



WESTERN RIDING



INTRODUCTION

WESTERN RIDING has evolved from the cattle working and warfare practices of the Spanish Conquistadors and today training methods, riding styles and tack are as a direct result of American working cowboys spending long hours in the saddle and needing to control a horse, often at high speed, over rough terrain, whilst herding cattle or roping a cow. This has resulted in gentle training methods to produce exceptionally calm and responsive horses, a saddle that offers both comfort and security as well as a bridle, bit and loose rein that allow communication through very light pressure. Whilst easy to learn the basics, at its highest-level Western riding requires skill and dedication to master.

The FEI sport of REINING has evolved from the skill of getting a horse to change direction by means of light pressure of the rein on the neck. Reining requires the rider with one hand and a loose rein, to guide the horse at a lope or canter, through a precise pattern of circles, spins, rollbacks and stops and the horse to be responsive and the rider's aids to be almost unseen.

Classes offered:

- Showmanship at Halter
- Inhand Trail
- Western Pleasure
- Trail
- Horsemanship
- Ranch Riding
- Reining
- Western Dressage

Levels offered (ridden):

- Level 0 (on lead and off lead) – walk, jog only (English or Western Tack)
- Level 1 – walk, jog (except 2nd reining pattern is a lope pattern) (English or Western Tack) equivalent to RWPHSA Novice classes
- Level 4 – walk, jog, lope (English or Western tack) equivalent to RWPHSA Intermediate classes
- Level 7 – walk, jog lope (full western tack and one handed) equivalent to RWPHSA Open classes

Levels offered (inhand)

- Level 1 – equivalent to RWPHSA Novice Classes
- Level 2 – equivalent to RWPHSA Intermediate Classes
- Level 3 – equivalent to RWPHSA Open Classes

WESTERN TACK AND EQUIPMENT:

- When exhibitor equipment failure causes a delay or a run to be discontinued, the judge will disqualify the entry.
- In any approved class, the judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his opinion, would tend to give a horse an unfair advantage or which he believes to be inhumane.
- Tails may be lengthened by hair to hair attachment only with no attachments of any kind to the tailbone.
- The use of weighted tails is acceptable.
- The use of earplugs or cotton in the horse's ears is acceptable.
- Reruns will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure.
- Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number(s) in a visible manner shall result in disqualification.

Bosal:

Allowed in level 0, 1 and 4 and may be ridden with one or two hands. Bosal means the use of a flexible, braided rawhide, leather or rope, the core of which must be flexible. A bosal must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore, which is illegal in all levels.

Snaffle:

Allowed in level 0, 1 and 4 and maybe ridden with one or two hands. Conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 10cm in diameter. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal (no rubber or happy mouth bits). It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 8 mm in diameter, measured 25 mm in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces (straight bar snaffles are not allowed except in western dressage). A three-piece, connecting ring of 32 mm or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 10 mm to 20 mm measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 50 mm, which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable.

LEGAL WESTERN SNAFFLES:



EGG BUTT



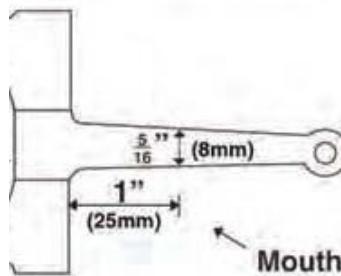
LOOSE RING

D RING

- The ring must be no larger than 100mm
- Must be free of rein or headstall attachments that could provide leverage

MOUTH PIECE:

- Should be round, oval or egg shaped
- Smooth unwrapped metal
- The bars must be a minimum of $5/16''$ (8 mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25 mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to centre
- Mouth piece must be in 2 or 3 pieces

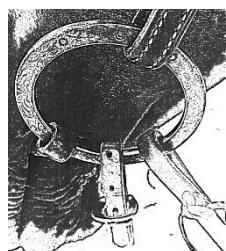


Mouthpiece no less than $\frac{5}{16}''$ (8mm), measured 1" (25mm) from the cheek, constructed from smooth round material



CURB STRAP / BIT HOBBLE

- Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable.



Curb bit:

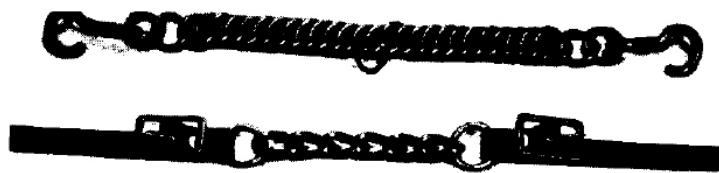


Allowed in level 4 and mandatory in level 7. A curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

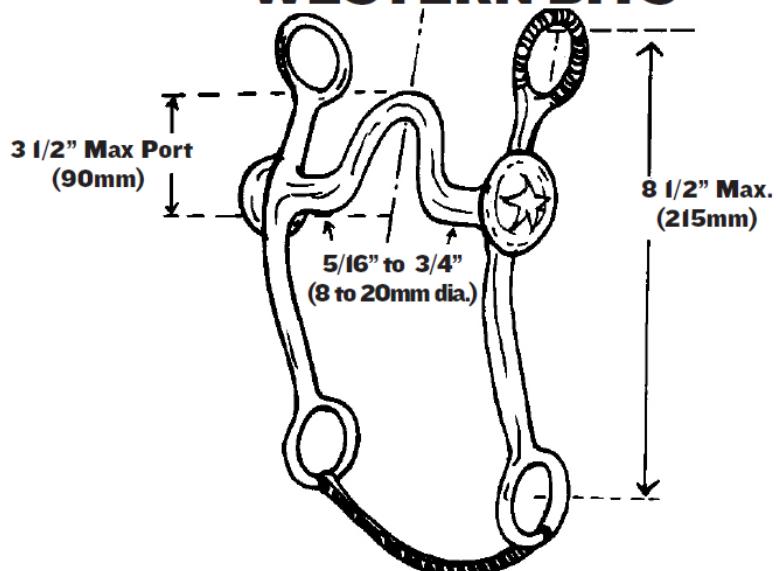
The description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

- 215 mm maximum length shank, Shanks may be fixed or loose;
- concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 8 mm to 20 mm in diameter, measured 25 mm from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars above the bars and attaching to the spade of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece bar, such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 32 mm or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 10mm to 20 mm measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 50 mm, which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable;
- the port must be no higher than 90 mm maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard;
- donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable;
- a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin;
- When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord. A broken strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.
- only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins: index finger only between split reins is permitted. In trail, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification. In Western Dressage it is permissible to ride two handed with a curb bit.
- Split reins or romal reins must be used on a curb bit
- Pelham bridles, curbs from double bridles, kimblewicks and / or any english curb bit is not allowed

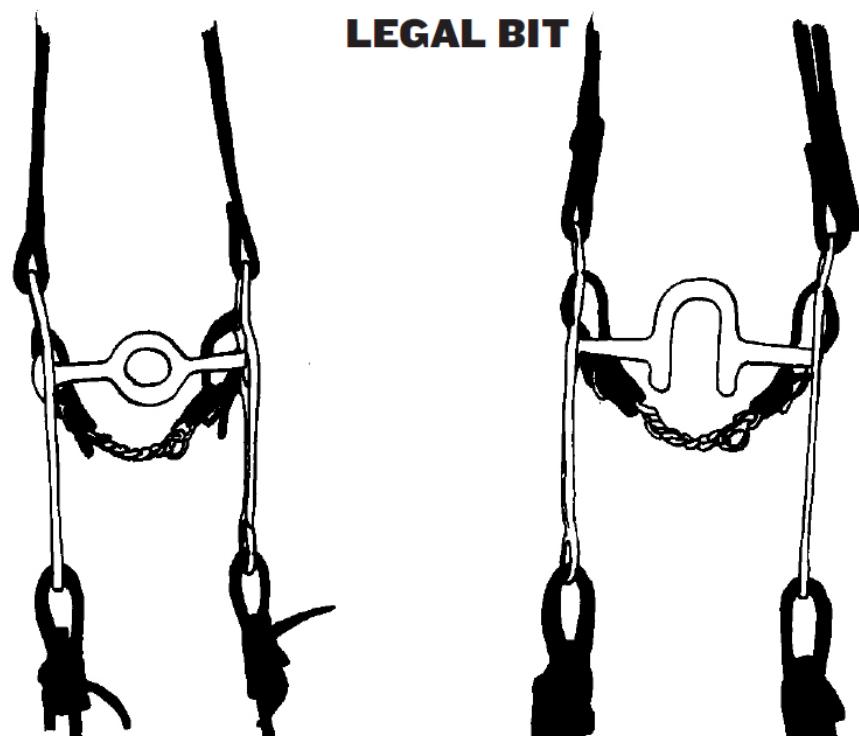
ACCEPTABLE CHAIN CURB STRAPS



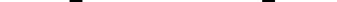
WESTERN BITS



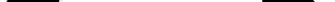
LEGAL BIT



DONUT BIT



PRONG BIT



ILLEGAL BIT

Optional Equipment

- Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, western horsemanship, and ranch riding. 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.
- Spurs; not to be used forward of the cinch, except in level 0 and 1 where they are prohibited

Prohibited Equipment

- Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in western pleasure, trail, inhand trail, and showmanship.
- Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets.
- Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch.
- Chain, wire, or metal tie-down or bonnets are prohibited, regardless of how padded or wrapped.
- Belly Bands, whips used for showmanship; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; metal bosals (no matter how padded); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops;
- Cavesson or noseband of any kind may not be used during competition, except in Western Dressage.
- Fenders may not be connected by string or any other material

Western Saddle:

A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, a high cantle and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A western saddle is mandatory in level 7.

Western Attire:

In western classes, appropriate western attire is required which includes pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.) long sleeves and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc.), school shirts and school attire is allowed, western hat and cowboy boots. It is mandatory that an exhibitor wear a hard hat with harness in all classes, including inhand trail and showmanship at halter. The hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. Spurs and chaps are optional, except in showmanship and inhand trail where they are prohibited.

WESTERN GAITS:

Western gaits:

The following terminology shall apply:

- The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
- The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait (slow trot). The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.
- The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait (a slower version of a canter). Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. The head should be carried at an angle which is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits.

Ranch Riding Gaits:

In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding 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:

- 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.
- Trot- The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
- 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.
- Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
- 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 AT HALTER



- Showmanship at halter is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The class is purely judged in hand (no riding).
- Class is purely judged on turnout and ability of the handler to control the horse, the horses conformation is not judged
- Any age horse can be shown in Showmanship at Halter, including (but not limited to) weanlings, yearlings, 2 year olds etc. As long as the horse is under control of the handler at all times.
- All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required.
- The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver.
- The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class. The Quarter Method should be used at any time during the class and during the inspection of the horse.
- Nylon or Leather Headcollar or Halter
- Rider must be wearing a helmet at all times while handling a horse

WESTERN PLEASURE:



- The horses will enter the arena at the same time and work at a walk, jog, lope in both directions at the request of the ring steward. A moderate extension of any of the gaits may be asked
- A good western pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort.
- Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence.
- The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration.
- He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers.
- He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level, with his nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with his ears alert.
- He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein.
- He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for.
- When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.
- This class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse.
- Riders should sit at the moderated extension of the jog.
- Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
- Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.
- Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.
- Judge may ask for additional work of the same nature from any horse.

- Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.
- Horses to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.
- There will be no cross entering of the horse and rider combination between Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding

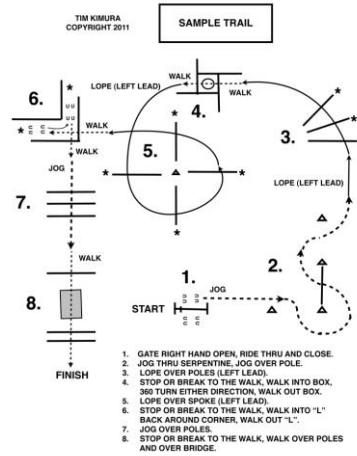
WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP:



- The Horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers (pattern) prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.
- The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues.
- All exhibitors can either work from the gate or from a line up inside the arena.
- Exhibitors will not be asked to mount or dismount.
- The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of promptness.
- Increasing speed of the maneuvers performed increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed.
- Exhibitors that perform the pattern sluggishly and allow their horse to move without adequate impulsion, collection or cadence will be penalized.
- The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.
- Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly.
- Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones, excessive schooling or training, or willful abuse by the exhibitor is cause for disqualification.
- The horse should track straight, freely and at the proper cadence for the prescribed gait. Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern.
- The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with their body while performing straight lines and slightly arched to the inside on curved lines or circles.
- Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern.
- The counter-canter should be performed smoothly with no change in cadence or stride unless specified in the pattern.

- The stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver.
- The back should be smooth and responsive.
- Turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the horse should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs.
- A rollback is a stop and 180 degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely.
- The horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the sidepass, leg-yield and two track.
- The side pass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction.
- When performing a leg- yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arced opposite to the direction that the horse is moving.
- In the two-track, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.
- A simple or flying change of lead should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location.
- A simple change of lead is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three strides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.

TRAIL:



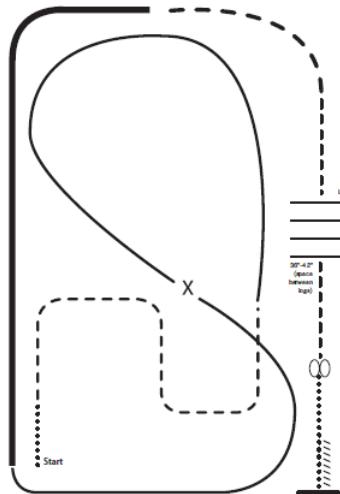
- This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement.
- Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed.
- Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
- Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles.
- Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. Horses must not be required to work on the rail.
- The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score.
- While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers.
- The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.
- The mandatory obstacles are as follows, travel over at least 4 poles, a gate and a rein back.

INHAND TRAIL:



- This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over trail obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the exhibitor and quality of movement.
- Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning and grooming, and the equipment (dirty, ill-fitting or ragged equipment) in their overall scores.
- Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. Drifting to the side, leading or stopping crooked, failure to maintain a pivot foot in a turn, leading or turning sluggishly should be considered and evaluated in the horse's maneuver scores and reflected in his overall score.
- Handlers should be discouraged from excessive verbal cues and excessive stiff or unnatural movements around horse or when leading. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling lead shank around hand, or dragging the lead shank should be penalized.
- Any age horse can be shown in In-hand Trail, including (but not limited to) weanlings, yearlings, 2 year olds etc. As long as the horse is under control of the handler at all times.

RANCH RIDING

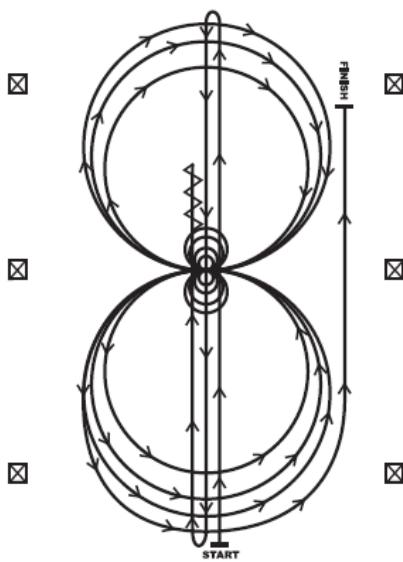


- One of 15 Ranch Riding patterns will be used
- The riders will work from the gate one at a time
- The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another.
- The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena.
- The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits.
- The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
- The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins.
- The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.
- The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.
- The overall cadence and performance of the gaits with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering movement.
- Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- No time limit.
- The use of natural logs is encouraged.
- Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
- No cross entering between Ranch Riding and Western Pleasure is allowed

Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment

- No hoof polish.
- No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.
- When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time

REINING



- Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse in the confines of a show arena.
- In reining competition, contestants are required to run one of several approved patterns.
- Each pattern includes small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, rollbacks over the hocks, a series of 360 degree spins done in place, and the exciting sliding stops that are the hallmark of the reining horse.

The Maneuvers:

The circles:



- Circles are maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide, and degree of difficulty in speed and speed changes.
- Circles must at all times be run in the geographical area of the arena specified in the pattern description and must have a common center point.
- There must be a clearly defined difference in the speed and size of a small, slow circle, and a large, fast circle; also, the speed and size of small, slow right circles

should be similar to the small, slow left circles; and the speed and size of the large, fast right circles should be similar to the large, fast left circles.

The Lead Change:



- Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs, at a lope, when changing the direction travelled.
- The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description.
- The change of front and rear leads must take place within the same stride to avoid penalty.

The Rollback



- Rollbacks are the 180 degree reversal of forward motion completed by running to a stop, rolling (turning) the shoulders back to the opposite direction over the hocks and departing in a lope, as one continuous motion.
- The Handbook states no hesitation; however, a slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation. The horse should not step ahead or backup prior to rolling back.

The Spin:



- Spins are a series of 360-degree turns, executed over a stationary (inside) hind leg.
- Propulsion for the spin is supplied by the outside rear leg and front legs, and contact should be made with the ground and a front leg.
- The location of hindquarters should be fixed at the start of the spin and maintained throughout the spins. to a stop position by bringing the hind legs under the horse in a locked position sliding on the hind feet.
- The horse should enter the stop position by bending the back, bringing the hind legs
- further under the body while maintaining forward motion and ground contact and cadence with front legs.
- Throughout the stop, the horse should continue in a straight line while maintaining ground contact with the hind feet.

WESTERN DRESSAGE:



- Western Dressage Rules and Tests are based in Dressage fundamentals and showcase applications for the Working Western Horse.
- The goal of Western Dressage is to develop a partnership between a happy equine athlete working in harmony with his rider.
- A system of progressive training produces a horse that is physically strong, balanced, supple, and flexible; this equine athlete also demonstrates a calm, confident, attentive attitude and is happy to do his job
- Plain leather cavesson nosebands maybe used as long as you can fit 2 fingers in underneath it
- A dressage whip maybe used
- The different levels offered in SANESA Western Dressage:
 - Introductory Level — The purpose of these walk/jog Introductory Level tests is to provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of figures. The horse should show relaxation; harmony between horse and rider is important. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.
 - Basic Level — The purpose of Basic Level tests is to confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear, steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle. Greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.
 - Level 1 — Level 1 tests confirm that the horse is building on the elements from lower levels and is developing more engagement to show sufficient impulsion as the lengthened jog and lope are performed. The horse

demonstrates a more consistent light contact with the bit. These tests introduce some collection, lateral and longitudinal balance, and suppleness and emphasize harmony and rideability. All jog work may be ridden sitting or rising.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING WESTERN RIDING AND / OR SANESA

For information regarding SANESA, please see their website www.sanesa.co.za

Rules for Western Dressage: <https://westerndressageassociation.org/western-dressage-rules-tests/>

Rules for Reining and Western Performance: www.reiningsa.co.za

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