

SSBC Open Ranch Horse Division Rules

Only offered as an all age open class.

(A) The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse.

(B) The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and 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 does not have to 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.

(C) Requirements:

(1) No horses less than 3 years of age.

(2) Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.

(3) The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions: and the extended jog and lope at least one direction; as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back.

(4) Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

(5) The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

(6) The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should have an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

(7) No time limit.

(8) Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all maneuvers

(9) **Stationary Steer:** This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge shall give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the competitor makes the swing and throws at the steer. The Contestant shall not be penalized for a miss but shall receive credit for the horse being in the correct position and standing quietly. Shying from rope will be penalized. Exhibitor has the option to carry their own rope (and as they approach steer may build loop) or be handed a coiled rope (without loop). All Exhibitors are required to build own loop. Fast and efficient loop build and put away after roping should be rewarded. Only one lop will be allowed.

(D) Apparel and Equipment:

(1) No hoof polish.

(2) No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.

(3) Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

(4) Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

(5) Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

(E) Optional Equipment:

(1) Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.

(2) Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in all classes except halter and showmanship.

These rules may be revised at the discretion of the Judge and SSBC Show Manager at any time.