

SECTION 4 – WORKING WESTERN

The purpose of the working western 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 task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse riding outside or inside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal working western 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 working western horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. This class will be scored similar to a Ranch Riding class based on AQHA rules. Rider may be excused at judge's discretion. Pattern will be posted at the show.

Class Procedure

Each horse will work individually. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Posting at the extended trot **is** acceptable.

Touching or holding the saddle horn **is** acceptable.

One (1) point penalties

Too slow (per gait)
Over-bridled (per maneuver)
Out of frame (per maneuver)
Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalties

Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
Break of gait at lope
Wrong lead or out of lead
Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five (5) point penalties

Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal

Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

Eliminates maneuver
Incomplete maneuver
Use of two hands (except junior shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein).

Zero (0) score

Willful abuse

Major disobedience or schooling

Lameness

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

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

Class No

121 Working Western Horse and Pony, Senior Rider

122 Working Western Horse and Pony, Junior Rider