

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.

1. Horses to be shown in plain, clean and functional, western tack and conservative western attire. Rider attire will be restricted to dark-colored jeans (such as blue, black, dark brown, dark gray) and a light colored (white or buff), button-down (or snapped), undecorated, long-sleeved collared shirt, cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. No chaps, or chinks of any kind will be allowed in this class. A conservative scarf around the neck is allowed but should not detract from the overall conservative appearance of the exhibitor. Tack should be traditional and conservative in appearance and should not display extraordinary silver or other decorations other than normal buckles and connectors. Judge may fault riders who are in violation of the intent of this rule. This dress code is simply to limit the influence of fashion or fads for this class so that the emphasis will remain on the riding ability of the exhibitor. No banded or braided manes, or hoof black will be allowed.

2. Rules concerning legal reins, bits and other tack are same as other western stock horse classes. Protective boots or leg wraps (conservative colors) on the horse are allowed.

General Rules–

Position of 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. 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. If the non-rein hand touches the reins at any time during the performance, it should result in a disqualification.

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 or sit. Exaggerated shifting of the rider's weight is not desirable and will be penalized in judging. Rider should at all times, be in rhythm with the movement of the horse so as 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 the judge feels 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 must include only maneuvers from the following list:

- 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

The pattern should be posted at least 1 hour before the class begins. The judge will use these individual work scores to determine the top riders who may be asked for additional individual work or work on the rail. Selected riders (or all riders if the class is small) may be asked to work on the rail to determine final placing (rail work is optional). If held, rail work will include walk, jog, and lope in one or both directions of the ring at the discretion of the judge. Stock Horse Horsemanship will be scored the same as Western Horsemanship (see Western Horsemanship scoring guidelines)