



Section 9:

Discipline Rules: Western Division



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Horse Council British Columbia

Rule Book 2026

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www.hcbc.ca

Horse Council BC (HCBC)

Recognized by the Government of British Columbia
as the official organization for Equestrian Sport in BC

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually and reviewed for inclusion to the next years' rule book.

Aims, Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.
- To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.
- To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.
- To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to the government at all levels.
- To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grassroots and entry-level competition organizers to sanction their shows with HCBC. By doing so, the equestrian sport community in BC can work together to ensure an enjoyable and affordable environment within a fair playing field that supports the growth and success of equestrian sport in BC.

Horse Welfare Statement

Statement

HCBC members are responsible for ensuring the well-being, safety, and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition, training goals, or personal objectives. Horses must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion at all times. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

Scope

This statement applies to all HCBC members, coaches, officials, volunteers, owners, competitors, and any person responsible for the care or handling of a horse participating in HCBC events.

Humane Treatment

- Horses must never be subjected to abuse, neglect, or inhumane handling.
- All handling and training practices must align with generally accepted equine care and competition standards. The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

Responsibility of Care

- Individuals who own, use, or care for horses must exercise skill, compassion, and sound judgment.
- All horses, regardless of financial value or competitive status, must be protected from mistreatment.

Prohibited Practices

- The use of equipment, devices, medications, or substances that alter performance, appearance, or natural function in an unethical or unsafe way is strictly forbidden.
- Any form of inhumane training technique, coercion, or excessive force is prohibited.

Event Requirements

- At HCBC-approved events, horses must be managed to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.
- Any suspected inhumane treatment must be reported immediately to event officials or HCBC representatives.
- It is recommended that competition management include a formal statement in the show program or prize list detailing their commitment to humane horse care and the disciplinary actions that will be enforced for confirmed abuse at a recognized event.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events, suspension of membership, or further action as outlined in HCBC disciplinary procedures.

Bio Security

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

Vaccinations offer horses protection from some infectious diseases, but do not eliminate disease risk. Vaccination guidelines vary by region. This should be taken into consideration when weighing the risk for exposure. While there are costs associated with vaccines, those costs are generally much lower than the costs associated with an infectious disease.

Show management has the right and duty to demand removal of a horse from the grounds if it is deemed unfit to compete. Competition management may enforce vaccination requirements for their competition or venue.

A request for supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements is an acceptable condition of entry.

For more information on bio security practice please visit <https://hcbc.ca/welfare/disease-animal-health/>

Fair and Inclusive Field of Play

HCBC is committed to providing a fair, safe, and inclusive field of play for all participants at Horse Council BC sanctioned competitions and events. Every competitor, official, volunteer, and supporter has the right to engage in an environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from discrimination. All participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age, gender, identity, ability, background, or experience. The integrity of competition depends on ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability from everyone involved.

- Participants should educate themselves on safe sport principles, ethical conduct, reporting procedures, and prevention of maltreatment.
- Officials and coaches are expected to model safe, positive, and ethical behavior.
- Concerns related to unsafe behavior, misconduct, or maltreatment must be reported promptly to event management or the designated safe sport authority.
- Reports will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and addressed according to established procedures.

For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

Helmet Policy

Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

Exception:

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved sports turban helmet for all ages is strongly advised.

Helmets are not required for vaulting.

Concussion Policy

Resources: For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website www.hcbc.ca.

Definition: A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

Policy Statement: Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with, or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period to maintain current certification status.

Liability

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury of horse or person or loss or damage of any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at a competition.

Each exhibitor, agent or horse owner will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to any property while on the competition grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

Safety

It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

Competitions must ensure that a First Aid kit is always readily available.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the competition who is trained in first aid and emergency medical treatment.

Qualified medical personnel may be defined as the following:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel, such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid Certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

Emergency Phone Numbers: veterinarian, farrier, nearest hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and farrier to be available either on-call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Report Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

If a competitor suffers a fall in warm-up, on the field of play or anywhere on the competition grounds during hours of the competition, they must be evaluated by the attending medic. Competitors are solely responsible for ensuring on-site medical assistance takes place. If a competitor refuses evaluation, Competition Management may make the decision to disqualify the competitor from the competition.

Administration

Sanctioning

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction an entry level competition or event offering any of the disciplines outlined in the HCBC Rule Book. There is no restriction to prize money offered at the competition.

All management, officials and volunteers at HCBC sanctioned events are held to the HCBC Code of Conduct. For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC/Horse Sport Pro online event sanctioning portal.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Competition applications and all required documentation must be submitted through the online system, preferably at least one month prior to the competition or event date(s).

The competition must be approved before publishing, posting online or circulating the prize list.

Instructions for login and links to the online application process are available on the Competition page of the HCBC website. <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>

Every competition must obtain a certificate of insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Competition Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Competitions or Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition. Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.

Sanctioning Fees

The fee for sanctioning a Horse Council BC Provincial Competition is \$42.00 per competition.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Sanction fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$75.00 will be applied for any returned fees.

Prize List

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body, and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition / event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only.

This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.

The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at www.hcbc.ca

<https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.

Prize Lists must include:

- The exact competition name, date, and location of the competition (it is recommended a map and/or directions to the competition grounds be included)
- **Management:** List of competition officials (Show Committee, Manager, Entry Secretary, Judges, Course Designers, Provincial Rules Official)
- **Veterinarian:** Name and telephone number of the veterinarian. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- **Farrier:** Name and telephone number of the farrier. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- Type of Competition
- Entry deadline.
- Entry Blank: waiver and entry agreement
- **Statement:** Competition will be run in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book. Every class offered which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current HCBC Rule Book be conducted and judged in accordance as such.
- Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process
- **HCBC Prizelist Disclaimer** (This must be included in its entirety and placed in a conspicuous position in the prize list and or entry form
- Horse Welfare Statement, (HCBC or Club) <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>



- Bio security/vaccination statement
- Fees Statement regarding entry fees, prizes offered in each class
- Refund policy
- Classes numbers and specifications
- Any Age Categories or horse/pony size where classes will be split.
- **Statement:** Management reserves the right to cancel or combine any class that does not have sufficient entries
- **Statement:** regarding post entries or day of adds (are they allowed)
- **Statement:** regarding Hors Concours entries (not to be judged, whether or not Hors Concours rounds are allowed)
- **Statement:** of type of footing available in warm-up areas and competition arenas (example: jumping will be held on grass)
- Number of placings for ribbons in each class and if there are trophies, prizes and /or prize money.
- **Statement:** Prize Money Payment: as to when and how the prize money will be paid (recommended (maximum of 30 days following the competition.)
- Types of Championships or/and Aggregates and how points will be determined.
- .Any special venue rules eg: minors operating motorized vehicles/scooters/bicycles.
- Motorized vehicle statement: If motorized vehicles are prohibited from show grounds, the motorized vehicle statement must still be published in the prize list.
- Dogs allowed or prohibited
- Other statements such as, competition numbers must be worn on competition grounds

Prize and Awards

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified in the Prizelist. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be clearly stated.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.



The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:

First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7



Section 1:

General Competition Rules



These are general competition rules only, please see discipline sections for discipline specific rules and exceptions.

1.1 Entries

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

Exception: Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership. Lead line participants may not cross enter into any other classes at the competition.

1.1.1. Hours concours (H/C) Entries:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

1.1.2. Youth Entries

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Divisions.

Exception: Vaulting

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse or pony may be entered in any youth age division.

Youth competitors may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

1.1.3. Dogs

Dogs are permitted on the competition grounds **at the discretion of Management** and must be on a leash at all times. The prize list must clearly state one of the following:

- “No dogs allowed on the premises.”
OR
- “Dogs are allowed on the premises but must remain on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in warm-up areas on the field of play or at ingates.”

This restriction applies to all dogs, including service dogs and emotional support animals (ESAs).

Persons who rely on a service dog due to a disability may request accommodation under applicable laws (e.g., the BC Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act). Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering safety, competition integrity, and venue limitations. Emotional support animals, which are not recognized as service animals under BC law, do not have the same legal access rights.

1.1.4. Competition Numbers

Competition numbers must be issued by the Show Secretary to each entered horse and must be visible at all times while the horse is competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

1.1.5. Officials

HCBC-sanctioned events must be officiated by current, certified Provincial Officials, or by an authorized/approved guest-carded official.

Officials with expired status or recognized by another organization may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the body/association responsible for said discipline.

All provincial officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

Judges are licensed, educated officials. Designation as a judge is considered a privilege and with this comes upholding standards of integrity and ethical decision making. Judges are personally responsible for the decisions made and these are considered final. All judges are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion and respect and are not subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Judges believe in the competitor, and decisions and placings are to be made to assist the competitor in their development. Comments/feedback are meant to be helpful to the competitor. If time permits after the class, the judge may provide feedback.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the official and the competition management, a written contract be completed between both parties.

Officials should arrive on the competition grounds at least ½ before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

1.1.5 Officials (cont.)

Judges must be provided with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

Judges may not be approached without the presence of and prior arrangement with management and or a Provincial Rules Official (PRO).

Judges must be provided before the start of competition (or earlier) with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

An official shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of a horse with any exhibitor during a show at which that official is officiating.

An official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

A judge may not act as course designer at the same competition in which they are judging.

No horse may be shown under an official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if the official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. (Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.)

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or judges' booth.

Exception: Electronic devices may be used in relation to and if relevant to the competition.

All Officials must always dress appropriately and professionally during competitions (no jeans, shorts, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.6. Competition Management

- Competition Management, Show Committee and Officials are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct
- Competition Management may not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, judge, course designer, trainer, coach, handler or conditioner of any horse at any show or event they are managing.

1.1.7. Provincial Rules Officials

HCBC Provincial Rules Officials (PRO) may attend provincially sanctioned competitions to offer help and guidance with HCBC rules, assist competition management with the development and rule content in prize lists as well as address questions or concerns arising at a competition. Provincial Rules Officials attendance at competitions will aid to encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience for both horses and competitors.

1.1.7 Provincial Rules Officials (cont.)

All Provincial Championship designated competitions must have a PRO in attendance.

Provincial Rules Officials are appointed by and will be assigned by HCBC to competitions as requested by competition management or by the HCBC office.

Provincial Rules Officials are governed by the HCBC Officials' Code of Conduct and protocol.

1.1.8. Officials Protocol / Conflict of Interest

Provincially certified officials are trained and qualified in the principles of their respective disciplines and are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct. Certification as a provincial official is a privilege that carries an expectation of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Officials are accountable for the decisions they make, and those decisions are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously.

All provincial officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect, and are never subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Actions should always align with what an informed and experienced horseperson would consider neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane. When welfare concerns arise, officials are expected to intervene in accordance with the standards and rules of the governing body.

Provincial officials also play an educational role. They are expected to support, encourage, and contribute to the development of competitors. Decisions made during competition should help guide competitors in their equestrian pursuits, and feedback should be constructive, fair, and aimed at promoting growth. While judges must evaluate individual performances objectively, competitors should be appropriately recognized for their achievements within the standards of the discipline.

Comments and feedback are intended to be helpful to the competitor. When time permits, judges may discuss performances with competitors during the awarding of placings. Additional time for discussion is encouraged, subject to show management's discretion and the judge's availability.

1.1.9. Guest Cards

Uncertified officials may be permitted to officiate at provincially sanctioned competitions under the following conditions:

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
- Uncertified officials may be requested to provide HCBC with a minimum of two references.
- Guest card application must be completed during the competition approval application process.
- HCBC will approve a maximum of three guest cards for an uncertified official. Once three guest cards have been issued, any additional guest card applications for that individual will be subject to a \$25.00 fee, charged to the competition. The guest-carded official will then be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to obtain provincial certification.



1.1.10. Support Roles (scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc.)

- Those in competition support roles such as scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc. should arrive and check in with the competition office at least forty-five (45) minutes before the start of the competition. This will allow for enough time to gather any paperwork, tests, bell, whistle etc. or any other equipment needed.
- Cell phones (or any other personal electronic device) must be turned off during competition
- All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
- It is the duty of the scribe to ensure that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, class, description, and Judge's signature if required.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for calculation, the scribe must ensure the test has been reviewed and signed by the Judge.
- Those in support roles must be appropriately dressed (clean and neat, no cut offs, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.11. Elimination / Disqualification

Elimination From a Class

- After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.
- Obvious unsoundness shall be cause for elimination in all classes. The judge has sole authority to make this determination, which is final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing unsoundness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.
- Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.
- The judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the judge to be a safety risk.

Disqualification From the Competition

- All artificial appliances are prohibited in any class.
- Any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the judge's or Provincial Rules Officials' discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition.
- The judge, Provincial Rules Official and/or competition management have the authority to disqualify and or remove from the competition any exhibitor, owner, coach or agent, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or exhibitor.

1.1.12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the competition.

At any time, the judge, provincial rules official and/or competition management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further participation at the competition.

Any elimination from a class or disqualification from a sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the HCBC disciplinary committee and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

1.1.13. Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition/event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor within 12 hours of the incident occurring at the competition or event.

A recommended first step is that an inquiry be made through a member of the competition show management committee or PRO regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged to competition management. At no time may the judge be approached directly unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organizing committee of the competition will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

An official of the competition /event, a director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a claim at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event to either the competition committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee. The protest committee will consist of a maximum of three people, (a PRO and members of the organizing committee.)



1.1.13 Protests (cont.)

Protest Procedure

Upon receiving a protest or a dispute, the Protest Committee shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport

Protest Appeals

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing.

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the competition organizing committee.

The competition organizing committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.



Section 9:

Discipline Rules: Western Division

9.1 Western Performance

The following general rules apply to Ranch Riding Horse, Ranch Trail, Trail, Western Performance, Western Equitation, Western Pleasure. Specific rules are found in each performance division section

9.1.1. Attire

- Adults may wear either a western style hat or approved protective headgear.
- No rider may be penalized for wearing equestrian protective headgear or a safety vest in any class.
- Long-sleeved shirt with collar (band, stand-up, tuxedo, etc.) with sleeves rolled down, (jackets, sweaters, vests and rain slickers are optional).
- Long pants or clean conservative jeans.
- Western boots with a heel.
- Chaps are optional.
- Gloves are optional.
- Ties are optional.
- Spurs are optional.

9.1.2. Elimination

- Any exhibitor being assisted by a second person inside or outside the arena.
- Any exhibitor striking, touching a horse forward of the cinch with any object including the hands.
- Failure by exhibitors to wear correct number in a visible manner.
- Knocking over an obstacle or going off pattern.
- Excessive schooling or training.
- Illegal use of hands on reins.

9.1.3. Equipment

- Western type headstall must be used.
- Junior horses may compete in a regulation snaffle bit or bosal-type hackamore.
- Junior horses may compete with a Western curb bit using one hand only
- A horse of any age may be shown in a snaffle or hackamore
- The curb strap may be of leather or chain, must be at least ½" in width, and must lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
- Split or romel type reins.
- One hand only to be used to hold reins when using a shanked bit
- No metal, studs of any kind, or other harsh substances may be used in conjunction with or part of a bosal.

9.1.3. Equipment (cont.)

- A Hackamore (Bosal) is permitted and is defined as the use of a braided rawhide or leather bosal which is used in lieu of a regulation snaffle bit. It does not refer to a mechanical hackamore. There must be a minimum of approximately 1 ½" between the bosal and the nose, and absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband or in connection with the noseband. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing.
- Any horse may compete with a western style bit or solid curb bit with one hand.
- Any horse may compete with a snaffle bit and split reins in two hands.
- Split or romal type reins may be used.
- A western style saddle is required.
- Bitless bridles are permitted.

9.1.4. Bits

Curb:

- Defined as a solid or broken mouthpiece that has shanks which act as leverage, free of mechanical device and has 8-1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank, which may be measured. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek.
- The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces.
- The port must be no higher than 3-1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable.
- Broken mouthpieces are standard.
- The curb strap may be of leather or chain, must be at least ½" in width, and must lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

Snaffle:

- Defined as a conventional O-ring, egg-butt, D-ring, loose ring, full cheek, or western snaffle bit.
- The inside circumference of the ring must be free of attachments which would provide leverage.
- The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three- piece, connecting ring of 1" to 1-1/4" (25 mm to 32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting ring of 1-1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable..

9.1.5. Prohibited Equipment

- Draw Reins
- Bits with sharp edges, gag bits and donut and flat polo mouthpieces.
- Wire curb bit, regardless of how padded
- Any chin strap narrower than ½" inch
- Standing or running martingales or tiedowns

9.1.3. Prohibited Equipment (cont.)

- Bosal without reins attached and used as a noseband
- Noseband
- Mechanical Hackmore
- Horsehair Bosals
- Any twisted wire mouthpiece
- Rope halters or bridles
- Standing or running martingales, nosebands on bridles, or tiedowns – **EXCEPTION:** Speed Events
- Whips, bats, quirts **EXCEPTION:** Speed Events
- Standard sliding, rundown or skid boots on the horse's rear fetlocks, polos or splint boots on the front legs
EXCEPTION: Western Equitation, Speed Events

9.1.6. Horse

- A horse shall be considered to be one year of age on the first of January following the actual date of foaling.
- Junior Horses are five years of age or younger as of January 1 of the current year.
- Senior horses are six years of age or older as of January 1 of the current year.

9.2 Ranch

Riding, Trail, Reining ,Pleasure

The performance requirements of the ranch riding horse should reflect the versatility, movement, and willingness of a working ranch horse demonstrating attributes desirable in a horse working outside the confines of an arena. Performance should demonstrate the horse's ability to perform patterns with forward ground covering gaits while responsive to aids under control of the rider. Light contact with the reins and riders' aids should be consistently maintained and rewarded throughout the performance test. Lack of contact in bridle or horse shown on a full drape of reins will be penalized. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the skill tests required in a working pattern simulating ranch horse work, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations to be rewarded.

a. Appointments

- No banding
- No artificial or nerved tails
- Hoof black is not recommended

b. Class requirements

- The required maneuvers for all test patterns must include the walk, trot, and lope in both directions.
- Extended trot and extended lope must be shown a minimum of one direction.
- Halt, and rein back are all required movements in all test patterns.

9.2. Ranch (cont.)

- In addition, a minimum of three (3) “optional maneuvers” are required to be included in combination with the above required movements in all test patterns.
- Optional maneuvers selected may include: a side pass, leg yield, turns of 360 degrees, change of lead (simple change or flying change), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s), or any reasonable combination of these “optional maneuvers” that are appropriate for a working ranch horse to perform in routine work.
- The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval of pattern required by the Judge.

c. Equipment (please see Section 9.1 for a list of acceptable equipment)

- Breast collar and or rear cinch are optional
- Silver is permitted on tack but must not influence score over good working ranch horse equipment

d. Gaits

- The walk should demonstrate a natural ground covering stride, with a regular, rhythmic four beat gait
- The trot should demonstrate a free forward moving natural two beat gait with a ground covering stride, not a jog
- The extended trot should demonstrate an obvious, well-defined lengthening of the stride, covering more ground in a regular rhythm and demonstrate soft responsive transitions and can be ridden rising or standing. The horn may be held
- The lope is a natural, clear 3 beat gait demonstrating a relaxed, rhythmic, balanced forward stride
- The extended lope should be an obvious lengthening of each stride, covering more ground in a regular rhythm, not running or racing
- In all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline, with a bright, attentive expression
- Quickening of the pace or rhythm with little lengthening of each stride should be penalized
- Transitions should be well defined and performed where designated in the pattern with smoothness and responsiveness to the rider’s aids.
- The overall cadence, balance, and quality of performance with emphasis on free forward moving gaits should be rewarded.

e. Scoring

- Each horse will work in arena individually, performing both the required and optional maneuvers in a test pattern, being scored on the basis of 0 – 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70, and is also subject to a penalty score that is subtracted.
- Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis; -1 extremely poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent.
- Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.
- No penalties are assessed for nicks/rubs of logs but may be considered in maneuver score.

f. Penalties

Penalty points are assessed for minor and major faults each time on the following basis.

9.2. Ranch (cont.)

One (1) point penalties

- Too slow pace/ per gait
- Over bridled/ curled
- Out of frame (not level topline)
- Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalty deduction for each occurrence:

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Break of gait at lope
- Wrong lead
- Cross cantering or out of lead more than 2 strides when changing leads
- Draped reins
- Trotting more than 3 – 4 strides during a simple change of lead
- Severe disturbance or resistance on any obstacle

Five (5) point penalty deduction for each occurrence

- Two hands on the bridle when using a shanked bit
- Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear) for each occurrence.

Off Pattern

- Any pattern maneuver not performed
- Off pattern may not place over a on pattern horse.
- Illegal equipment.
- Incomplete maneuver.
- Major disobedience (over 20 seconds resistance)

Disqualification

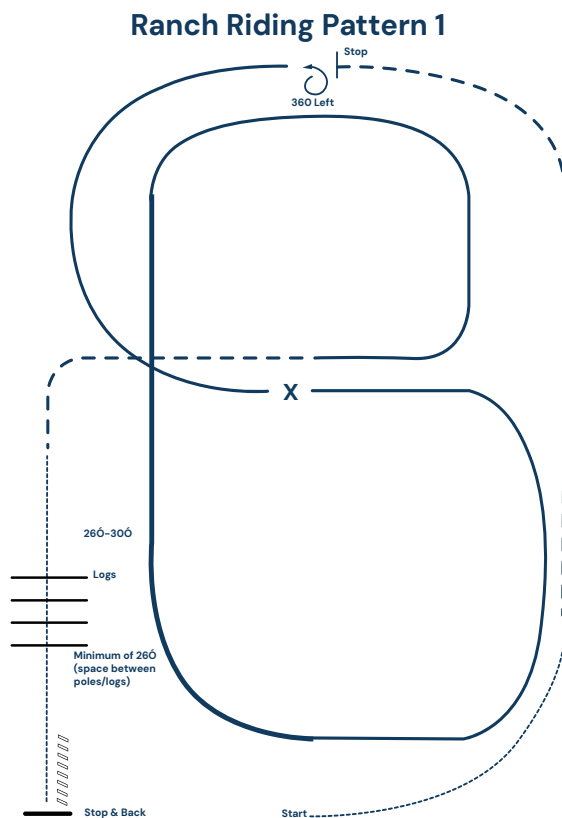
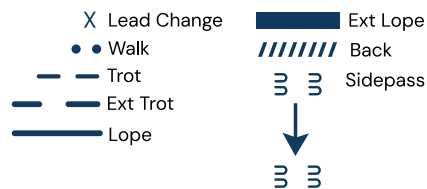
- Schooling of the horse repeatedly in any maneuver or obstacle
- Willful abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Unsoundness
- Improper attire
- Fall of horse or rider
- Leaving arena before completing pattern

9.2. Ranch (cont.)

g. Patterns

- May be modified with final approval of the Judge required prior to the competition
- Where possible test patterns to be used should be published in the prize list and determined prior to the closing date of entries.
- Different test patterns may be used on each day of a multi-day competition, with the average score of 2 (or more) test patterns performed combined and the average score to determine championship.

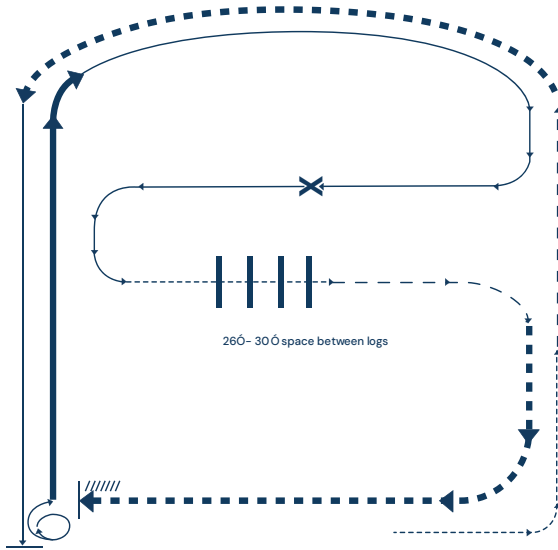
h. Pattern symbols



1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extend the trot, at the top of the arena ,stop
4. 360 degree turn to the left
5. Left lead 1/2 circle, lope to the center
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Right lead 1/2 circle
8. Extended lope up the long side of the arena (right lead)
9. Collect back to a lope around the top of the arena and back to center
10. Break down to an extended trot
11. Walk over logs
12. Stop and back



Ranch Riding Pattern 2

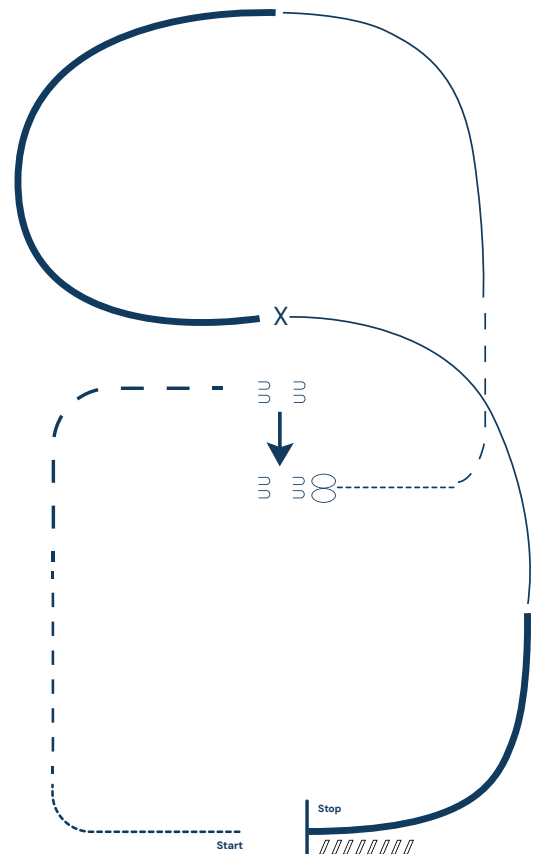


9.2. Ranch (cont.)

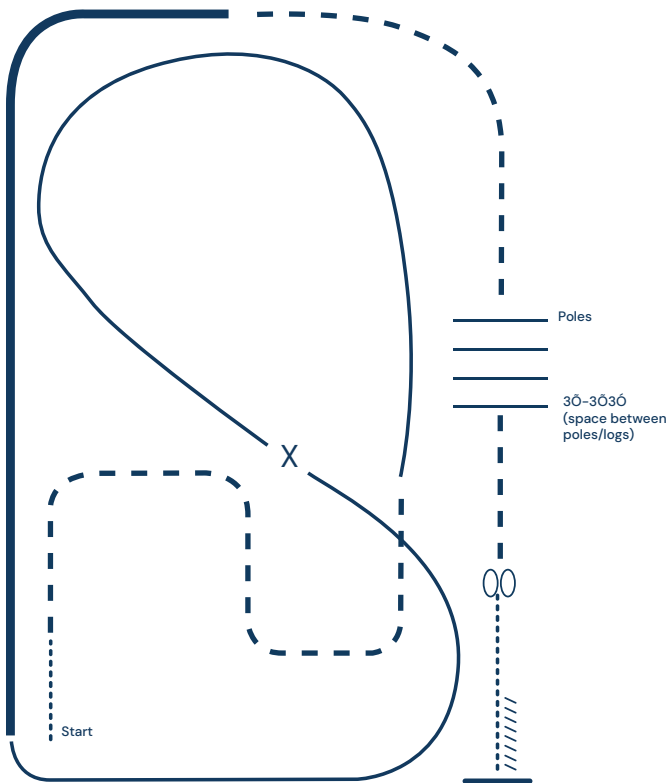
1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended trot
4. Left lead lope
5. Stop, 1 1/2 turn right
6. Extended lope
7. Collect to working lope-right lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Walk
10. Walk over logs
11. Trot
12. Extended trot
13. Stop and back

Ranch Riding Pattern 3

1. Walk to the left around the corner of the arena.
2. Trot
3. Extend alongside of the arena and around the corner to center
4. Stop, side pass right
5. 360-degree turn each direction (either way first)
6. Walk
7. Trot
8. Lope left lead
9. Extend the lope
10. Change leads (simple or flying)
11. Collect to the lope
12. Extend the trot
13. Stop and back



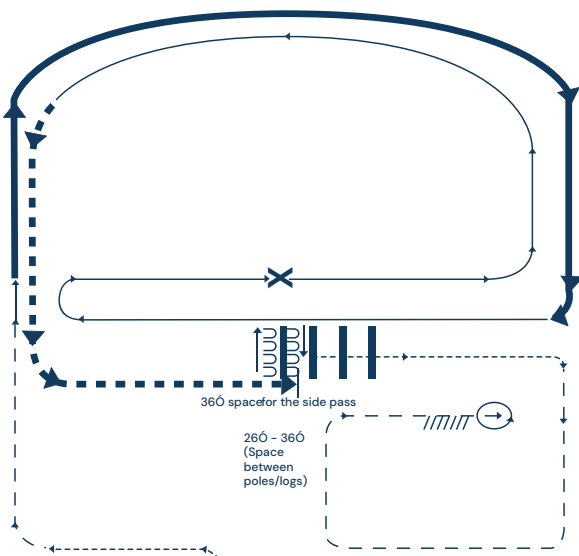
Western Riding Pattern #4



9.2. Ranch (cont.)

1. Jog serpentine
2. Lope left lead around the end of the arena and then diagonally across the arena
3. Change leads (simple or flying) and lope around the corner of the arena
4. Extended jog around the corner of the arena
5. Collect to a jog, jog over logs
6. Stop, do a 360-degree turn each direction (either direction first)
7. Walk

Ranch Riding Pattern 5



1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended lope, right lead
4. Lope right lead
5. Change leads (simple or flying)
6. Lope left lead
7. Extended trot
8. Stop, side pass left, side pass right ½ way
9. Walk over logs
10. Walk
11. Trot square
12. Stop, 360 degree turn left, back

9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse

Ranch trail horse should be a test of the horse rider combination (competitor) on their ability to execute required maneuvers and or obstacles encountered during everyday ranch trail work. The competitor is judged on the correctness, efficiency, accuracy and execution through a series of obstacles or maneuvers referred to as the course.

Emphasis is on the attitude, responsiveness, and mannerisms exhibited by the horse, while at the same time assessing the rider's effectiveness and horsemanship skills. An ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail, demonstrate confidence, attentiveness, calmness and ride-ability throughout the entire course.

a. Course

- At the discretion of show management, the class course map, may be published, provided, or posted prior to the day of competition.
- Providing copies of printed course maps at the competition for exhibitors is encouraged.
- A ranch trail course must include no less than six and no more than ten obstacles.
- Course design must ensure that obstacles are not hazardous or unsafe for the horse, or rider and be constructed as to reduce the risk of accidents.
- Course design obstacles should be appropriate to ranch work and are not to trap or eliminate a horse/rider team by making an obstacle too difficult.
- An outdoor natural setting is recommended where appropriate terrain is available.
- Course designers must set the course to best fit the arena conditions.
- Each single performance event can be time consuming, so it is imperative that time restrictions are considered.
- The course designer or show committee, either through a pilot run, or estimate, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in approximately five minutes or less.
- Judges must walk the course prior to starting class and have the final authority to alter the course at their sole discretion where safety concerns are a consideration.
- Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable, or unnecessarily difficult at any time prior to or during a class.
- If at any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired immediately or removed from the course at the discretion of the judge.
- If an obstacle cannot be repaired during a class and some competitors have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous competitor runs in that class.

b. Gaits

- It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course.
- Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored approaching an obstacle.
- Trot must be at least 35 feet and may be scored with or on the approach to an obstacle.
- Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and may be scored with or on the approach to an obstacle.

9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse (cont.)

c. Judging

- The Judge is expected to focus attention based on the performance of horse and horsemanship skills of the rider at each obstacle and how they maneuver over the entire course.
- A judge at their sole discretion may ask a competitor to pass on any obstacle after three refusals or attempts at an obstacle lasting more than 15 seconds, or at any time on course for safety concerns.
- A Ranch Trail scoresheet for each class must be provided to the judge
- A scribe is necessary to assist the Judge in keeping a record of each competitor's obstacle and maneuver scores and recording any credit or penalties scores applied over the entire course.
- The Judge is responsible to ensure the scribe has recorded scores and calculated the final score correctly at the end of each competitor performance.
- The Judge must be provided enough time at the end of every class to verify scores, confirm the final placings by entry number, and sign scoresheet.
- The competition name, class #, date, location, Judge's name and signature line must be listed on all scoresheets for official results.
- At the sole discretion of show management final scores or placings may be posted on a separate score report.
- Judges scoresheets are official results of the competition and generally not used for results posting.
- Any competitor may request and be permitted to view a Judge Scoresheet in the show office.
- Ranch Trail scoresheets can be found to download and print on the Horse Council BC website at link; <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>
- Judges are expected to continue scoring the pattern after an off pattern occurs

d. Obstacles

The course must include each of the following mandatory obstacles:

Ride Over: (obstacles on the ground, usually logs)

- A ride over obstacle at a minimum of one gait is mandatory.
- Gaits of walk, trot, or lope may be used.
- Additional ride overs in other gaits on the same course are optional.

Walk-overs

- The formation of walk-overs, Trot-overs and Lope overs may be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised.
- Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs, not more than 10 inches high, spaced 26 – 30 inches apart
- Trot - overs: Trot over no more than five logs, not more than 10 inches high. Spacing between logs or poles should be 36 – 42 inches apart
- Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs, not more than 10 inches high. Spacing between logs should be 6 to 7 feet apart



9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse (cont.)

Gate (opening, passing through, and closing)

- The type of gate used must not endanger the horse or rider.

Bridge

- A ride over wooden bridge that must be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge.
- The minimum width of any bridge shall be 36 inches wide, and length at least 6 feet long. A bridge may be raised up to a maximum of 10 inches in height.

Backing

- Obstacles are to be spaced a minimum width of 28 inches. If elevated, 30-inch width spacing is required.
- Backing through and around at least three markers per obstacle is required.
- Backing through L, V, and U shaped or straight lines combined into one obstacle, similarly shaped obstacle is required.
- The obstacle may be elevated not more than 24 inches.

Side Pass

- Any object which is safe and of any length may be used for obstacle to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals.
- Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.

Drag (an object)

- May be used for open, cowboy and amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in youth classes.
- Drag may be a complete figure eight pattern 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

- Obstacles that can be found in everyday ranch work may be used or any combination of obstacles on a course plan.
- Optional obstacles may include, but are not limited to:
 - A jump obstacle where center height is not less than 14 inches high or more than 25 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.
 - Live or stuffed animals or animal hide that be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used. These should not 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.

9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse (cont.)

- Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.
- Swinging a rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head. Step in and out of obstacle.
- Putting on slicker or coat while mounted.
- Ground tied horse for rider to mount with mounting block.
- Walk through water obstacle.
- Open gate while on foot.
- Dismount and pick up horses' feet
- Walk through brush.
- Ground tie horse. Rider must walk away from horse a minimum of 15 feet before returning to horse
- Lead horse at the trot.

e. Prohibited Obstacles

Examples of prohibited obstacles but not limited to the following examples are: tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs elevated in a manner that permits log to roll in a dangerous manner, are prohibited.

f. Scoring

- All course scoring begins upon the competition entering the arena. Any infractions are subject to penalty marks 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 an "OP" score for that obstacle and competitor being "off pattern".
- The "off pattern" competitor may not place higher a competitor who completes all obstacles and course plan correctly.
- A base score of 70 points is used, with penalties or credits awarded for each maneuver and or obstacle. Penalty and credit scores are added or subtracted accordingly from the base score of 70 points to determine a total final score.
- If any competitors have already completed the obstacle prior to it becoming unsafe, the score for that obstacle shall be removed from all competitor runs in that class.
- Competitors are placed in each class based on the final scores in descending order of high score to low score.
- Where there is a tie for placing in a class, tie breaking maneuvers will be designated by the judge prior to the start of the class
- The total penalties and credits for each maneuver and obstacle, are added or subtracted accordingly to a base score of 70 points for a final score. Final Scores are used to determine the placings of competitors in all classes.
- Credit points are scored for each obstacle and maneuver score when performed smoothly, correctly and efficiently.



9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse (cont.)

- Horses may receive credit for attentiveness, willingness, and ability to negotiate through the obstacles efficiently while being responsive to light aids of the rider.
- Credits are awarded as: (0) Correct: (+ ½) Good: (+1) Very Good: (+1 ½) Excellent.
- Quality of gaits demonstrating a forward correct movement may be considered as part of the maneuver score. The horsemanship skill of the rider may be assessed as a separate score included in total score or may be considered as part of the maneuver score.

Penalties

Penalty points are assessed at the discretion of the judge for each obstacle and maneuver where applicable. The following are examples, but not limited to, performance factors which may receive penalty points:

One (1) Point Penalties

- 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
- skipping over or failing to step into required space of obstacle.
- split pole in lope-over or incorrect number of strides,
- moving one step or more on mount/dismount except shifting to balance, or on ground tie.

Three (3) Point Penalties

- Wrong lead or out of lead.
- draped reins.
- break of gait at lope.
- break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides.
- moving two to three steps on mount/dismount on ground tie.
- One foot stepping off of, or falling out of an obstacle, or missing a pole = 3 points per occurrence . if a second foot or more joins the first foot 3 points becomes a 5.

Five (5) Point Penalties

- Spurring in front of cinch.
- blatant dis-obedience(s).
- use of either hand or rein to instill fear.
- use of two hands per maneuver.
- more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver.
- knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle.

9.2.1. Ranch Trail Horse (cont.)

- dropping an object required to be carried.
- 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal.
- letting go of gate,
- four or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.

Off pattern (OP) score:

An off pattern can not place above a horse that remains on pattern, but is still scored

Off pattern Includes obstacles or maneuvers not executed in correct order, 3 refusals on course; repeated blatant disobediences.

Elimination (E)

- Unsound horse,
- Abuse of horse,
- Illegal equipment,
- Misconduct,
- Improper attire,
- Fall of horse or rider,
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete

9.3 Trail Horse

The Trail Horse class is judged on the performance of the horse over and through obstacles, with emphasis on manners, quality of movement and response to the rider. A good trail horse is a pleasure horse with the ability to navigate obstacles with safety, alertness and willingness.

a. Course

- A trail course should consist of a minimum of six to ten obstacles; three mandatory and at least three optional.
- The walk, jog and lope must be incorporated into the Trail pattern of suitable duration to determine a horse's way of going.
- Flying change of lead is not an obstacle and is optional.
- Horse must be worked on an individual basis, and rail work as an entire class is not allowed
- The judge should walk the course prior to the start of the event and has the right to adjust the course and/or to remove any obstacle deemed unsafe.
- All distances must be measured.

9.3.2. Trail Horse (cont.)

b. Obstacles (not limited to)

- Gate: (Open, pass through, and close a gate) gate should be solid, safe and swing both ways, not likely to fall over and not have any protruding parts, nails etc. that might cause injury. Gates may be metal, wood or rope.
- Logs / poles: no rolling poles, can be straight, zigzag or raised. Elevated poles must be secure and not able to roll.
- Walk overs: spacing minimum 20" - 24" at ground level; may be elevated up to 12"
- Jog overs: (cavelleti); spacing minimum 3' – 3'3" and may be elevated to a height of 8"
- Lope overs: Spacing minimum 6' – 7' and not elevated.
- Side Pass: Height must not exceed 12" if elevated
- Backing Obstacle: minimum spacing of 30" ground level, 32" if elevated, or back through and around three markers, or back through L, V straight or similar shaped course, not to exceed 12"
- All obstacles must be secure and if elevated must remain stationary.
- If an obstacle becomes unstable, the obstacle will be removed from the previous riders' scores

c. Optional Obstacles

- Bridge: Care must be taken that any bridge is solid and safe.
- Serpentine: (jog around).
- Water hazards
- Carrying and placing an item
- Coat – put on and remove
- Square – rider enters square and executes turn
- Mailbox

d. Prohibited Obstacles

- Tires
- Animals
- Hide
- PVC Pipe
- Jumps over 18"
- Rocking or moving bridges
- Water boxes with floating or moving parts.
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers etc.
- Pool noodles

9.3.2. Trail Horse (cont.)

e. Scoring

- Scoring will be on the basis of 70 denoting an average performance.
- Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted.
- Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 3 to minus 3
- 1½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, ½ good; +1 very good, +1½ excellent.
- Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Half (½) Point Penalties

- Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.

One (1) Point Penalties

- Each bite of or hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or any component of the obstacle.
- Incorrect gait (including break of gait) at a walk or jog for two strides or less.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Split pole in lope-over.
- Failure to meet the correct strides on trot-over and lope-over obstacles.

Three (3) Point Penalties

- Break of gait or incorrect gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.
- Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).
- Knocking down or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping outside the confines of, or falling, jumping off, or out of an obstacle with one foot.

Five (5) Point Penalties

- Dropping an object that is required to be carried.
- First refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two strides away.
- Stepping outside the confined of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- Loss of control or letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
- Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking)
- Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two strides away. After the second refusal, the Judge shall direct the exhibitor to move to the next obstacle.
- Failure to complete obstacle
- Use of hand to instill fear or praise

9.3.2. Trail Horse (cont.)

Disqualification (Course may be completed but will not qualify for placing)

- Use of more than one finger between reins.
- Use of romals other than as outlined in rule.
- Performing the obstacles incorrectly or other than in specified order.
- No attempt to perform an obstacle.
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
- Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
- Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns of more than $\frac{1}{4}$.
- Failure to work an obstacle as described by the course.
- Riding outside designated boundary of the arena or course area.
- Changing hands on reins, when riding in one hand, except to negotiate an obstacle.
- Third refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing anywhere on course.
- Failure to demonstrate correct gait between obstacles as required.
- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles.
- Fall of horse and or rider on course.
- Use of prohibited appointments.

9.4 Western Equitation

The exhibitor is judged on his or her ability to ride and control a horse correctly. Good hands are paramount. The exhibitor's seat, hands and basic position are of most importance. The equitation class is to determine the riding ability of the rider and the judge will bear this in mind at all times

9.4.1. Class Rules

- All competitors may be asked to work individually as they enter the ring, or directly from the gate.
- The whole class, or just the finalists, must work on the rail at all three gaits; walk, jog, lope, at least one direction of the arena.
- The judge will use the tests to determine the top riders to be called back for rail work.

9.4.2. Western Equitation Tests

- Walk, jog, trot, lope, or gallop in a straight line, curve, or circle, or any combination of these gaits and patterns, such as a figure eight, etc.
- Halt.
- Back.

9.4.2. Western Equitation Tests (cont.)

- Individual performance on the rail.
- Turn on the haunches, including spins and rollbacks.
- Simple change of lead through the trot, walk or halt, in a straight line, figure 8 or any other pattern.
- Flying change of lead in a straight line, figure 8, or any other pattern
- Ride without stirrups.
- Figure Eight at the jog.
- Lope and stop.
- One Figure Eight demonstrates two changes of lead and is completed by closing the last circle and stopping in the center of the eight.
- Ride serpentine course, demonstrating change of lead, either simple or flying.

9.5 Western Horsemanship

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider. Rider should appear comfortable, relaxed with good posture. Gaits should be consistent and horse manageable and under control.

Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.

9.5.1. Class Rules

- Competitors will be asked to execute a pattern.
- Patterns must be posted a minimum of one hour prior to the start of the class
- Competitors may or may not be asked to demonstrate rail work.
- Competitors will not be required to mount and dismount and will not be asked to change horses.
- In Western Horsemanship classes where a (pattern) routine is required, the use of shin, bell boots and/or protective bandages on the front legs and standard sliding or rundown boots on the rear fetlocks is permitted.

9.5.2. Horsemanship Tests

- Back.
- Individual performance on the rail.
- Walk, jog, trot, lope, or gallop in a straight line, curve, or circle, or any combination of these gaits and patterns, such as a figure eight, etc. (Markers helps to standardize a pattern and guide riders, but can also increase the degree of difficulty, so their placement should be carefully planned and indicated in the posted pattern).
- Figure Eight at the jog.



9.5.2. Horsemanship Tests (cont.)

- Lope and stop.
- One Figure Eight demonstrates two changes of lead and is completed by closing up the last circle and stopping in the center of the eight.
- Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating change of lead
- Ride serpentine course, demonstrating change of lead at each change of direction.
- Execute 360 degree turns.
- Sidepass

9.5.3. Scoring

Minor Penalty 3 points

- Seat - sitting off center, losing center of balance, sway back, or round back.
- Hands - unsteadiness, incorrect position.
- Legs; uneven stirrups, motion in legs, insufficient weight in stirrups, incorrect position
- Control; breaking gait, improper halt or backing
- General; ill-fitting equipment, turned out overall appearance

Major Penalty 5 points

- Seat - excessive body motion, popping out of saddle.
- Hands - heavy hands, constant bumping, horse's mouth open, restrictions causing less than 16" of rein slack between hands, touching saddle to prevent fall.
- Legs - excessive spurring, loss of contact between legs and saddle, foot and stirrup, loss of stirrup.
- Control - breaking gait, allowing horse to back crooked, missing leads, failure to back.
- General - improper appointments, excessive voice commands, excessive circling, major delays in transitions

Severe Penalty 10 points

- Loss of reins
- Use of either hand to install fear or praise
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Blatant disobedience
- Spurring in front of cinch

9.5.3. Scoring (cont.)

Disqualification

- Fall of horse or rider
- Two hands on reins, when showing in a shank bridle
- Finger between romal reins.
- Blatant abuse
- Failure to display number
- Illegal equipment
- Off pattern
- Wrong side or knocking marker
- Failure to perform designated gait or lead
- Under or over turning circle

9.6 Western Pleasure

Western Pleasure horses are to be judged on performance, manners, conformation, quality and substance. A good pleasure horse is responsive and gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse. A minimum of 20% of the judging shall be placed on condition and conformation.

9.6.1. Class Rules

- Horses to be shown at a walk jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact with undue restraint.
- Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads and gaits.
- Horses may be asked to extend the walk, jog, or lope, one or both ways of the ring. A moderate extension of the jog is a definite two beat lengthening of stride.
- At the Judge's discretion, all horses, or just the finalists, will be required to back. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
- Exhibitors shall not be asked to dismount except in the event the Judge wishes to check equipment

9.6.2. Faults (scored according to severity)

- Head carried too low, the poll below the withers, severity to be considered the same as a wrong lead.
- Head carried too high.
- Excessive nosing out.
- Over flexing or straining neck in the head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical.
- Excessive speed (any gait).



9.6.2. Faults (scored according to severity) (cont.)

- Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
- Wrong lead.
- Breaking gait
- Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized).
- Touching horse or saddle with free hand.
- Opening mouth excessively.

9.7 Western Showmanship

The horse is the means by which the exhibitor demonstrates his or her ability to show a horse at halter. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor, leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness, and precision. Conformation of the horse is not a factor in judging showmanship.

9.7.1. General Class Rules

- The competitor will show the horse in the posted pattern.
- Each exhibitor will be required to present his or her horse individually.
- Exhibitors should be prepared to follow any request made by the Judge or the Ringmaster.
- The exhibitor should attempt at all times to keep an unobstructed view of the Judge, must always be presenting the horse, and always know what his or her horse is doing.
- The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.
- It is permissible for a Judge to ask the exhibitor questions concerning horsemanship and conformation. Questions should be in accordance with the exhibitor's age and knowledge potential.
- When leading the horse in a halter, the exhibitor's right hand should be on the lead shank and not on any part of the chain. The excess shank is held in the left hand, either coiled or in a figure eight at the discretion of the exhibitor.
- Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved BSI or ASTM protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

9.7.2. Equipment

- The halter may be of leather, rope or nylon and as close to proper class appointments as possible.
- Silver shall not count over a neat, clean working piece of equipment.
- Whips, crops or bats are prohibited
- Standard sliding, rundown or skid boots on the horse's rear fetlocks, and splint boots on the front legs are prohibited. Soft leg wraps are prohibited.

9.7.3. Scoring

3 Point Penalty

- Break of gait at the walk or trot (for up to two strides)
- Over or under turning a pivot up to 1/8 – 1/4 of a turn
- Ticking or hitting a cone
- Accidentally touching the horse
- Sliding pivot foot
- Lifting foot during pivot and replacing in the same spot
- Lifting a foot during set up and replacing it in the same place after presentation
- Resting a foot

5 Point Penalty

- Break of gait over two strides
- Over or under turning a pivot by 1/8 to 1/2 of a turn
- Not performing a specific gait or not stopping within 10' of a designated location
- Repeated failure to maintain correct set up position
- Stepping out of moving the hind end significantly during pivot
- Splitting a cone (cone between horse and exhibitor)

10 Point Penalty

- Exhibitor is not in required position during inspection
- Using hands to place the horse's feet, push the horse, or adjust the body position.
- Standing in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank, holding chain or 2 hands on the shank
- Blatant disobedience
- Deliberate or repeated obstruction of the judge during the inspection.
- Over or under turning more than 1/2 turn

Disqualifications

- Any exhibitor being assisted by a second person inside or outside of the arena
- Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses or exhibitors, or Judge including the horse escaping from the exhibitor.
- Failure of exhibitor to wear correct number in a visible manner.
- Willful abuse
- Excessive schooling or training
- Illegal equipment
- Off pattern (this is at the discretion of the judge)



10.0 Working Equitation

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