

Stock Horse Horsemanship

The class will be judged on the horsemanship and overall riding ability of the rider. Recognition will be given to the exhibitor's ability to ride a horse functionally, with correct position, using various aids to cause the horse to perform required basic stock horse maneuvers. The performance of the horse is not to be judged more important than the riding ability of the exhibitor. Scores on individual works will be based on the rider's skills during execution of the pattern. The emphasis of this class will be to reward the stock horse riders who have the best horsemanship skills, while completing stock horse type maneuvers. Horses to be shown in plain, clean and functional, western tack and western attire. No chaps, or chinks are allowed in this class. Tack should be traditional and conservative in appearance. Protective boots or leg wraps (conservative colors) on the horse are allowed.

General

Position: Arms and hands. Arms and hands should be held in an easy, relaxed manner. Upper arms are held in a straight line with the body, with the arm holding the reins bent at the elbow. **If using a shank bit**, only one hand is used for reining, and hands shall not be changed on the reins. Free hand should not touch the saddle at any time. The reining hand is to be around the reins with one finger permitted between split reins. Reins are to be carried immediately above and slightly in front of the saddle horn. Reins should be held so that light contact is maintained with the horse's mouth. Riders with soft, supple hands which are able to show their horse with minimal movement of the reins should be rewarded.

Reins with a romal are allowed, but reins must be held in one hand, with hand completely around the reins, in a fist position, with the thumb up. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins. The non-rein hand must be on the romal (tail) and cannot be changed during the performance (no shortening or lengthening of romal with non-rein hand) and must hold the romal (tail) at least 12 inches from the rein hand. If the non-rein hand (holding the tail) touches the reins at any time during the performance, it should result in a disqualification.

If using a snaffle bit or bosal, two hands may be used with the reins bridged and hands holding both reins. Upper arms are held in a straight line with the body, with both arms holding the reins bent at the elbow.

Basic position: The rider should sit in a comfortable, balanced, relaxed, and flexible manner. The lower leg should hang straight down from the knee to the stirrups with a slight bend in the knee, depending on the type of saddle. Stirrups should be just long enough for the heel to be in a direct line under the shoulders and hips, with the heels lower than the toes. This allows flexion in the ankle joint which provides for a more balanced ride and allows rider to stay in rhythm with the horse. The feet should be placed in the stirrups with the boot heel touching the stirrup or slightly less deep. Riding with the weight on the toes will be penalized. The toes should be turned only slightly out, with the ankles flexed in a comfortable position. The lower legs and feet should be kept close to the horse's body, but not in constant contact except when applying aids. Application of leg aids should be barely perceptible by the judge. Upper body should be upright but relaxed and not rigid. Shoulders should be square and head and eyes should be up and looking ahead.

Position in Motion: The rider shall sit the trot and not post. The rider should be close to the saddle at a lope. If asked for an extended trot, rider may post, stand, or sit. Exaggerated shifting of the rider's weight is not desirable and will be penalized in judging. Rider should be in rhythm with the movement of the horse to present a smooth, efficient and functional overall appearance and to always be in position to aid the horse during required maneuvers.

Class Routine

The judge will ask each rider to work individually. Individual works will be a combination of stock horse maneuvers that are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider. Scoring for this class will be based on the combination of basic position of the rider and the ability to effectively communicate with the horse to execute a smooth, efficient and correct pattern. The pattern will include maneuvers from the following list, or any maneuvers that the judge feels are appropriate to test the horseman's ability:

- a. straight walk, trot, and lope, and/or circles in either direction
- b. stop
- c. back straight, in an "L", or in a circle
- d. 360-degree (or more) spin
- e. pivot, both ways
- f. turns of 90, 180 or 270 degrees
- g. rollbacks
- h. lope circles of varying size and speed
- i. pick up leads from standstill, walk, or trot
- j. simple or flying lead changes on a straight away or in a circle
- k. side pass
- l. counter canter
- m. two track
- n. drop and pick up stirrups

Scoring

1. Exhibitors will be scored from 0 to infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 maneuvers, as specified by the judge, and each maneuver will be scored from +3 to -3 with $\frac{1}{2}$ point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Maneuver scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the horsemanship form and effectiveness of the exhibitor to result in the following scores: +3 excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor. Exhibitors overall horsemanship form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 being Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent. Exhibitors may also be judged on the rail, and their pattern score and/or ranking may be adjusted as appropriate.

2. Penalties:

- a. 1 Point - Ticking or hitting obstacle such as cone, log or plant
- b. 3 Points - Break of gait at walk or jog/trot up to two strides
- Severely disturbing obstacle
- c. 5 Points

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping when called for in the pattern within 10 feet of the designated area.
- Incorrect lead or break of gait (except when correcting an incorrect lead) at the lope.
- Break of gait at walk, jog or trot for more than two strides

d. 10 Points

- Loss of rein.
- Holding saddle with either hand (exception: riders may hold saddle during the extended trot)
- Cueing with the end of the romal
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking and rearing
- Spurring in front of cinch

e. Disqualifications

- Lameness
- Failure to follow class dress code
- Failure to display correct number
- Abuse of horse or schooling
- Fall by horse or rider
- Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins
- Use of prohibited equipment, such as silver on tack

f. Off pattern, including: wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn; must place below exhibitors who complete pattern correctly.