lope Overs, or Elevated Jog Overs).**
- 9. Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-Hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.**
- 10. Performing entire obstacle on the wrong lead.**

v. 3 Point Penalties

- 1. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.**
- 2. Approaching an obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.**
- 3. Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead.)**
- 4. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle.**
- 5. Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or water box with one foot once the horse has gotten onto or into that obstacle.**
- 6. 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 part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.**

vi. 1 Point Penalties

- 1. Each hard hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant, or a component of the obstacle.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. Skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over.**
- 4. Incorrect number of strides, if specified.**

2. Scoring Procedures

- a.—Competition Management must provide a scribe(s) at a judge(s) request.**
- b. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores should be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.**
- c. All individual judges of Trail classes are required to announce the score of each horse immediately following the horse's work and prior to the work of the subsequent horse. If a score is being held for review:**
 - 1. When one judge is used, their score will place the class.**
 - 2. When more than one judge is used, scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.**
 - 3. When five judges are used, one high and one low score will be eliminated, and the remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placing of the class.**
- d. The prescribed AHA score sheet must be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.**
- e. Score sheets must be posted one hour after the class.**
- f. For method of breaking ties in Trail classes see AR214.4. In the event of a further tie, refer to the order of the judges' cards (i.e., #1, #2, #3).**

AR224 Walk-Trot/Jog Trail Class Requirements

- 1. Exhibitors may not be more than ten years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year. Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in AR211 for Western Walk/Jog Trail and English Walk/Trot Trail. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Exhibitors may have cantered in Short Stirrup Reining and Cross Rails 10 & Under classes.**
- 2. Permitted Obstacles**
 - a. Walk-Overs— Where consecutive poles exist, no more than 2 may be elevated with a maximum**

height of 8". Minimum width between poles 20" to 24", or multiples of the given dimensions between poles is generally considered good spacing for walkovers, depending upon difficulty desired. Rolling poles are prohibited.

b. Jog-Overs for Western- Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart, or multiples of the given dimensions (space is measured between poles). Elevated poles are prohibited.

c. Trot-Overs for English- Trot overs: 3'6" to 4' apart (space is measured between poles). Elevated poles are prohibited.

d. Serpentine – Walk Around – No more than 5 consecutive cones

1. Western Trail Walk/Jog-minimum 6 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 4 to 5 feet to either side of the cones.

2. English Trail Walk/Trot-minimum 8' feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 5 to 6 feet to either side of the pylons.

e. Serpentine – Jog or Trot Around – No more than 5 consecutive cones are permitted.

1. Western Trail Walk/Jog-minimum of 10 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 8 to 10 feet on either side of cones.

2. English Trail Walk/Trot-minimum of 12 feet apart (base to base). Guardrails, if used, should be 10 to 12 feet on either side of cones.

f. Open Gates – Exhibitors shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is permitted. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the "open" gate.

g. Bridge – A safe unobstructed bridge (no poles or obstacles on the bridge). Bridges must be of sturdy design with a non-slip surface.

a. Minimum 3' wide

b. Minimum 6' long

c. Maximum 8" in height

h. Straight Back Through measured 42" or greater in width.

i. Turns of 90 or 180 degrees within a box or confined area no smaller than 8' x 8'; 270 or 360 degrees within a box or confined area of no less than 10' x 10'.

3. Prohibited Obstacles

a. Water

b. Water boxes (empty)

c. Drags

d. Pick-up object

e. Closed gates

f. Side pass

AR225 Working Cow Horse General

1. These classes will be held in accordance with the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) rules for class conduct, judging, specific scoring and patterns as modified by the following Arabian Rules. Where Arabian Rules are silent, NRCHA rules prevail.

2. Exceptions and Notes: The working cow horse class consists of only the cow work.

a. See AR211 for Appointments.

b. See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress.

c. See AR214 for scoring Working Cow classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties.

3. Working Cow Horse classes consist of only the cow work (fence work).

a. No reining patterns: only the fence work (boxing, turns on the fence and circling).

AR226 Working Cow Horse Class Specifications

1. Bitted, Hackamore (Bosal)- For competitions offering only one Working Cow Horse class, bitted and hackamore horses can compete together. Dry work will not be required.

2. Open, Amateur, Ladies, Gentlemen, Junior Horse classes may be offered.

AR227 Working Cow Horse Scoring

1. Refer to NRCHA handbook- Exception: See AR209.3 10-Point Penalty: Unnatural Arabian appearance, see AR105.2b.

AR228 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work General

7. These classes will be held in accordance with NRCHA rules for class conduct, judging, specific scoring and patterns as modified by the following Arabian Rules. Where Arabian Rules are silent, NRCHA rules prevail. Exceptions:

a. See AR211.3 for Appointments.

b. See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress.

AR229 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work Classes

1. General

- a. **The Reined Cow Horse classes consist of the reined work (dry pattern) and fence work (cow work).**
 1. **Reined work (dry work) patterns (NRCHA patterns) must be posted at least one hour prior to the start of the class.**
 2. **Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse consists of the reined work (dry pattern) and the boxing phase only of the cow work.**
 3. **Box – Drive Classes consist of the reined work (dry pattern) and the required cow work which is Box, drive, box, drive in that order.**
 4. **Herd Work may be run as a stand-alone class or may be incorporated as a third phase of a Reined Cow Horse Futurity or Bridle Spectacular, Hackamore Spectacular or Two Rein Spectacular.**

2. Reined Cow Horse class

- a. **The Reined Cow Horse class consists of two mandatory phases, the reined work and the cow work (boxing, fence turns and circling in that order). Each phase will have equal bearing and the final placings will be determined by the total of both scores (Exception: Boxing/Limited Rein Cow Horse).**
- b. **In cases of ties for first place the entry with the highest cow work score will prevail. If the cow work scores are identical, the tied entries for first place will work off with an additional cow work. All ties for other than first place will remain tied for points and prize money purposes and exhibitors will flip for ribbons.**
- c. **Horses receiving a zero score in one phase and a score in the other are eligible for placing. Horses receiving a zero in both phases or a no score in either or both phases are ineligible for placing.**

3. Boxing class

- a. **Boxing consists of a NRCHA Reined Cow Horse reining pattern and showing the ability to hold a single cow (boxing) on the end of the arena. This class introduces the exhibitors to the boxing phase of the cow work.**
- b. **Judging begins when the exhibitor enters the arena.**
- c. **Schooling is not permitted between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty is a score of zero.**
- d. **Each exhibitor upon receiving a cow in the arena, must hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and exhibitor to control the cow.**
- e. **Holding the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow is permitted.**
- f. **Time must begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge must signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn.**
- g. **The horse must be scored using the “limited cow work scoring guidelines”.**

4. Box Drive class

- a. **The goal of this class is to introduce the exhibitor to the “fence work” phase of the cow work.**
- b. **The Box Drive class consists of a NRCHA Reined Cow Horse reining pattern and four parts to the cow work.**
- c. **The horse will be scored using the Box Drive scoring guidelines.**
- d. **Judging begins when the exhibitor enters the arena.**
- e. **Time Limit / Terminating the Work -Each exhibitor is allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the four-part cow pattern work.**
 1. **The judge may blow their whistle once at any time during the work to terminate it.**
 2. **If at any time a judge feels that the exhibitor is out of control endangering themselves and/or the horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a zero score will be given.**
 3. **Exhibitors are not required to use the allotted time to complete the pattern.**
 4. **Time begins when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce “30 seconds” remaining and at one minute and forty-Five seconds, the announcer will call for “time.”**
 5. **Judging ends when the exhibitor drives the cow past the middle marker the second time, judge ends the run with a whistle/horn or the allotted time ends, whichever occurs first.**
- f. **There must be no schooling between entering the arena and the completion of the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty for this is zero.**
- g. **The required pattern for the cow work is: box, drive, box, drive, in that order.**
 - A. **Part One - Box: At the start of the work, each exhibitor, upon receiving a cow in the arena, must hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the exhibitor must aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate their horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.**
 - B. **Part Two - Drive: After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant must set up and**

drive/rate the cow down the fence, opposite fence of the judges, to the opposite end of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse must be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. Upon reaching the opposite end of the arena, the exhibitor will then stop the horse square or parallel to the fence, without making a fence turn, and release the cow.

C. Part Three - Box: Move horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing. Again, box the cow for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain cow at that end. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the exhibitor must aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate their horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.

D. Part Four - Drive: After a reasonable amount of time, the exhibitor must set up and drive/rate the cow down the fence, opposite fence of the judges, to the opposite end of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse must be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained past the center marker and continue until the judge signifies the competition of the run or time expires. The exhibitor will then stop the horse square or parallel to the fence, without making a fence turn, and release the cow.

5. Herd Work Class

a. Judging will begin at the time line.

b. The horse must approach the herd with no hesitation, weaving or reluctance to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show their ability to make a cut. The horse must work quietly, but alertly, causing very little disturbance to the herd or the animal brought out.

c. Credit will be given for driving cattle, clearing the herd by a sufficient distance, and setting up a cow while holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal and the amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration. The amount of time spent working cattle in the 2 1/2 minute period will have a positive effect on the total score. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will toward the animal.

d. Judging will end at the whistle.

e. If an exhibitor is taking an excessive amount of time to get to the herd after their number is called the following will occur:

1. The designated judge will contact the announcer and the announcer will give the exhibitor a "second call."
2. If the exhibitor still is not approaching the herd, a 15 second call will be given and then the time clock will be started.
3. Special consideration will be given to exhibitors who helped the previous exhibitor in the herd.

6. Two-Rein Class

Separate Two Rein classes may be held and are open to horses of any age in their first year showing in the bridle (using two rein equipment) that have not shown in the bridle down the fence or in boxing in any judged classes or events prior to December 1 of the current competition year with the exception of horse sales and National High School Rodeo Events. Horses may cross over to the Open class but must utilize the equipment required for that Open class.

AR230 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work Class Specifications

1. Bitted, Hackamore (Bosal). For competitions offering only one Reined Cow Horse class, bitted and hackamore horses can compete together.
2. Open, Amateur, Ladies, Gentlemen, Junior Horse classes may be offered.
3. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse, and Box Drive classes are for non-pro/amateur exhibitors. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse and Box Drive classes are for amateur and junior exhibitors who have not shown down the fence for 3 runs in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. Exhibitors who have not shown in any cow horse class down the fence for 5 years are eligible for the class. Being entered in a class that includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence regardless if the exhibitor boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. This class is also open to approved Non-Pro Limited riders who comply with all eligibility rules (See NRCHA Non-Pro eligibility rules/Federation Amateur rules). After Non-Pro competitors reach the age of fifty (50), they may fall back into the Non-Pro Boxing/Limited class (Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse).

The Non-Pro Boxing/Limited Competitors

- a. May not go down the fence again in any judged class(es) or event(s), with the exception of horse sales.
- b. May return back into the Non-Pro Limited Reined Cow Horse division/class only once.
- c. Versatility Ranch Cow Work Classes affect the eligibility of an exhibitor to compete in the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse classes and vice versa as follows: Exhibitors in the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow, VRH Limited amateur and VRH Limited youth Ranch Cow Work may not have shown more than three times down the fence in any Cow Horse class, Reined Cow Horse

class or VRH Cow Work class.

- d. A Non-Pro exhibitor may show in both the Reined Cow Horse and Box-Drive classes or both the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow and Box-Drive classes, but not both the Reined Cow and Boxing Classes.*

AR231 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work Scoring

1. Refer to NRCHA handbook with the exceptions below:

- a. See AR209.3 10-Point Penalty: Unnatural Arabian appearance, see AR105.2b.*
- b. See AR214.4f for scoring Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties.*

AR232 Cutting

Cutting classes held in the Arabian Division must be conducted in accordance with the AHA Handbook, Chapter 11, COMP. 807.

AR233 Western Riding General

- 1. The horse is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes at the lope, response to the exhibitor, manners, and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be sensible, well-mannered, free, and easy moving.**

AR234 Western Riding Patterns

- 1. The judge will select one of the 15 patterns to be performed. The judge is responsible for the pattern being correctly set. See AQHA Rulebook for patterns.**
- 2. The horse should cross the log both at the jog and the lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.**

AR235 Western Riding Scoring

1. See current AQHA Rulebook.

- a. Exceptions: See AR209.3 10-Point Penalty: Unnatural Arabian appearance, see AR105.2b.*
- b. Credit may 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 feet 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 its poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. The horse should not carry its 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 exhibitor's hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll.*
- c. Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein.*

AR236 Ranch Riding General

1. Ranch Riding classes will be held in accordance with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rules except as stated herein:

- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.**
- 5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering for all gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement.**
- 6. 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.**
- 7. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.**
- 8. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.**

AR237 Ranch Riding Appointments and Conduct

- 1. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR211.3.**
- 2. Appointments with silver should not count over good working tack. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins is discouraged.**
- 3. Touching or holding the saddle horn is permitted.**
- 4. Hoof polish is discouraged but will not be penalized.**
- 5. It is customary to not remove the hair from the insides of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will**

not be penalized.

6. *Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive (long) facial hair is permitted.*

AR238 Ranch Riding Patterns

1. *Patterns must be chosen from the current AQHA Patterns which may be found in the AQHA Rulebook (SHW 417) or on the AHA website.*
2. *There is no time limit required for a Ranch Riding pattern.*
3. *Posting at the extended trot is permitted.*

AR239 Ranch Horse Scoring

1. *AQHA Penalties – Ranch Horse Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:*

- a. *Ten (10) point penalties*
 1. *Off Pattern*
 - i. *Eliminates or adds maneuver*
 - ii. *Incomplete maneuver*
 - iii. *Failure to complete pattern as written*
 2. *Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.*
- b. *Zero (0) score*
 1. *Major disobedience or schooling*
 2. *Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins*

2. *Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.*

- a. *One (1) point penalty*
 1. *Too slow/per gait*
 2. *Over-bridled*
 3. *Out of frame*
 4. *Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less*
- b. *Three (3) point penalties*
 1. *Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides*
 2. *Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead Wrong lead or out of lead*
 3. *Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads*
 4. *Draped reins*
 5. *Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change*
 6. *Severe disturbance of any obstacle*
- c. *Five (5) point penalties*
 1. *Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)*
- d. *No Score/Disqualification (DQ):*
 1. *Lameness*
 2. *Abuse*
 3. *Prohibited equipment*
 4. *Disrespect or misconduct*
 5. *Leaving working area before pattern is complete*
 6. *Fall of horse/exhibitor*

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

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

AR240 Ranch Rail Pleasure General

1. *The ranch horse rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another 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.*
2. *The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.*
3. *The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint.*
4. *This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the exhibitor.*
5. *Horses may cross-enter with any other pleasure class at the same show.*

AR241 Ranch Rail Appointments and Conduct

1. *Apparel and Equipment: For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to AR211.*
2. *Appointments with silver should not count over good working tack. Silver on bridles and saddles and*

2. *Appointments with silver should not count over good working tack. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins are discouraged.*
3. *It is recommended that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch.*
4. *Horses 5 years and under, may be shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore.*
5. *Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, slip bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales.*
6. *Touching or holding the saddle horn is permitted.*
7. *Hoof polish is discouraged but will not be penalized.*
8. *It is customary to not remove the hair from inside of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.*
9. *Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks, and excessive (long) facial hair is permitted.*

AR242 Ranch Rail Class Specifications

1. *Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge.*
2. *Required gaits are the walk, trot, extended trot, lope, and extended lope which are to be shown in both directions of the arena. The extended walk and back are optional gaits that may be called at the judge's discretion.*
3. *For gaits descriptions refer AR210.1.*
4. *The horse should be responsive to the exhibitor and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.*
5. *Exhibitors are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. Horses should remain on or near the rail, however exhibitors working off the rail will not be penalized.*
6. *Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot, not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues and when cues are applied correctly, it could be a credit earning situation.*
7. *Offered for horses three years of age or older.*
8. *Posting at the extended trot is permitted.*

AR243 Ranch Rail Scoring

1. *A ranch horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on the horses own must be considered a lack of control.*
2. *The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.*
3. *Light contact should be rewarded, and the horse must not be shown on a full drape of reins.*
4. *Penalties. An exhibitor must be penalized for:*
 - a. *Too slow a gait*
 - b. *Over-bridled*
 - c. *Out of frame*
 - d. *Break of gait*
 - e. *Wrong lead, out of lead, or cross-cantering*
 - f. *Draped reins*
 - g. *Trotting more than two strides when taking lead*
 - h. *Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)*
 - i. *Schooling*
 - j. *Spurring in front of cinch*
 - k. *Use of either hand to instill fear/praise*
5. *A horse must be disqualified for lameness.*
6. *A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance must be penalized and placed at the bottom of the class (AR209.3).*

AR244 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under General

1. *Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.*
2. *The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under.*

AR245 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter.

AR246 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Class Specifications

1. *Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge.*

2. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at both qualifying gaits the walk and the trot.

AR247 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Scoring

1. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
2. Part of the evaluation in a walk-trot class is on smoothness of transitions. The transitions from the trot down to a walk is expected within three (3) strides, calmly and obediently.
3. Horses that attempt to stop, or do stop, prior to walking will be penalized.

AR248 Versatility Ranch Horse Division (VRH) General

1. The Versatility Ranch classes will be held in accordance with AQHA rules for class conduct, judging, specific scoring, and patterns as modified by the following Arabian Rules. Where the Arabian Rules are silent, AQHA rules prevail.
2. The Versatility Ranch Horse division demonstrates the performance, versatility, and conformation of the Arabian and Half Arabian Horse as a working ranch horse. The intent is to reward an exhibitor and/or horse based on their level of expertise. Classes within the Versatility Ranch Horse Division may be held individually at approved competitions or held collectively as a Versatility Ranch Horse Competition.
3. VRH Ranch Riding and VRH Ranch Trail may be combined and held at the same time or held independently. If combined, each class will be scored individually and placed individually.
4. VRH Ranch Reining and VRH Ranch Cow Work may be combined and held at the same time, or each class held separately. If combined, each class will be scored individually and placed individually.
5. Multiple arenas may be used and encouraged to expedite the show to finish in a timely manner. Clinics or educational opportunities may be offered and are encouraged to be held prior to the competition.
6. Points will be awarded in each individual class according to the placing received and based on the total number of horses competing in that class. Points earned in each individual class only count toward any award or qualification for the Versatility Ranch Horse division.
7. All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse. The title of All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse may be awarded for each show in the open, amateur and youth divisions, if earned. Each division is to be calculated independently based on the number of horses competing in that division. Divisions may not be held concurrently (i.e., open classes may not run currently with amateur classes). All-around versatility ranch horse points are based on a one horse/one exhibitor combination. (See exception in ranch conformation for exhibitor with multiple horses.) A horse/exhibitor team is all-around eligible if it competes in at least one cattle class, at least one non-cattle riding class, and ranch conformation in the same division. At VRH shows, all exhibitors in every class must be placed. In scored classes, all exhibitors in class will be ranked according to score, placed from the highest to the lowest score. In ranch conformation, the entire class in each division must be placed. In all classes, the highest placing all-around eligible exhibitor will receive 50 credits, regardless of the number of other horses entered or eligible. Second highest all-around eligible exhibitor will receive 49 credits and so on. For example, an exhibitor competing for the all-around may place 16th in the class but is also the highest placing all-around eligible entry they will receive 50 credits. An exhibitor placing 22 in the same class, that is the second highest all-around eligible entry, will receive 49 credits and so on. Another example: In a class of six entries, if the highest placing all-around exhibitor places second, it will receive 50 credits. The second highest all-around eligible horse/exhibitor team places fourth in the class, they would receive 49 credits and so forth. After totaling credits for all-around-eligible entries in each class, the exhibitor receiving the highest number of credits in that division will be named the All-Around versatility ranch horse in that division and will receive additional points based on the number of horses competing for the all-around title.
 - a. If there are ties in the final placing for the all-around Versatility Ranch Horse, they will be broken by the highest placing horse in the VRH Ranch Cow Work, VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work, whichever is applicable to the division. If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: VRH Ranch Cutting, VRH Ranch Reining, VRH Ranch Trail, VRH Ranch Riding, and VRH Ranch Conformation.
8. No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.

AR249 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Appointments and Conduct

1. Equipment with excessive silver should not count over good working tack. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
2. Romal reins are allowed in all VRH classes, including VRH and Ranch Cutting. When riding with a romal, a get down rope may be used. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the exhibitor or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. The get-down rope may also be run through a bosalito, as long as the bosalito is not tight enough to function as a cavesson. If a bosalito is used, it must allow approximately 2 fingers (1 inch) to pass freely between the nose and the bosalito. The bosalito must be constructed of a flexible braided rawhide, leather

- or rope, the core of which must be flexible. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Hobbles are allowed for Versatility Ranch Trail.
3. The use of two-rein equipment is permitted per horse in all VRH classes for one year only.
 4. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.
 5. Hoof polish is prohibited.
 6. No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions, except in any VRH class where roping is involved, the horse's mane may be braided for a distance of 12"- 16" in front of the saddle pad. No ribbons or other kind of ornamentation will be allowed.
 7. Trimming inside ears is discouraged but will not be penalized.
 8. Trimming bridle path, also trimming of fetlocks, and excessive (long) facial hair is permitted.
 9. Holding the saddle horn with either hand is permitted in any class.
 10. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.
 11. In the case of a fall by a horse or exhibitor, the run must end when the exhibitor or horse fall to the ground. A horse is considered to have fallen when all four feet are extended in the same direction. An exhibitor is considered to have fallen when the exhibitor is no longer astride.

AR250 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Scoring

1. The scoring system is designed to be positive, straightforward, and always encourage growth and improvement in both horse and exhibitor. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done.
2. Except for the conformation class, each horse/exhibitor team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/exhibitor team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent). Plusses and minuses reflect the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/exhibitor team when performing the various maneuvers. Penalties may be accrued for incorrect maneuver execution.
3. In each class, the entire class will be scored and placed. All exhibitors in each class will be ranked according to scores, placed from the highest to the lowest scores.
4. No horse/exhibitor team can be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete, improper western attire and or fall of horse/exhibitor. Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class but will not receive points.
5. In the case of equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped, and the horse/exhibitor team will be given credit for what they have accomplished prior to that point and will be considered off-pattern (OP), and receive the appropriate penalty.
6. In each class, a specific maneuver will be designated by the judge to be the tiebreaker. The tie-breaker maneuvers will be made prior to the start of the class and so noted on score sheets. Ties will be broken according to AR214.
7. Exhibitors competing for the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse, must have their class placing credits entered into the all-around tabulation. Credits from each class must be added together for the overall placing for the event. Ties for the all-around versatile ranch horse are broken as per AR248.7.

AR251 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Judging Procedures

1. Judges must use approved score sheets to score all classes. Specific maneuvers will be selected by the judge prior to the class as tie-breaking maneuvers.
2. During the class, a scribe can assist each judge by recording the score after each of the maneuvers on the appropriate class score sheet. Judges must sign their score sheets.
3. Class score sheets must be posted as soon as possible after each class to allow exhibitors to evaluate their performance.
4. At the option of show management, when using two judges to determine one set of winners, the classes will first be placed under each judge and class placing points awarded and posted. One judge must be designated as the tie-breaking judge before judging begins. The composite results (combined results used to determine an overall winner) must be determined as follows: All class placing points will be added for each judge to determine an all-around winner. If there is a tie, the tie-breaking judge's class placing will determine the winner. Ties for the all-around winner are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, or the limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division.

AR252 VRH Ranch Riding General

1. The purpose of the VRH 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.
2. 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.
3. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
4. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full degree of rein.

- out not shown on a full trape or reins.*
- The ideal VRH ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.*
 - Horse may cross enter Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding or Western Pleasure and VRH Ranch Riding at the same show regardless of the division (youth, amateur, or open).*

AR253 VRH Ranch Riding Class Specifications

- Horses must be shown individually, and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena.*
- The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction.*
- Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes.*
- If the class is held inside an arena, the course must be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction.*
- The optional ranch riding patterns, which can be found in the AQHA Rulebook or on the AHA website, may be used, or another pattern may be used if all elements of the class are fulfilled as follows:*
 - Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena.*
 - Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back.*
 - The judge must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring.*

AR254 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

1. Credits and Penalties.

- Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized.*
- Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly is a credit-earning situation.*
- 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:*

- VRH Ranch Riding Penalties – VRH Ranch Riding Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions -*
 - Ten (10) point penalties*
 - Off pattern*
 - Eliminates or adds maneuver*
 - Incomplete maneuver*
 - Failure to complete pattern as written*
 - Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.*
 - Zero (0) score*
 - Major disobedience or schooling*
 - Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins*
- Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.*
 - 1 Point:*
 - Over-bridled (per maneuver)*
 - Out of frame (per maneuver)*
 - Too slow*
 - Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less*
 - 3 Point:*
 - Wrong lead or out of lead*
 - Draped reins*
 - Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead*
 - Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides*
 - Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads*
 - Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change*
 - 5 Point:*
 - Spurring in front of cinch.*
 - Blatant disobedience*
 - Use of either hand to instill fear/praise*
 - No Score/Disqualification (DQ):*
 - Lameness*
 - Abuse*
 - Prohibited equipment*
 - Disrespect or misconduct*
 - Leaving working area before pattern is complete*

6. Improper western attire

7. Fall of horse/exhibitor

2. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.

AR255 VRH Ranch Trail General

- 1. The VRH 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 everyday ranch work.**
- 2. The horse/exhibitor team is judged on the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse.**
- 3. The ideal VRH ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.**
- 4. Horses may cross enter Trail and VRH Ranch Trail regardless of division (youth, amateur, or open).**

AR256 VHR Ranch Trail Course Information

- 1. The VRH Ranch Trail course will include no less than six and no more than nine obstacles.**
- 2. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. The walk can be part of an obstacle score or be scored with the approaching an obstacle. The trot must be at least 35 feet and scored with approaching obstacle. The lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet, and scored with approaching an obstacle.**
- 3. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor.**
- 4. When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/exhibitor team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind to reduce the risk for accidents.**
- 5. Show committee can have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available.**
- 6. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, must select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.**
- 7. Judges must walk the course and are permitted to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges must remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable, or unnecessarily difficult.**
- 8. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle must be deducted from all previous draws in that class.**
- 9. The pattern must be posted at least one hour prior to class.**

AR257 VHR Ranch Trail Course Obstacles

- 1. The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is permitted.**
- 2. Prohibited Obstacles: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, painted logs or poles, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.**
- 3. Mandatory Obstacles and/or Maneuvers**
 - a. Ride over obstacles on the ground (natural logs are required). Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required.**
 - 1. Walkovers: Walk over no more than five logs at no more than 10", high and spacing between 26"-30". The formation may be straight, curved, zig-zagged, or raised.**
 - 2. Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs at no more than 10" high. The space between logs or poles should be 36"-42". The formation can also be straight, curved, zig-zagged or raised.**
 - 3. Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs at no more than 10" high. The space between logs should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zig-zagged or raised.**
 - b. Opening, passing through, and closing a hinged swinging gate (not a rope gate): A gate that will not endanger horse or exhibitor and requires minimum side-passing must be used.**
 - c. Ride over wooden bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is permitted simulation of a bridge. Minimum width must be 36" wide and at least 6 feet long.**
 - d. Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles must be spaced at a minimum of 28". If elevated, 30" spacing is required. Back through and around at least three makers. Back through L, V, U or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24".**
 - e. Side-pass obstacle: Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12". Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals.**
 - f. Drag an object: For open, and amateur classes only. The drag is not to be used in youth and rookie/novice classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight (or other shape) and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of**

direction. The exhibitor must have the rope damped on the saddle horn (trail or ran dally) for the duration of the drag.

4. **Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:**
 - a. **A jump obstacle whose center height is a minimum of 14" high but no more than 25" high. Holding the saddle horn is permitted for this obstacle.**
 - b. **Only live or stuffed animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used to spook a horse.**
 - c. **Carry object from one part of the arena to another.**
 - d. **Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.**
 - e. **Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.**
 - f. **Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.**
 - g. **Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head.**
 - h. **Step in and out of obstacle.**
 - i. **Put on slicker or coat.**
 - j. **Stand to mount with mounting block.**
 - k. **Walk through water obstacle.**
 - l. **Open gate on foot.**
 - m. **Pick up feet.**
 - n. **Walk through brush.**
 - o. **Ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed)**
 - p. **Lead at the trot.**

AR258 VRH Ranch Trail Scoring

1. **Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive, and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.**
2. **All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.).**
3. **The exhibitor has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however this will result in being "off pattern" (OP) and the horse/exhibitor team will receive a 10-point penalty for each obstacle eliminated.**
4. **A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns and will then likewise receive a 10-point penalty.**
5. **Credit is given to horse/exhibitor teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently.**
6. **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 exhibitor's cues on more difficult obstacles.**
7. **Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle.**
8. **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:**
 - a. **VRH Ranch Trail Penalties – VRH Ranch Trail Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions -**
 1. **Ten (10) point penalties**
 - A. **Off pattern (see AR258.8.b.4)**
 - B. **Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.**
 2. **Zero (0) score**
 - A. **Major disobedience or schooling**
 - B. **Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins**
 - b. **Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.**
 1. **1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite or stepping on a log, 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 to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.**
 2. **3 point: Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins; break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie.**
 3. **5 point: 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.**
 4. **Off-Pattern (OP): Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; Failure to complete pattern as written; Third refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain 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 romal reins (except in the two-**

more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between rein rings (except in the toe rein); failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate.

5. **No Score/Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR259 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under General

1. Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.
2. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. (Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under).

AR260 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter.

AR261 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Course Information

1. Acceptable Obstacles:

- a. The ranch trail walk-trot course will include between six (6) and nine (9) obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk and trot during the course. The walk can be part of an obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacles. The trot must cover at least 35 feet and be scored with the approaching an obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacle that may be hazardous to the horse or exhibitor.
- b. Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs). Walk or trot may be used, but only one gait is required.
 1. Walk-overs: no more than five (5) logs no more than 10" high and spacing between 26" to 30". The formation may be straight, curved, or zig-zagged, but not raised.
 2. Trot-overs: no more than five (5) logs no more than 10" high and spacing 36" to 42". The formation can also be straight, curved, or zig-zagged, but not raised.
- c. Open Gates- Exhibitors shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is encouraged. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the "open" gate.
- d. Ride over a wooden bridge. The bridge must be safe, unobstructed (no poles or obstacles on the bridge), sturdy, and negotiated at a walk only.
- e. Straight Back Through - must be 40" or greater in width.
- f. A live or stuffed animal which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse.
- g. Trot through cones: cones must be spaced a minimum of ten (10) feet apart.
- h. Swing rope or throw a rope at a dummy steer head.
- i. Step in and out of obstacle.
- j. Turns of 90 or 180 degrees within a box or confined area no smaller than 8' x 8' or turns of 270 or 360 degrees within a box or confined area of no less than 10' x 10'.

2. Prohibited Obstacles

- a. Water or Water boxes
- b. Drags
- c. Closed gates
- d. Pick up objects
- e. Side pass

AR262 VRH Ranch Reining General

1. The VRH Ranch Reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner.
2. The ideal VRH Ranch Reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
3. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.
4. Horse may cross enter Reining and VRH Ranch Reining regardless of division.

AR263 VRH Ranch Reining Scoring

1. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.
2. To rein a horse is not only to guide the horse but also to control its movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation.
3. The horse/exhibitor team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/exhibitor team more exciting and pleasing to watch.

- degree of difficulty and makes the horse/exhibitor team more exciting and pleasing to watch.
4. **Penalties**
 - a. **VRH Ranch Reining Penalties – VRH Ranch Reining Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:**
 1. **Ten (10) point penalties**
 - A. **Off pattern (see AR263.4.b.5)**
 - B. **Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.**
 2. **Zero (0) score**
 - A. **Major disobedience or schooling**
 - B. **Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins**
 - b. **Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.**
 1. **One-half (1/2) point: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.**
 2. **1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein.**
 3. **2 point: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or rollbacks; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.**
 4. **5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise.**
 5. **Off-Pattern (OP): breaking pattern; failure to complete pattern as written; eliminates or adds maneuver; incomplete maneuver (e.g., over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); trotting in excess of 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; 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).**
 6. **No Score/Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; prohibited equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.**

AR264 VRH Ranch Cow Work General

1. **The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition, the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.**
2. **Holding the saddle horn is permitted.**

AR265 VRH Ranch Cow Work Class Specifications

1. **There is a time limit per horse/exhibitor team to perform the work depending on the division and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work.**
2. **Exhibitors in the open, amateur, and youth divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At three minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.**
 - a. **Part One – Boxing the Cow: The exhibitor must ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow must be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the exhibitor must aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate the horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.**
 - b. **Part Two – Fence Work: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the exhibitor must set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn must be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side must be completed before reaching the end fence.**
 - c. **Part Three – Roping or Circling: The amateur and youth exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or youth exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open exhibitors must rope the cow or receive a penalty. Open exhibitors choosing to circle, will receive a 10-point penalty.**
 1. **To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted, and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping**

Stopping the cow, it is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is permitted if the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied on or dallied. If the exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for tracking and rating and will be assessed the appropriate penalty per AHA/AQHA judging rules.

2. To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed, and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. In the circling portion of the judging, one whistle will terminate the work and two whistles will award a new cow.
3. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons.
4. Only the judge may award a new cow to an exhibitor to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.

AR266 VHR Ranch Cow Work Scoring

1. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time.
2. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its cow sense (i.e., making moves with little exhibitor assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.
3. Credit will be given during Fence Work for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow.
4. If Roping, credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow exhibitor the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points.
5. If Circling, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points for each direction.
6. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.
7. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:
 - a. VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:
 1. Ten (10) point penalties
 - A. Off pattern
 - i. Eliminates or adds maneuver
 - ii. Incomplete maneuver
 - iii. Failure to complete pattern as written
 - B. Circling in lieu of Roping in an Open class
 - C. Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.
 2. Zero (0) score
 - A. Major disobedience or schooling
 - B. Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins
 - b. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.
 1. 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.
 2. 2 point: Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; a prohibited catch (loop fails to pass over head or pulls tight on tail only), or failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.
 3. 3 point: Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in an open class.
 4. 5 point: Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; a prohibited catch (loop fails to pass over head or pulls tight on tail only), or failure to catch when roping in an open class.
 5. Zero Score: Turnina tail: failure to attempt any part of the class (includes no attempt at roping or

- or more severe training aids, failure to attempt any part of the class (includes the attempt at roping or circling in the open divisions); repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, or complete loss of rope in an open class; complete loss of rope in amateur or youth classes, once committed to roping; 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).
6. **No Score/Disqualification (DQ):** bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.
- Note:** If the open exhibitor runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 5-point penalty for failure to catch. Exhibitor may still earn credit for tracking/ rating, control/position and speed/degree of difficulty.

AR267 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box - Drive - Box -Drive) General

Note: "Open VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work" classes may be held at the AHA Local and Regional level (not an AHA National Level class).

1. Exhibitors in the VRH Limited amateur and VRH Limited youth Ranch Cow Work may not have shown more than three times down the fence in any Cow Horse class, Reined Cow Horse class or VRH Cow Work class.

AR268 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box - Drive - Box -Drive) Class Specifications

1. Limited Ranch Cow Work exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. When there is 50 seconds left, the announcer will announce, "50 seconds remaining." At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time.

2. Exhibitors are not required to use all the allotted time but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first.

3. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a fence turn, instead the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

- a. **Part One – Boxing the Cow –** The exhibitor must ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow must be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse's ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the exhibitor must aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate the horse's ability to drive and block the cow.
- b. **Part Two - Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of Arena –** After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the exhibitor must set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse must be close enough to cow to demonstrate control with cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. The exhibitor will then stop and release the cow and move the horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing.
- c. **Part Three – Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena –** The exhibitor will regain control or hold the cow at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow.
- d. **Part Four – Drive the Cow back down the fence - (original side) past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. While boxing the cow at the opposite end, if the exhibitor loses control and allows the cow to cross the center line, the judge will whistle the end of the run. The exhibitor will receive an off-pattern penalty (OP) of ten points for the run.**

AR269 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box - Drive - Box -Drive) Scoring

1. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time.
2. During Boxing, credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little exhibitor assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.
3. Credit will be given during Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow.
4. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.
5. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:
 - a. **VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:**
 1. **Ten (10) point penalties**
 - A. **Off pattern**
 - i. **Eliminates or adds maneuver**
 - ii. **Incomplete maneuver**
 - iii. **Failure to complete pattern as written**

B. Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.

2. Zero (0) score

A. Major disobedience or schooling

B. Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins

b. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.

1. 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); loss of working advantage; driving cow down the opposite fence (changing sides); working out of position; slipping rein; in limited cow work, failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired.

2. 3 point: Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; losing a cow while boxing.

3. 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise.

4. Zero Score: Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows (if new cow is awarded); 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).

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire, fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR270 VRH Ranch Cutting General

1. This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow.

2. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow.

3. The ideal VRH Ranch Cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

AR271 VRH Ranch Cutting Class Specifications

1. Objective will be to cut two cows from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders.

2. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders, or exhibitors may supply their own helpers.

a. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, they may use the horse that they are competing on or use a different horse.

b. Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses are encouraged to be Arabian and or Half Arabian Horses at the local and Regional shows but must be Arabian and or Half Arabian horses at the AHA National shows.

3. In all divisions, there will be a two-minute time limit. The announcer/timekeeper will give a warning when one minute of the two-minute working time has expired. Each exhibitor must work two head and has the option of ending their run before the two-minute limit or working the full two minutes.

4. Time will begin when an exhibitor crosses a timeline just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The exhibitor will then quietly separate their cow from the herd.

5. Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.

AR272 VRH Ranch Cutting Scoring

1. Ultimate credit will be given to horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd.

2. Exhibitors will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion but should display natural ability.

3. The class will be judged solely on the horse's performance and natural ability.

4. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

a. VRH Ranch Cutting Penalties – VRH Ranch Cutting Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

1. Ten (10) point penalties

A. Off pattern

i. Eliminates or adds maneuver

ii. Incomplete maneuver

iii. Failure to complete pattern as written

B. Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.

2. Zero (0) score

A. Major disobedience or schooling

B. Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins

b. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.

1. 1 point: over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), losing working advantage; toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder: working out of position

2. 3 points: cattle picked up or scattered; spurring on shoulder; pawing or biting cattle; back fence; hot quit
3. 5 points: horse quitting cow; losing cow; changing cattle after a specific commitment; failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; blatant disobedience
4. Zero Score: turn tail; failure to cut two cows; repeated blatant disobedience; 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)
5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; prohibited equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/exhibitor; improper western attire

AR273 VRH Ranch Conformation General

1. The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve the Arabian and Half Arabian Horse type selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. The ideal VRH Ranch Conformation horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail.
2. To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least one riding class in that division at the same show.
3. Horses must be at least 3 years of age. Horses in each division may be shown together as one class or divided into Purebred, Half-Arabian, Stallions, Mares, Geldings, Open, Amateur, Youth, or in any combination deemed appropriate by show management.
4. All stallions must be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares must be examined for over-shot and under-shot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse is a cryptorchid or has an over-/under-shot mouth, the judge must not use such horse in the final placings of the class.

AR274 VRH Ranch Conformation Appointments

1. Horses must be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Bridles and silver halters are prohibited. Competitors must be eliminated if found to be using prohibited equipment.
2. Any horse shown in the ranch horse conformation class must not be shown with a permitted lip cord or safety lead; however, a lead shank with an attached chain, only under the chin, is permitted.
3. For rules regarding correct western attire refer to AR144.3. Exception: Chaps or chinks are not required.

AR275 VRH Ranch Conformation Class Specifications

1. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge must inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.
2. Exhibitors may qualify and show more than one horse in ranch conformation classes. Any exhibitor at the same show can show additional horses for competitors who qualified more than one horse for VRH Ranch Conformation. Horses not shown will be deemed ineligible for the all-around which will also affect the overall all-around results for other exhibitors.

AR276 VRH Ranch Conformation Scoring

1. A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance must be penalized and placed at the bottom of the class (AR209.3).

SUBCHAPTER 10-F CLASSIFICATIONS - COURSE DESIGNERS

GR1028 Arabian Trail Course Designers

- a. If a Course Designer is contracted, their name must appear in the prize list. It is recommended that the Course Designer be always present and available to the trail arena during the trail classes.
- b. It is required that a Course Designer, separate from one of the judges, be contracted at every AHA National Championship Competition and their name appears in the prize list. At AHA National Competitions, the Course Designer must be always present and available to the trail arena during the trail classes.
- c. The Course Designer is permitted to judge (except at AHA National Championship competitions) or be an official.
- d. At the AHA Regional and National level, neither the Course Designer nor a member of their family can be a trainer, coach, or exhibitor in classes which they design.
- e. The Course Designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day, to comply with course posting requirements.

f. *The Course Designer must be a Federation/EC Senior Member in good standing.*