

Divisions 2024 **Ten divisions may be offered: open, green horse open, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, Rookie amateur, youth, limited youth, Rookie youth, Walk Trot.

****The following divisions are mandatory at any show without cattle: Open, Amateur, Youth

1 Open exhibitors may show up to four junior horses and four senior horses in each class if held as a Junior/Senior. If held as an all-age class, open exhibitors may show up to four horses per class.

2 Cowboy, amateur and youth exhibitors may show up to three horses in each class.

3 The cowboy division is for working ranch cowboys.

The rider of the horse must either be an owner, family member or full-time employee of the ranch that owns the horse. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the versatility ranch horse cowboy classes.

4 For an exhibitor to be eligible in the amateur or youth novice/rookie division, the exhibitor must have earned no more than ten (10) lifetime points in any breed association (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around); or \$500 in a national organization (including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA, NSBA) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse and boxing, western riding, reining, cutting, trail, ranch riding, ranch trail, western horsemanship, VRH ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, VRH ranch reining VRH ranch cow work, and VRH ranch cutting.) Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Eligibility is from January 1 - December 31. Stallions are not permitted in any rookie division.

5 Eligibility for the **limited amateur and limited youth sub-division is not restricted, except that exhibitors must meet youth or amateur membership requirements. There is no cap on points or money earned by either horse or exhibitor.

6 Limited amateur/youth, rookie amateur/youth, and amateur/ youth classes may not be held concurrently. **Limited divisions will only be offered at shows where cattle are involved. Other shows may elect to only offer amateur and youth classes. Amateur and youth exhibitors are required to go down the fence and are given the option to circle or rope in their cow work. Limited amateur and limited youth exhibitors are required to box-drive-box-drive in the cow work. Rookie amateur and youth are required to box the cow at one end of the arena only in the cow work.

7 Walk Trot is open to all youth and amateur riders. This division is for riders who are new to the sport, or who haven't ridden in several years, or for whatever reason find they are not ready for a class that includes loping. This class is by the honor system, there are no lifetime points attached, other than to say if you've earned year end recognition by a national equine organization in the past 5 years, you are ineligible. There is no cross entry into any other division. This division may offer year end awards.

8 The Green Horse Division is open to all riders providing their horse has not accumulated more than 15 points in any nationally recognized equine organization in the class entered. For instance, a horse may have earned 12 ranch reining points and be eligible to ride in the green ranch reining class, but if they have earned 16 points in ranch riding, they may not enter the green ranch riding class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION.

1 No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.

2 No hoof polish or hoof black.

3 No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions, except in any class where roping is involved, the horses 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.

4 Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

5 Trimming bridle path, fetlocks and/excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

6 Equipment with excessive silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

7 Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any class.

8 Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

9 Romal reins are allowed in all classes, including 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 rider 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.

10 The use of two-rein equipment is allowed in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail for one year only.

11 When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time

SCORING SYSTEM. The scoring system is designed to be positive, straightforward, and always encourage growth and improvement in both horse and rider. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done.

Except for the ranch conformation class, horses will be scored from 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½, defined as follows: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ poor, 0 correct, +½ good, + 1 very good, + 1 ½ excellent. Maneuver scores should be added or subtracted from 70 and are to be determined and assessed independently of any penalty points which may accrue.

Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

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. In the case of a horse/rider team being off-pattern (OP), including repeated blatant disobedience, the horse/rider team cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly.

No horse/rider team shall be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete, improper western attire, or fall of horse and/or rider. Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class, but will not receive points.

In the case of a fall by a horse or rider, the run shall end when the rider or horse fall to the ground. A horse is considered to have fallen when all four feet are extended in the same direction. A rider is considered to have fallen when the rider is no longer astride

In the case of equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped and the horse/rider team will be given credit for what they have accomplished prior to that point but cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly and will be considered off-pattern (OP)

In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judge to be tiebreakers. The tie-breaker maneuvers will be made prior to the start of the class and so noted on score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second, third and so forth. Ties through 15th place should be broken. Ties beyond 15th place can remain tied and All-Around credits will be split evenly.

CLASSES RANCH RIDING. 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. 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. 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. 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. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Horses shall 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 shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The optional ranch riding pattern may be used or another pattern may be used as long as 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, with extended trot and extended lope at least one direction. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. Optional maneuvers such as (1) cross 4 logs at walk, trot, or lope, or (2) 360 turn left or right may also be included. 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. 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: - 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; wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less. - 3 Point: Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (2) strides; 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; trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or when exiting a rollback. - 5 Point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise. - Off Pattern (OP): Repeated blatant disobedience; breaking pattern; incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding maneuvers; 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). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. - Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving working area before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

RANCH TRAIL. The 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 the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider 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. The ranch trail course will include no fewer than six and no more than nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course. Walk will be evaluated as part of the obstacle score. Trot must be at least 35 feet and scored with the obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and scored with the obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse or eliminate an exhibitor by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the 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 this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less. Judges must inspect the course and have the right and duty to 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, nonnegotiable or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall 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 shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class. The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.

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

MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND/OR MANUEVERS. 1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (natural logs are required). Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required. - Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high and spacing between 26 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. - Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36-42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. - 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. 2. Opening, passing through and closing a hinged swinging gate (not a rope gate): Use gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side-passing. 3. 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. 4. 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. 5. 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. 6. Drag an object: For open, cowboy amateur, and limited amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in youth and rookie classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight 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.

OPTIONAL OBSTACLES. 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 jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 25 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle. - Only live or stuffed animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to spook a horse. - Carry object from one part of the arena to another. - Remove and replace materials from a mailbox. - Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart. - Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments. - Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head. - Step in and out of obstacle. - Put on slicker or coat. - Stand to mount with mounting block. - Walk through water obstacle. - Open gate on foot. - Pick up feet. - Walk through brush. - Ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed) - Lead at the trot. 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. CREDITS AND PENALTIES. 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 rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however this will result in being "off pattern" (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. Credit is given to horse/rider 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 rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½. 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: - 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; wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less. - 3 point: Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two (s) strides; 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; trotting for more than three (3) strides in lope departures or when exiting a rollback; knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle; stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with one foot; missing or evading part of a log/ obstacle with one foot. - 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than one foot; 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; missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than one foot. - Off-Pattern (OP): Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied during the drag; use of two hands (except junior horse,

Green Horse and rookie 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); failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate.

Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider RANCH REINING. 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. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. 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. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his 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. 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 exciting a pleasing to watch. PENALTIES: - 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. - 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. - 2 point: 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. - 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; - Off-Pattern (OP): breaking pattern; inclusion of 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). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly. - Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

RANCH CONFORMATION. The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve the Ranch Horse type, selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the stock horse 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 Ranch conformation horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail. To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least two riding classes in that division at the same show. Horses in each division will be shown as one class. - Stallions, mares and geldings will compete together in each of these divisions: open, cowboy, amateur and limited amateur. - Mares and geldings will compete together in each of these divisions: youth, limited youth, rookie youth and rookie amateur. Divisions/subdivisions may not be run concurrently. All stallions shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All stallions and mares shall be examined for parrot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse has parrot mouth or is cryptorchid, such horse should be excused from the ring prior to final placing by the judge. Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses may not be shown with a lip cord or safety lead; however, a chain may be used under the chin or over the nose. It is recommended but not required for exhibitors to remove their spurs. 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 shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference. Exhibitors may enter more than one horse in ranch conformation classes. This allows the horses to remain eligible for all-around awards. Any Current PNWRHA member may show a horse for another competitor in open ranch conformation. Any current amateur or youth member or a family member of the competitor may show a horse in amateur or youth ranch conformation. An exhibitor with multiple horses entered in a conformation class must lead one of horses.

Working Ranch on the Rail A. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized. **B.** The working western rail 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 relaxed rein.