

**WORLD  
RANCH  
HORSE  
ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 2891**

**Apache Junction, AZ 85117**

## **Mission Statement**

**Our mission is to preserve and honor the tradition ranch horse of the American West. To stimulate interest in Ranch Horses, to create competitive and learning environments for Ranch Horse enthusiasts across the United States, while protecting the integrity of the horse through education and encouraging responsible stewardship.**

**We strive to preserve and promote the value of the Ranch Horse**

**We believe that proper training and education is the foundation of the horse's ability and desire to perform his job!**

**We are committed to protecting, preserving and promoting the American Ranch Horse while pursuing growth in our industry and creating an atmosphere of fun and healthy competition.**



## World Ranch Horse Association

The World Ranch Horse Association is designed to promote and preserve the tradition of the true ranch horses of the American West.

A national association which endeavors to provide safe and healthy competition for all levels of ranch horses and riders. Education is a key component in the goals of World Ranch Horse Association. We will strive to ensure that each and every WRHA approved show provides an atmosphere that is safe, friendly, fair and affordable.

Shows and clinics may be held in any state by any WRHA approved charter or affiliate club.

World Ranch Horse Association

### By Laws

These by laws shall govern all affairs, events and charter clubs of WRHA.

#### Article I: Corporation Name, Purpose, Location & Corporate Seal

1. The legal name shall be World Ranch Horse Association and shall be referred to as WRHA, and shall be operated and conducted as a Non Profit Association, in accordance with the state laws of Arizona.
2. Purpose: The purpose of this association is to preserve and support the working Ranch Horse legacy of the American West. To educate all ranch horse enthusiasts, educate those who are seeking information, and provide a safe, fun, fair and friendly atmosphere of competition for all levels of riders in all states To preserve the tradition of the true American West ranch horse and working stock horse. To provide a uniform and standard set of rules for all Ranch Horse competition. To provide

standardize judging practices so that ranch horse competitors across all breeds will know and understand the rules and judging standards of best practice. To define and promote all versatilities of the Ranch Horse. To practice integrity, fairness, good sportsmanship, honesty and values.

3. WRHA shall be a national organization, originating in the state of Arizona. Members, Charter Clubs and Shows may be held in any state and may be WRHA approved for WRHA Year End Awards as long as WRHA Show Approval Applications have been filed and approved.
4. WRHA shall conduct business on a calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31)

#### Article II: Members/Membership

1. All members shall abide by all rules and by laws of this association. Each member will be required to submit a membership application and annual membership fee and shall retain one (1) voting right as a member in good standing.
2. Membership shall be open to anyone wishing to participate. Memberships shall be available for Youth, Amateur, Individual, Family or Ranch.
3. An annual membership meeting shall be held at a specified time and location and shall be open to all members and interested parties. At such annual membership meeting, there shall be a vote to elect and install a Board Of Directors. Notice of the annual membership meeting shall be published on the WRHA website and emailed to

all members, a minimum of 30 days prior to said meeting.

4. Special meetings of the members may be held as needed, or called by the President. Notice of Special Meetings shall be published on the WRHA website and emailed to all members, a minimum of 14 days prior to said meeting.

### **Article III: Board of Directors**

1. All WRHA business shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Executive Board. All decisions by the Executive Board must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation of said decisions. Board of Directors shall be elected by the members on an annual basis and Board of Director seats shall remain in effect for 2 calendar years. Directors must be members in good standing, and must be 21 years of age or older. Maximum number of director seats to be filled shall be 12, with a minimum number of seats to be 10. If a director seat becomes vacant for any reason during the calendar year, the vacant seat shall be filled immediately (within 14 days) by using the next available elected alternate from the most recent election.
2. The Board of Directors may establish and appoint an Advisory Board of no more than 6 individuals, for the purpose of providing guidance and advice to the Board of Directors.
3. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the Annual Membership meeting. Regular board meetings may be scheduled on a monthly or quarterly basis and dates, time and locations shall

be published in January of each calendar year.

4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as needed or as called by the President, or by two-thirds of the directors. Notice of such special meetings shall be given to each board member by email notification. The notice of a special meeting must contain the date, time and location of the meeting, as well as the agenda. The items listed on the agenda are the only items that shall be discussed and acted on at such meeting.
5. One half plus one of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the conducting of business.
6. Each board member shall attend a minimum of ½ of the Board of Director meetings during a calendar year in order to maintain his/her seat on the board.
7. The President shall conduct the business of each meeting of the Board of Directors
8. The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce all rules, regulations and by laws, not contrary to the laws of the corporation, as they may deem expedient in regards to the conduct and management of WRHA.
9. Each director has a duty to act in a loyal and responsible fashion the association, and shall make every effort to act responsibly in the best interest of the association.
10. Nothing in these by laws will prohibit an officer and/or director from being associated with, or sponsoring any activities related to other entities or associations.

11. WRHA shall not make any loans of any type to a director, officer, and/or member.
12. No Board of Director, Officer, Executive Committee member or staff member may represent themselves in any official capacity, nor conduct business or negotiate a binding contract for WRHA without the consent and authorization of the Board of Directors.

**IV: Election of Directors:**

1. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, which must be comprised of at least one board member and one member in good standing, shall be in charge of compiling a list of nominees for Board of Director seats. This list shall be presented to the board no later than October 1 of each calendar year.
2. Members may make additional recommendations to the nominating committee of individuals they would like to serve as Directors.
3. Recommendations to the Nominating committee must be received no later than September 1 of each calendar year. Submissions must be mailed to the WRHA office address and must bear a post mark date of no later than September 1. If an individual is not qualified in accordance with these by laws, to serve as a Director, the Nominating Committee will not include that name on the list which is submitted to the Board.
4. After board approval of the Nominating Committee list of nominees, the ballots shall be emailed to all members in good standing. Original ballots must be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting and Election.
5. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be designated as

directors. The remaining nominees will be considered alternates and shall be moved into vacant director seats as needed.

6. The Election shall take place between October 15<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. New Directors and officers will begin their term on January 1 of each calendar year.

**Article V: Officers & Duties**

1. The officers the WRHA shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary
2. Only members of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to serve as an officer.
3. The officers of the association shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership.
4. The President of the association shall remain in position for a two year term.
5. The remaining officer positions shall be a one year term.
6. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.
7. The President shall oversee that all by laws, rules and regulations are enforced and shall, at all times act in the best interest of WRHA and shall exercise good faith in all transactions in exercising their duty to the association.
8. The Vice President shall be vigilant in the business of the association, and shall at all times be prepared and willing to fill in for the President if needed.
9. The Secretary shall make every effort to be in attendance at all meetings so as to properly present the minutes of previous meetings to the Board of Directors, accurately document the voting and discussions of each meeting which will result in accurate minutes of

each meeting to be published to the membership.

10. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial transactions associated with WRHA. A complete and detailed financial report shall be given to the Board of Directors at each and every Board of Directors meeting. Financial Report shall contain, in itemized form, all revenues received as well as an itemization of all expenditures. Report shall contain check numbers, dates of expenditures and copies of all invoices/receipts. The Treasurer shall make available, at all times a full set of books and financial reconciliations for any member in good standing to review if requested. Failure to do so may result in removal from this position.

#### **Article VI: Executive Committee**

1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Immediate Past President, and 3 additional members of the board, and voted on by the board.
2. The new Executive Committee will be installed prior to January 1 and will begin assuming their duties on January 1 of each calendar year.
3. Vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and filled immediately.
4. Members of the Executive Committee shall remain in office for a period of one calendar year.
5. The executive may meet as necessary, whenever a meeting is called by the President. Members of the committee may participate in a meeting through the use of conference phone, video conference or other communications equipment which will allow all

members to be present in all discussions.

6. Records of the Executive Committee meetings shall be duly entered into the associations records.
7. A quorum shall consist of one half of the number on the Executive Committee plus one.
8. The President shall conduct the meetings of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, the board shall appoint an individual from the Executive Committee to act as President.
9. The Executive Directors shall have final approval of all board actions.

#### **Article VII: Amendments**

1. Any amendments to these by laws shall be board approved and through the process of written Rule Change Proposals, presented to the Board for a vote. All Rule Change Proposals shall be submitted no later than September 1 for presentation and discussion at the Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting.

#### **Article VIII: Dissolution**

1. Upon dissolution of the association, the Board of Directors shall, settling all liabilities of the association, dispose of all assets of the association exclusively for the purpose of the association in such manner, or to such organizations operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes, in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code applicable to a 501c3 non profit corporation.

#### **Article IX: Indemnification**

1. No director or officer of the association shall be liable for the association or it's

members for monetary damages for an act or omission in such director's capacity as a director of the association; except that this Article shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director or officer of the association for: breach of a duty of loyalty to WRHA or its members: an act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law; a transaction from which a director or officer received an improper benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of the office; or an act or omission for which the liability of a director is expressly provided for by statute. To the extent provided by law, the association will indemnify a director, officer, committee member, employee or agent of the association who was, is, or may be named defendant for respondent in any proceedings as a result of his or her actions or omissions within the scope of his or her official capacity in the association. The association will indemnify an individual only if said individual acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his/her conduct was in the association's best interest.

**Article X: Rules**

1. The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing the rules consistent with the formation of by laws for the general administration of the business of the association. The rules shall be published by the Board of Directors, with revisions published at such time sufficient changes have been made.

**Article XI: Affiliations**

1. The association may, at the discretion of the board, enter into affiliation agreements with other similar organizations. Affiliation Agreements will be limited to specific duration of time, but may be renewed as needed by a vote of the Board of Directors.

**Article XII: Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall consist of not less than three members in good standing, and not more than 8 members. The president shall make appointments to each committee, and name a Chairman of each committee. The purpose of each standing committee is to prioritize the needs of the association related to their committee and bring suggestions and recommendations to the board of directors.

**Standing Committees:**

- Shows and Competitions
- Judges
- Rules
- Scholarships
- Marketing & Development
- Sponsorships
- Youth Activities

**Article XIII: Release of Liability**

1. WRHA, its officers, directors, employees, members and agents shall not be responsible for any personal injury, injury to humans and/or animals, or for loss or damage to property, occurring at any association event or activity. Each member, trainer, handler, participant or associate shall indemnify and hold harmless WRHA, its officers, directors, and employees from and against all claims, demands, causes of actions and expense of every kind, including attorney fees, arising out of or related in any manner to the acts or omissions of an owner, exhibitor,

handler or consigner, or as a result of participation in or attendance at a show, event or activity. Presentation of a signed entry or consignment form shall be deemed acceptance of the conditions of this rule. In the event an entry or consignment form is not signed, appearance on the grounds or at the facility of any WRHA event, show, or activity shall be deemed to be acceptance of the conditions of this rule.

#### **Article XV: Disciplinary Procedures**

1. WRHA reserves the right to direct disciplinary action or sanction against individuals coming under the jurisdiction of the association by participating in WRHA sponsored events and/or activities, or by membership in the association. The Executive Committee shall review the evidence or alleged violations of rules and regulations by members and/or participants at any WRHA sponsored event. A member may be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the association, and any non-member participant may be denied any or all privileges within the association.

#### **Article XV!: Violations**

1. Financial: Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the association or any non-member may be denied the privilege of the association by the Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee for failure to pay, when due, any obligation owing the association. Upon receipt of a fraudulent payment, a member or non-member will be notified in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to rectify the mistake. Repeat offenders

will be put on a cash only basis. Failure to pay the amount owed to the association or its sponsoring group will result in suspension of privileges.

2. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Conduct by association members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner representatives, officers, directors or agents or other persons participating in WRHA will be subject to disciplinary action. Inhumane treatment of animals at any WRHA event or activity will result in immediate removal from the event.

### **General Rules and Regulations**

#### **GR-001 World Ranch Horse Association Membership**

World Ranch Horse Association is an incorporated non profit association classified as a 501c3. The association is open to all stock type breeds whose type and conformation enhances the ability to perform the duties of the ranch horse. Horses may be registered or grade. All members are eligible to participate in all WRHA events. Memberships are available to Youth, Amateurs, Individual Adults, Family or Ranch. Memberships shall be renewed annually or members may purchase a one-time Lifetime Membership. WRHA reserves the right to use any photograph or video of member participation at any/all WRHA events, for the sole purpose of promoting WRHA.

Term of membership shall run on a calendar year beginning January 1 through December 31.

By signing and submitting a membership application, member agrees to abide by the rules and by laws of the association. Membership fees



are non-refundable. Each member will be issued a membership card with a member identification number. The membership number and card must be presented when participating in WRHA official events and activities. WRHA memberships are not transferrable.

**GR-001.1 Individual Adult Membership**

An annual membership for adults 19 years of age and older.

**GR001.2 Youth Membership**

An annual membership for youth under 18 years of age. Age will be determined by the age of the youth on January 1, which entitles the youth member to show at that age for the entire year.

No voting rights

**GR001.3 Ranch Membership**

Ranch membership is a membership in the name of a ranch, farm, barn, etc.

This membership covers up to two adults. Two voting rights

**GR001.4 Lifetime Membership**

An individual adult lifetime membership Member must be 19 years of age or older. One voting right.

**GR002 Safety**

All exhibitors are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and respectful of other riders at all time.

**GR002.1** Any rider or participant riding a horse that is out of control will be asked to leave the arena at the discretion of show management. Show management, judges, and/or designated representative shall have the authority to remove a participant from the grounds.

**GR002.2** All dogs on the show grounds must be on a leash at all times.

**GR002.3** Show management may combine classes with fewer than three

entries provided all exhibitors entered are in agreement. No Youth class may be combined with any adult classes, i.e. (Amateur or Open).

**Competition, Points & Year End**

**Awards**

**GR003** Year End Awards will be awarded to the highest point earning horses and exhibitors competing in WRHA approved events. Points may be accumulated in any/all states and/or regions of the United States as long as the exhibitor maintains current membership status for that calendar year.

Awards will be presented to the High Point and Reserve High Point in each division as defined below.

**Youth 11 & Under Walk-Trot Division**

**Novice Youth Division 18 & Under**

**Youth 18 & Under Division**

**Amateur Walk-Trot Division 19 & Over**

**Green As Grass Division**

**Novice Amateur Division 19 & Over**

**Amateur Division 19 & Over**

**Silver Amateur Division (Over Age 50)**

**Open Division**

**Green Horse Division**

**Junior Horse Division (5 & Under)**

**Senior Horse Division (6 & Over)**

**Lead Line Division 8 & Under**

**Longe Line Division - Yearlings**

Individual Class High Point and Reserve High Point Winners will also be recognized with a Certificate Of Recognition.

**GR003.1** All shows will count towards Year End High Point Awards.

**GR003.2** WRHA will award Register of Merit and Superior awards to all horses and exhibitors accumulation lifetime points as follows:

**Register of Merit** – to be awarded at which time the horse or rider accumulate 20 points in a single class.

**Superior** – to be awarded at which time a horse or rider accumulate 50 points in a single class.

**GR003.3** Points will be awarded in each class, under each judge and points values shall be determined by the number of horses competing in each class.

Point Schedule:

1-3 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 1 Point

4-6 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 2 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1 Point

7-10 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 3 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 2 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 1 Point

11-14 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 4 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 3 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 2 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Place 1 Point

15-18 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 5 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 4 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 3 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Place 2 Points

5<sup>th</sup> Place 1 Point

19-23 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 6 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 5 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 4 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Place 3 Points

5<sup>th</sup> Place 2 Points

6<sup>th</sup> Place 1 Point

24-29 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 7 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 6 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 5 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Place 4 Points

5<sup>th</sup> Place 3 Points

6<sup>th</sup> Place 2 Points

7<sup>th</sup> Place 1 Point

Over 30 Horses In Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place 8 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Place 7 Points

3<sup>rd</sup> Place 6 Points

4<sup>th</sup> Place 5 Points

5<sup>th</sup> Place 4 Points

6<sup>th</sup> Place 3 Points

7<sup>th</sup> Place 2 Points

8<sup>th</sup> Place 1 Point

**GR003.4** Scoring system to be used shall be universal, and shall be used at all WRHA approved events; this system is designed to encourage proper skills and training.

Each horse/rider is scored on a basis of 0-100 points and automatically begins with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider are scored on each maneuver required as follows: -1 ½ = Extremely Poor, -1=Very Poor, -1/2=Poor, 0=Correct, +1/2=Good, +1=Very Good, +1 ½=Excellent.

Plusses and minuses shall reflect the quality of each maneuver. Maneuvers should exhibit finesse, smoothness, positive attitude. The rider shall at all times have control of the horse throughout the pattern and each maneuver.

**GR003.4** In the case of a horse/rider going off pattern, or leaving the working area, that score will result in a zero score.

**GR003.5** Illegal equipment shall result in a disqualification (DQ)

**GR003.5 Disqualifications**

Obvious lameness

Inhumane treatment of the horse

Rider misconduct

Fall of horse or rider

Equipment Failure

Artificial Tail

More than 1 finger between split reins

Finger or fingers between romal reins

#### **GR003.6 Fall of horse or rider**

In the case of a fall by the horse or the rider, the run shall end when the rider or the horse falls to the ground. A horse is considered fallen when his shoulder or ribs come in contact with the ground, with all four feet pointing in the same direction. A rider is considered fallen when the rider is no longer astride the horse. A fall will result in a disqualification.

#### **GR003.7 Scoring**

##### **One (1) Point Penalties**

- a. Over Bridled
- b. Out of Frame
- c. Break of gait for 2 strides or less

##### **Three (3) Point Penalties**

- a. Break of gait for more than 2 strides
- b. Wrong lead
- c. Draped Rein
- d. Severe disturbance of any obstacle
- e. Cross cantering

##### **Five (5) Point Penalties**

- a. Blatant disobedience (kick, buck, rear, etc.)
- b. Each refusal

The following actions shall result in placement below horses performing all maneuvers:

- a. Eliminating an obstacle
- b. Incomplete maneuver
- c. Breaking pattern

The following shall result in a zero (0) score:

- a. Illegal equipment
- b. Hoof black
- c. Braided or banded mane/tail

d. Major disobedience

e. Lameness

f. More than 1 finger between split reins

g. One or more fingers between romal reins

#### **GR093.8 Novice & Green**

A novice rider is a rider who has never won a national or world or reserve world title in any recognized national association. To compete as a novice rider in WRHA, the exhibitor must complete and submit the Novice Application and the membership card must designate this rider as a Novice. An exhibitor may hold a Novice status in any individual class until that exhibitor exceeds 20 points earned in that class. **Green As Grass** is a designated division for riders in their first or second year of showing in any recognized national association.

**Green Horse** is a division designated for horses who have not earned a maximum of 20 points in any recognized national association in any ranch horse class.

#### **GR004 Classes Offered**

The following individual ranch horse classes may be offered for all divisions at any show:

1. Ranch Rail Pleasure: A Ranch Pleasure horse should exhibit qualities that make him a pleasure to ride on the ranch. His movements should be fluid and smooth. He should have the ability to easily transition between gaits. Credit shall be given to the horse who has the appearance of handily performing his job with a positive attitude. Required gaits include: **Walk** – the walk shall be a flat

- footed, ground covering, relaxed gait. **Extended Walk** – The horse should move out freely at a flat footed walk and remain relaxed. The extended walk exhibits a lengthening of stride. **Trot** – the trot should be a two beat gait, soft and steady and slow enough to cover long distances without excess exertion. **Extended Trot** – the extended trot should exhibit a lengthening of stride while maintain the two beat gait of the normal trot. **Lope** - the lope is a 3 beat gait which is cadenced and relaxed. The lope should be used to cover long distances such as those found on a ranch. **Extended Lope** – the extended lope should exhibit a lengthening of stride while maintaining the cadence of the normal lope. **Stop** – The stop should be square and correct, engaging the horse’s hocks and hindquarters.
2. Ranch Riding: Each horse entered in the Ranch Riding class shall perform a specified set of obstacles and maneuvers. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to perform necessary tasks and jobs in which a ranch horse may encounter. The horse should exhibit a positive attitude and a willingness to perform his job at all times. Class maneuvers shall include a walk, trot, and lope both directions, extended trot and extended lope is required at least one direction. A stop and back is required in all patterns. Optional maneuvers include: 360, change of leads (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over poles. There shall be no time limit on the pattern.
  3. Ranch Trail: Each horse shall perform individually on a specified set of obstacles and maneuvers. Obstacles may include: Bridge, gate, step overs, trot overs, lope overs, hay/straw, cattle, sheep, goats or other domestic animals, water, dragging object with a rope, mount/dismount, back through, side pass.
  4. Ranch Reining  
The purpose of Ranch Reining is to measure the ability of the ranch when horse to perform basic handling maneuvers. (see WRHA Ranch Reining Patterns)  
Elements of the patterns consist of Run Downs, Circle, Roll Backs, Spins, Stop and Back & Lead Changes.  
Horses less than 3 years of age may not be shown in this class.
  5. Ranch Cow Work  
The Ranch Cow Working class is designed to show the horse’s ability to control cattle.  
No horse under 3 years of age may be shown in this class.
  6. Ranch Boxing  
The Ranch Boxing class is designed to show the horse’s ability to control and hold the cow in a specific area.  
No horse under 3 years of age may be shown in this class.
  7. Ranch Conformation Halter  
The conformation halter class should reward the horse with ideal conformation and correctness.  
Balance is paramount. Structural

correctness, quality of movement and individual characteristics should be evaluated during judging of the Ranch Conformation. The horse should exhibit natural characteristics of a working ranch horse.

Horses are to be shown in working type halter, and may be rope, nylon or leather. Horses may not be shown in a lip chain or cord of any kind. No chains, cord, or cable may be used over the nose of the horse in any WRHA approved event.

A chain attached to run under the chin is optional.

**Class Procedure:** Horses will enter the judging area individually, as horse approaches judge(s), the judge(s) will step out of the line of travel, enabling the horse to trot, following a straight path to and around a cone and turning left, at which point the horse will line up head to tail until all horses entered in the class have entered the arena and lined up. The judge shall inspect all horses from both sides, and from the front and the back. The judge will place the horses in his/her desired order.

#### **GR005 Equipment**

- a. No hoof polish
- b. No bands or braids
- c. No false tails
- d. Trimming inside ears is discouraged
- e. Trimming of bridle path, excessive fetlock hair and long facial hair is allowed.
- f. Excessive silver equipment is discouraged
- g. Rear cinch is allowed
- h. Breast collar is allowed

- i. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle bit, twisted snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.
- j. Bits must be at least 5/16" and not more than 3/4" in diameter, measured 1" from cheek. Bits must be smooth.
- k. No prongs may protrude below the mouthpiece of any bit.
- l. A standard western curb bit must be no longer than 8 1/2" measured from the top bridle attachment to the rein attachment. The port must not be higher than 3 1/2".
- m. Split reins and/or Romal are acceptable.
- n. Closed reins or roping reins are not allowed.
- o. Curb straps are required on all bits and must be at least 1/2" wide and lay flat against the horse's chin. No wire curb straps permitted.
- p. Prohibited equipment: tie down, caveson, gag bit, mechanical hackamore, running martingale, chain over the nose, metal/cable over the nose.

#### **GR006 Attire**

Riders may wear western hats or protective headgear. Long sleeve shirts, western boots, long pants/jeans are required. Chaps, spurs, scarves, gloves are optional.

#### **GR007 Tack & Equipment**

Horses shall be shown in a western stock type saddle with minimal silver. Silver will not count over good clean, working equipment.

1. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle bit, curb bit, or bosal. No iron will be permitted under the jaws. Judges must perform a bit

- inspection in at least one class during an approved show.
2. Judges may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment, which they consider to be inhumane, or which may give the exhibitor an unfair advantage.
  3. All mouthpieces must meet the following parameters:
    - a. Mouthpiece must be at least 5/16" in diameter, and not more than 3/4" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek, and must be smooth (no chains or prongs)
    - b. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece.
  4. Split or romel reins shall be used with bridles/curb bits.
  5. Curb straps are a requirement and shall be leather or flat chain, and must be 1/2" in width and must lie flat against the chin of the horse. No wire curbs are permitted.
  6. All horses shown in a bridle must be shown one handed. Using two hands while showing with a bridle/curb bit, or using more than one finger between split reins, or any finger between romal reins (with the exception of the two-rein, where any number of fingers are permitted between between the romal and the hackamore reins), will result in a disqualification.
  7. In all classes, while using romal reins, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein.
  8. If a horse is shown in a snaffle bit, it shall be either a D Ring or an O-Ring type. Ring shall be no larger than 4" and no smaller than 2" in diameter on the inside of the ring.
    - a. Snaffle bit must have a broken mouthpiece.
    - b. Mouthpiece must measure a minimum of 5/6" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.
    - c. Mouthpiece shall be round, oval or egg shaped and must be smooth, unwrapped metal.
    - d. Twisted wire and/r chain mouthpieces are not permitted.
    - e. Horses ridden in a snaffle must use split reins or mecate reins and must be shown two-handed.
  9. Hackamore: Hackamores must be Made of braided rawhide or braided leather and must be a maximum of 3/4" at the cheek. There must be a minimum of two finger widths, (approximately 1 1/2 inch) between the bosal and the nose. Absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband of the bosal is permitted. Mechanical Hackamores, cavesons, tie downs and running martingales are prohibited. A judge may prohibit the use of any other equipment he/she deems inhumane.

#### **GR008 Class Procedures and Scoring**

1. Ranch Pleasure – The purpose of the Ranch Pleasure class is to demonstrate the horse's ability to cover ground while performing duties in a ranch setting, while still being a pleasure to ride. The horse should demonstrate a positive attitude and the ability to perform as a working ranch horse without the confines of an arena. The horse should be relaxed, quiet, soft and show cadence at all gaits. The horse should perform on a relatively loose rein, and without a drape. Light contact and a

natural head carriage is desirable. The horse should exhibit a forward motion and demonstrate a lengthening of stride at extended gaits. Transitions should be executed in a smooth and timely manner.

**Gaits:**

**Normal Walk:** The Ranch Horse should exhibit a straight, flat-footed and relaxed walk.

**Extended Walk:** The extended walk should be straight, flat-footed and relaxed while showing a lengthening of stride and remaining relaxed with a positive attitude.

**Trot:** The ideal trot is a square, two-beat gait with a soft, steady cadence, slow and soft enough to cover long distances. Rider shall remain seated at the trot.

**Extended Trot:** The extended trot should show a lengthening of stride and an increase in pace, covering ground at an increased speed. The rider may remain seated, or post while exhibiting the extended trot.

**Lope:** The lope is a 3-beat gait which should be steady, relaxed and comfortable to ride.

**Extended Lope:** The extended lope should show a lengthening of stride while maintaining proper cadence at a 3-beat gait. The extended lope should also be steady, controlled and relaxed.

**Stop:** The stop should exhibit balance from all gaits. The ranch horse should stop straight, while engaging his hocks and hindquarters, while being ridden

with light contact and without resistance to the rider's cues.

**Reverse:** The ranch horse should be willing to turn briskly on a relatively loose rein and without resistance. The reverse may be performed in either direction.

The Ranch Pleasure class may be held inside or outside of an arena. Each horse shall be shown individually. The pattern may be started in either direction. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. Signs to indicate when/where gait changes occur are optional. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know the instructions for each pattern.

**Pattern #1**

Normal Walk – 20 feet  
Extended Walk – 50 feet  
Trot – 100 feet  
Extended Trot – 250 feet  
Lope – 150 feet  
Stop  
Reverse  
Lope 150 feet  
Extended Lope – 100 feet  
Normal Walk 50 feet  
Trot 100 feet  
Extended Trot – 100 feet  
Stop  
Back Up – 12 feet  
Exit at a trot

**Pattern #2**

Lope down center line to cone  
Extended Trot turn left and continue for 50 feet  
Trot – 100 feet  
Stop  
Reverse  
Lope – 100 feet  
Extended Lope – 100 feet

Normal Walk – 50 feet  
Trot – 50 feet  
Stop  
Back  
Exit at Extended Trot

**Pattern #3**

Normal Walk – 25 feet  
Extended Walk – 25 feet  
Lope – 150 feet  
Extended Lope – 100 feet  
Trot – 100 feet  
Stop  
Back – 12 feet  
Reverse  
Lope – 100 feet  
Trot – 50 feet  
Exit at Extended Trot

Optional patterns may be used as long as all gaits and maneuvers are included:

Normal Walk, Extended Walk, Trot, Extended Trot, Lope, Extended Lope, Stop, Reverse, Back. (Normal Walk, Trot and Lope may be used in one direction or both directions)

Signs or markers may be used to signify gait changes.

**Penalties:**

**One Point Penalties:**

- a. Over bridled (per maneuver)
- b. Too slow
- c. Out of frame
- d. Break of gait at the walk or trot for two strides or less

**Three Point Penalties:**

- a. Incorrect lead
- b. Draped reins
- c. Break of gait at lope
- d. Break of gait at walk or trot more than three strides

**Five Point Penalties:**

- a. Spurring forward of the cinch
- b. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear)
- c. Use of free hand to instill fear or to encourage movement

**Disqualification:**

- a. Off pattern
- b. Leaving working area before pattern is completed
- c. Lameness
- d. Abuse
- e. Illegal equipment
- f. Disrespect
- g. Misconduct
- h. Fall of horse and/or rider
- i. More than 1 finger between split reins
- j. One or more fingers between romal reins

**Ranch Rail Pleasure**

The Ranch Rail Pleasure horse should exhibit qualities which the name implies. A ranch horse, which is a pleasure to ride across distances on the ranch. The Ranch Rail Pleasure horse should exhibit smooth gaits, self - carriage, cadence, smooth transitions and be a pleasure to ride.

Gaits: Walk, Extended Walk, Trot, Extended Trot, Lope, Extended Lope, Stop, Reverse and Back.

Credit should be given to horses which are ridden under light control, without a draped rein, and without undue restraint. The horse should be willing, confident, and have a smooth flowing stride, with a natural headset.

**Class Procedure:** All horses shall be judged as a group class (as a Western Pleasure class is shown).



The judge shall work all horses both directions as a walk, jog and lope. Judge may also ask for an extension of each gait at their discretion. All horses shall be required to back, either on the rail or in the class line up.

**Faults:** Wrong lead, break of gait, excessive speed, excessive slowness, artificial head carriage, over flexing, excessively opening mouth, dull or lethargic, overly draped rein.

Disqualifications: Two hands on the reins if showing in a bridle/curb bit, fall to the ground of horse and/or rider, failure to back.

### **Ranch Riding**

The Ranch Riding horse should exhibit the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse. Each performance should simulate a working horse outside the confines of an arena, as if the horse were performing ranch duties. Ranch Riding should showcase the horse's ability to work at forward ,working speed, while under control at all times. Light contact, good manners and responsiveness should be rewarded.

**Class Procedure:** Each horse shall work individually and perform the maneuvers in the pattern provided, with scoring on a 0-100 scale, with 70 being average. Required maneuvers are walk, trot, lope both directions, and extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction. Stop and Back is required in all patterns.

Additional maneuvers may include, sidepass, one or more 360 degree turn in either direction, lead change (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over poles. Patterns and maneuvers may be

arranged in any order and must be approved by the judge. The suggested patterns may also be used.

There is no time limit for completion of the pattern.

The use of natural logs and equipment is encouraged.

Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

Holding on to or touching saddle horse is acceptable.

### **Faults:**

#### **One Point Faults:**

- a. Too slow (per gait)
- b. Over Bridled
- c. Break of gait at walk or jog (2 strides or less)

#### **Three Point Faults:**

- a. Break of gait at walk or jog (more than 2 strides)
- b. Break of gait at lope
- c. Incorrect lead
- d. Draped reins
- e. Cross cantering or incorrect lead for more than three strides while performing a lead change

#### **Five Point Faults:**

- a. Blatant disobedience (kick, buck, rear, bite, etc.
- b. Refusal to perform maneuver

#### **Zero Score:**

- a. Illegal equipment
- b. Willful abuse
- c. Schooling
- d. Major disobedience

There will be no specific penalties for ticking or hitting logs, however deductions may be made based on overall maneuver.

There are no specific deductions for over spins and/or under spins, however, deductions may be made based on overall maneuver score.

### **Ranch Trail**

The purpose of the Ranch Trail class is to test the ability of the ranch horse to maneuver through situations and obstacles which may be encountered on a ranch, and in everyday ranch work. The horse should be judged on correctness, efficiency and maneuvering skills. Horses must be at least 3 years of age to show in the Ranch Trail class.

The Ranch Trail class shall consist of a minimum of five (5) obstacles (gate, side pass, walk overs, trot overs, bridge). Additional obstacles may consist of, but are not limited to, lope overs, serpentines, mailbox, water, mount/dismount, swing a rope, carry object, step into/out of obstacle, ground tie, pick up feet, lead at trot or walk, jump, brush obstacle, drag object (rope drag may not be used in youth or novice classes)

The judge shall approve of all courses and obstacles prior to the beginning of each trail class, and at the judge's discretion, obstacles may be changed, moved or eliminated prior to the start of each class.

Show management may or may not allow exhibitors to walk the trail course. Damaged or unsafe obstacles shall be removed from the class at the point in which they become damaged. If damaged obstacle occurs mid-class, all scores earned on that particular obstacle shall be eliminated.

#### **Prohibited Obstacles:**

Tarps, moving/rocking bridge, tires, exotic animals, any artificial objects which would not be encountered in a ranch setting.

#### **Spacing:**

- a. Walk Overs – 26-30, no more than 8" in height if elevated
- b. Trot Overs – 36-42 inches, no more than 8" high if elevated
- c. Lope Overs – 6-7 feet, no more than 6" high if elevated
- d. Back through – minimum of 28" wide, maximum 30" wide (if elevated you must use the maximum width)

**Scoring:** Credit should be given to horse and rider who demonstrate skill and ease while negotiating obstacles. The ideal ranch trail horse should show attentiveness to the obstacles and the rider's cues. He should have the ability to easily negotiate through the course with a positive attitude.

Penalties:

#### **One Point Penalties:**

- a. Each hit/tick
- b. Stepping on obstacle
- c. Grabbing obstacle with teeth
- d. Incorrect gait
- e. Break of gait at walk or trot less than two stridde
- f. Both front of back feet in a single slot on walk over or trot over
- g. Skipping a slot on walk over or trot over
- h. Split log on lope over
- i. Movement on dismount or ground tie
- j. Over bridled (per obstacle)

#### **Three Point Penalties:**

- a. Incorrect lead
- b. Draped reins
- c. Break of gait at the walk or trot more than 2 strides

#### **Five Point Penalties:**

- a. Spurring forward of the cinch
- b. Leaving ground tie area
- c. Excessive movement during mount/dismount

- d. Use of hands to instill fear or encourage movement
- e. More than one finger between split reins or any finger in romal reins (except with snaffle bit)
- f. Falling from, dislodging, knocking down, or stepping out/off of obstacle
- g. Dropping an object which is suppose to be carried
- h. Refusal to do obstacle (1<sup>st</sup> refusal and 2<sup>nd</sup> refusal)

**Disqualification:**

- a. Off pattern
- b. 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal
- c. Leaving course before pattern is complete
- d. Lameness
- e. Abuse
- f. Illegal equipment
- g. Disrespect
- h. Misconduct
- i. Fall of horse and/or rider

**Ranch Reining**

The purpose of Ranch Reining is to measure the ability of the ranch when horse to perform basic handling maneuvers. (see WRHA Ranch Reining Patterns)

Elements of the patterns consist of Run Downs, Circle, Roll Backs, Spins, Stop and Back & Lead Changes.

Horses less than 3 years of age may not be shown in this class.

Credit should be given to the horse that is willing and easily guided through the pattern without resistance. Credit is given to smoothness, finesse and positive attitude while performing all maneuvers at controlled speed.

**Penalties:**

**½ Point Penalties:**

- a. Beginning a circle at a trot for two strides or less
- b. Exiting a roll back at a trot for two strides or less
- c. Late lead change by one stride
- d. Over spin/Under spin up to 1/8 of a spin

**One Point Penalties:**

- a. Incorrect lead or cross firing on circles in figure eight or around the ends of the arena
- b. Over spinning/Under spinning by 1/8-1/4 of a spin
- c. Over bridled

**Two Point Penalties:**

- a. Break of gait
- b. Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns
- c. Freezing Up
- d. Failure to be loping prior to reaching the first marker on a run in pattern
- e. Failure to run past the designated marker before initiating the required maneuver

**Ranch Cow Work:**

The Ranch Cow Working class is designed to show the horse's ability to control cattle.

No horse under 3 years of age may be shown in this class.

This class shall have a time limit of 1 minute and 30 seconds per exhibitor.

Time for each exhibitor shall begin at the time the cow enters the working area (arena). If the exhibitor has satisfied all required elements of the cow working class, the judge, at his discretion may blow the whistle to complete the cow work.

The judge may blow the whistle at any time he/she deems necessary to stop the exhibitor for safety purposes.

Safety of the Exhibitor, the horse and the cow should be closely monitored by the judge.

The judge, at his/her discretion may award a new cow to any exhibitor if he/she deems that the current cow is not workable.

Announcer shall call time at the end of 1 ½ minutes of work regardless of whether the exhibitor has completed all required elements of the cow work.

Ranch Cow Working shall consist of two parts:

Part 1 shall be boxing the cow. The boxing portion shall consist of the rider controlling and containing the cow at the entry end of the arena. The horse/rider shall demonstrate sufficient ability to control the cow.

Part 2 shall be the fence work. In the fence work, the horse/rider, after boxing the cow, shall drive the cow down the side of the arena and control the cow against the fence while moving the cow a minimum of ½ to ¾ length of the arena. The horse/rider shall then stop the cow's forward motion, turn the cow and control the cow along the fence going in the opposite direction.

Upon reaching the center marker of the arena, at which time the judge shall blow the whistle to indicate the completion of the working time.

**Scoring:**

Credit shall be given to the horse who exhibits natural ability and a positive attitude with minimal hold and/or control from the rider.

Penalties:

**1 Point Penalties:**

- a. Over bridled
- b. Loss of working advantage
- c. Changing sides of the arena
- d. Failure to drive cow past center marker

**3 Point Penalties:**

- a. Knocking the cow down
- b. Losing the cow while boxing

**5 Point Penalties:**

- a. Spurring in front of the cince
- b. Use of hand to instill fear
- c. Use of two hands (except with snaffle or bosal)
- d. Losing the cow
- e. More than 1 finger between the reins

**Zero Score:**

- a. Turn tail to cow
- b. Failure to attempt the required elements
- c. Blatant misbehavior
- d. Leaving the working area prior to completion

**Disqualification:**

- a. Off pattern
- b. Lameness
- c. Abuse of horse and/or cow
- d. Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or disrespect
- e. Illegal equipment
- f. Illegal attire

Disqualified entries will count as an entry in the class.

**Ranch Boxing**

The Ranch Boxing class is designed to show the horse's ability to control and hold the cow in a specific area. The horse should exhibit a bright expression and should be focused on the cow.

No horse under 3 years of age may be shown in this class.

This class shall have a time limit of 1 minute per exhibitor. Time for each exhibitor shall begin at the time the cow enters the working area (arena). The horse/rider shall demonstrate that they have the ability to contain the cow within the marked area of the arena. The announcer shall call time at the end of 1 minute, indicating the completion of the work.

**Scoring:**

**1 Point Penalties:**

- a. Loss of working advantage
- b. Out of position
- c. Slipping rein

**3 Point Penalties:**

- a. Knocking down cow without having working advantage
- b. Losing a cow

**5 Point Penalties:**

- a. Spurring forward of the cinch
- b. Blatant disobedience
- c. Use of hand(s) to instill fear
- d. Use of hand(s) for praise
- e. Use of two hands (except with snaffle or bosal)
- f. More than one finger between the reins

**Zero Score:**

- a. Turning Tail
- b. Schooling after entering working area (arena)
- c. Failure to attempt the required elements of the class

**Disqualification:**

- a. Abuse of horse and/or cow
- b. Lameness
- c. Disrespect/Misconduct
- d. Illegal equipment
- e. Illegal attire
- f. Leaving the working area before completion of work
- g. Fall of horse and/or rider

**GR009 Judges**

**1. Judge Approval Requirements**

- a. Judges must be a member in good standing at the time of application for approval.
- b. Judge applicants must have Knowledge and experience with ranch horses and have an interest in preserving the American Ranch Horse.
- c. Designation as a WRHA judge is a privilege which is given to the most qualified individuals.
- d. Judges are required to abide by and follow all WRHA rules.
- e. Judges are required to complete the judge's rulebook test with a passing score of no less than 90%
- f. Judges are required to renew annually.
- g. Judges shall communicate with show management in a timely manner if they find that they are unable to fulfill their judging requirement.
- h. Judge applicants with little to no show judging experience will be required to intern with a carded judge at a minimum of three shows. Judging experience must be in the form of judging breed or statewide recognized shows. Intern forms will be provided upon request and shall be signed by the carded judge who is providing the internship.

**GR009-1 Judge Conduct**

- a. Any person holding a WRHA Judge's card, shall at all times conduct themselves in a

- professional manner, whether or not they are judging.
- b. Any judge violating this rule shall be subject to review and or suspension.
  - c. Inappropriate behavior is grounds for review.
  - d. **All judges cards must be completed and signed by the judge and turned in to show management upon completion.**

#### **GR009-2 Guest Judge**

- a. WRHA may authorize a Guest Judge Permit at it's discretion.
- b. To be eligible for a Guest Judge Permit, the judge must:
  1. Hold a judge's card with either AQHA, APHA, NRHA, or NCHA.
  2. Must have knowledge and experience in judging Ranch Horse classes
  3. Must hold a current WRHA membership
  4. Show management will be allowed to use one guest judge during a calendar year.

#### **GR009-3 Judge Attire**

It is a requirement that all WRHA judges, be dressed professionally and appropriately while judging any WRHA approved event. Appropriate attire consists of a collared long sleeve shirt, blouse or jacket, long pants, western hat, western boots.

#### **SHOW-1 Show Approval**

In order to receive show approval from WRAH, show management must submit a Show Approval Application, no later than 45 days prior to the start date of the show. The Show Approval Application must be completed in it's entirety, including list of judges, show dates and show location. Any WRHA Approved show must use a WRHA approved judge. WRHA may authorize a judge to judge as a guest judge on a one time basis. Any person judging as a guest judge may only judge a single WRHA approved event as a guest judge.

#### **SHOW-2 Show Management**

**Within 15** days of the completion of any WRHA approved show, show management must submit a complete show report which includes all class entries and placings under each judge. Judge names and placings should be submitted on the WRHA spreadsheet provided by WRHA, or in a typed form which shows each judge, judge name, each class, number of entries in each class, exhibitor name and name of horse, as well as all placings in all classes by all judges.

**No hand written submissions will be accepted. Each show report shall be accompanied by all judges cards and all judges cards shall**

**be signed by the judge who is placing the class. In the event a class has zero entries, a judge's card shall be signed by the judge indicating 0 entries in that particular class.**

**SHOW-3 SHOW RESULTS**

**Show results will be posted by WRHA within 30 days of receiving the Show Completion Report. Any discrepancies or errors in points shall be reported to WRHA within 60 days from the date that points are posted by WRHA. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact WRHA in writing with any point discrepancies.**