

AQHA RULE CHANGES
As they appear in the 2014 Handbook

SHW305.9 SPEED EVENT, TEAM PENNING, RANCH SORTING, ROPING AND COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING EQUIPMENT:

SHW305.9.1 In roping, speed events, team penning and ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting western - type equipment must be used. Use of rawhide or mechanical hackamores or other type of bridles is the optional choice of the contestant. However, mechanical hackamore nosepieces must be covered in leather and cannot have visible or bare metal in contact with the horse's head. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage.

SHW305.9.2 Tie-downs, used for roping, speed events and team penning, ranch sorting, and cowboy mounted shooting must be leather, flat nylon or rope a minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter.

SHW305.9.3 Bonnets (tie-down that goes over the poll and/or across the forehead) made of rope, flat nylon webbing or leather only (minimum 3/8 inch diameter) are permitted.

SHW305.9.4 Martingales and draw reins are permitted for speed events, team penning, ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting. However, martingales used with curb bits must have rein stops. Draw reins may not be attached between or around the front legs.

SHW306. WESTERN: OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW306.4 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, working cow horse, team penning, barrel racing, pole bending, stake racing, jumping, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, dally team roping - heading, dally team roping - heeling, cutting, western horsemanship, ranch horse pleasure, versatility ranch horse, ranch riding and ranch trail. The use of slip on (easy care) horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes.

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW307.4 Chain, wire, or metal tie-down or bonnets are prohibited, regardless of how padded or wrapped.

SHW307.5 Saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb straps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events.

SHW307.8 Tie-downs may not have a built in cavesson or noseband.

SHW320. ATTIRE

- **SHW320.1** In halter, speed events, team penning and other western classes, appropriate western attire is required which includes pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.) long sleeves and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc.) western hat and cowboy boots. Special exception because of religious reasons or physical handicap must be requested by filing a written request to AQHA and obtaining written approval prior to participation. It is optional that an exhibitor may wear a hard hat with harness in all classes. The hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. At show management's option, a fine may be imposed to an exhibitor for loss of hat. Spurs and chaps are optional. In youth, Level 1 (Novice) youth and open division speed events, exhibitors 18 years of age or under may use a rubber band per foot (maximum width of 1/4 inch) during competition, but may not be tied, buckled or fastened by any other means during competition.

SHW334 GAITS - RANCH PLEASURE. In all gaits, movement of the ranch pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

- **SHW334.1** Walk- The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
- **SHW334.2** Trot- The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
- **SHW334.3** Extended Trot- The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
- **SHW334.4** Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
- **SHW334.5** Extended Lope- The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

SHOWMANSHIP

SHW373. SCORING: Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100. One-half point increments are acceptable. Run content scores will be indicated as follows:

+ = Above Average

√ = Average

- = Below Average

An additional + (Excellent) or – (well below average) may be given.

SHW373.1 FINAL SCORING shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

70-79 Good pattern execution and average showmanship; lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. A very good showman that commits a minor fault or an excellent showman that commits a major fault.

RANCH HORSE PLEASURE

SHW416. RANCH HORSE PLEASURE. The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

SHW416.1 For horses three years of age and older, offered as a junior, senior or all-age open division class, and as an all age class for Level 1 (Novice) and higher, as an all age class for amateur, (including Select) and youth.

SHW417. Class requirements:

SHW417.1 Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.

SHW417.2 The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions: and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.

SHW417.3 Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

SHW417.8 The use of natural logs is encouraged.

SHW417.9 Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

SHW417.10 Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

SHW419. Ranch Horse Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

SHW419.5 Zero (0) score

Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions

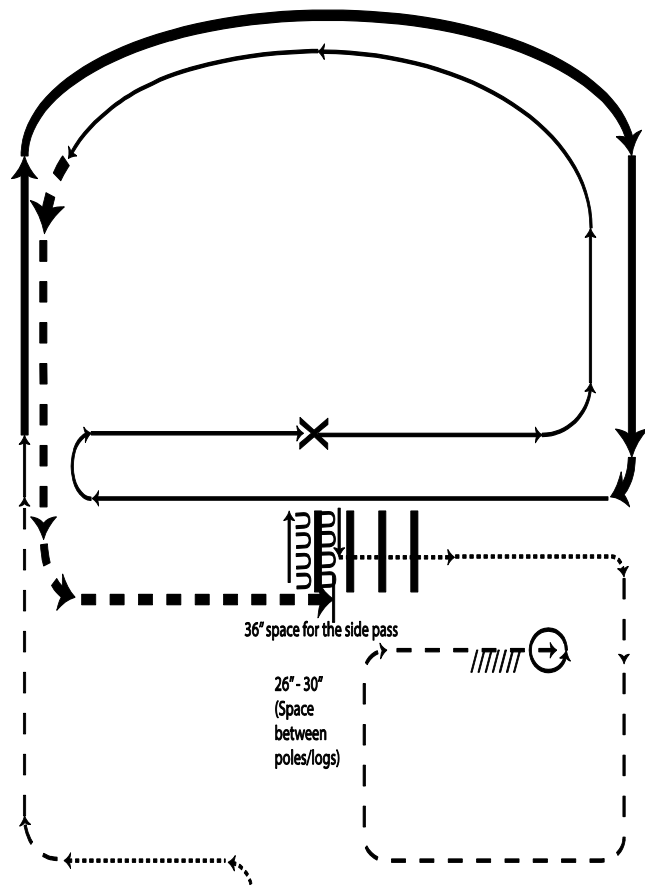
Willfull abuse

Major disobedience or schooling

SHW419.6 No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

SHW419.7 No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

RANCH HORSE PLEASURE PATTERN 5



HORSEMANSHIP

SHW432. SCORING: Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100. One-half point increments are acceptable. Run content scores will be indicated as follows:

+ = Above Average

√ = Average

- = Below Average

An additional + (excellent) or - (well below average) may be given.

SHW432.1 FINAL SCORING shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

90-100 Excellent rider, including body position and use of aids. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely while demonstrating a high level of professionalism.

80-89 Very good performance in execution of the pattern as well as correct horsemanship and use of aid. Excellent horseman that commits a minor fault.

70-79 Good pattern execution and average horsemanship lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. A very good rider that commits a minor fault or an excellent rider that commits a major fault.

60-69 Fair pattern that lacks quickness or precision or rider has obvious position and/or appearance faults that prevents effective horsemanship; or a good horseman that commits two minor faults in the performance of the pattern. An excellent rider that commits a major fault.

50-59 One major fault or multiple minor faults in the performance. A rider that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.

40-49 A rider that commits a severe fault, two or more major faults or multiple minor faults in the performance or the exhibitor that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.

10-39 Rider that commits more than one severe fault or multiple major faults in performance or exhibits poor riding skills but completes the class and avoids disqualification.

SHW437.2 Major faults

Break of gait at a lope, out of lead or missing lead for 1-2 strides

Not stopping within 10 feet of designated area

Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides

Over turn of more than 1/8 turn, but not more than 1/4

Exhibitor obviously looking down to check leads

Failure of bottom of boot to be in contact with the pad of the stirrup

Head carried too high

Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)

Over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical

Excessive nosing out

WORKING COWHORSE

SHW509.1.7 In the two rein class, bosals may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used. The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted.

Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.

SHW510. BOXING. Boxing consists of a reining pattern and single cow work (boxing) on the end of the arena. The goal of this class is to introduce the rider to the "boxing" phase of the cow work. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty for this is -0-. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. **It is legal to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow.** Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn.

RANCH SORTING

SHW547.12 At the judge's discretion, if a re-ride is given because of un-numbered, injured or unfit cattle, the re-ride will occur immediately using the same numbered cattle once unjured, unfit or un-numbered cattle are replaced.

VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE

SHW550.8 Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

RANCH RIDING

SHW555. A rider must show his horse with only one hand on the reins, unless the horse is 5 years old or younger and is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (bosal). The use of two rein is allowed, for first year showing, as recognized by NRCHA in working cow horse.

RANCH TRAIL

SHW559. Optional ranch trail obstacles include:

SHW559.2 Hobble or ground tie (contestant's option) - The horse shall remain in place while the rider dismounts and performs a normal ranch task such as moving a rail, moving a bale of hay, etc. When riding with a romal and tie rein, romal must be draped/half-hitched over saddle horn and tie rein will be placed on the ground or the horse must be hobbled. In riding with split reins only one rein is required to be placed on the ground. When riding with mecate (snaffle bit or bosal) only the tie rein (lead) is required to be placed on the ground with the rein loop draped over the saddle horn.

RANCH CUTTING

SHW565.11 The hot quit shall be considered in the run content.

WORKING RANCH HORSE

SHW570.3 In Youth and Level 1 (Novice) amateur classes each contestant will perform the required reining pattern, then call for the cow to be turned into the arena. Upon receiving the cow, the contestant shall hold the cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow on that end.

SHW570.12 A legal head catch to be both horns on horned cattle or on any cattle to be any loop that goes over the head and holds, except tail only.

SHW571.2 It is not necessary that the roper catch for the contestant to receive a score in the roping portion. If there is a no catch, or an illegal catch, the contestant will still receive a score in the roping portion, but a five point penalty must be subtracted from the roping score accumulated prior to the catch (i.e., if a horse trails and rates its cow but no catch is made, the horse will receive the score it has earned up to the point of the catch minus five points).

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

SHW621.1 FINAL SCORING shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

80-89 Very good rider that executes the pattern as well as correct equitation and use of aids. Excellent rider that commits a minor fault, or an excellent rider that commits a major fault.

60-69 Fair pattern that lacks quickness or precision. Rider has obvious position and/or appearance faults that prevents effective equitation. A good rider that commits one minor fault, or a very good rider that commits a major fault in the performance of the pattern.

SHW621.2.2 Major faults

Break of gait, out of lead, missing lead or diagonal for one-two strides

Not stopping within 10 feet of designated area

Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides

Obvious looking for lead or diagonal

Over or under turn more than 1/8 of prescribed turn, but not more than 1/4 turn

head carried too high

head carried too low (such that the poll is below the withers)

over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical

excessive nosing out