

ApHC Board Meeting

Quick recap

The Appaloosa Horse Club board meeting focused on various organizational updates and discussions, including financial reports, rule changes, and international representation. The Finance Committee reported on the year-end financial position and activities, while the Rules Committee reviewed and approved several rule amendments for 2026. The board discussed international representation and considered reimagining the governance structure to better engage international affiliates. Rich provided an update on the statue project, including plans for production and sales. The board also addressed issues related to protests and disciplinary matters, with Cody scheduled to meet with the board in January to review specific cases. Additionally, Lex shared updates on the office relocation to Oklahoma City, including ongoing projects and utility changes.

Next steps

- [David O'Keefe: Research if Zoom can send notification emails to attendees when returning from executive session, and report findings at January meeting](#)
- [Jordan: Send updated rule change documents to Alison and Dee Dee for inclusion in judge's newsletter](#)
- [Lex: Complete registration process with Oklahoma Secretary of State before hiring employees](#)
- [Lex: Change employee health insurance agency to Oklahoma-based provider](#)
- [Lex: Continue work with landlord/electrician to get fiber internet connection and electrical upgrades completed](#)
- [Lex: Work on office setup and cubicle arrangement](#)
- [Lori: Send DW sponsor letter to board members](#)
- [Lori: Post information about January in-person board meeting in Oklahoma on website, including hotel details](#)
- [Lex: Contact Chamber of Commerce about future ribbon cutting ceremony](#)
- [Lex: Plan spring open house/ribbon cutting event \(target date around April 15\)](#)
- [Lex: Wait for fiber internet installation before moving AS400 server](#)
- [Lex: Coordinate professional server move with technical support when fiber internet is ready](#)

- [Office staff: Submit ICSI embryo registration proposal for January board review](#)
- [Finance Committee: Review and approve show budget numbers with Melissa before January 9th meeting](#)
- [Board: Review international director representation structure in January meeting](#)
- [Board: Review 2026-2027 international show locations and dates in January meeting](#)
- [Board: Review 2026 committee applications after officer elections in January](#)
- [Lex: Get cost information about miniature statues from foundry for January meeting](#)
- [Board: Review joining Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce in January meeting](#)
- [Board: Review office signage needs for spring open house in January meeting](#)

Summary

Appaloosa Horse Heritage Recognition Meeting

The meeting began with informal conversation about weather and personal matters before formally starting with roll call. Lori announced the purpose of the meeting as honoring Appaloosa Horse heritage and promoting its future. The meeting had a 2-hour time constraint, and the first order of business was to have Melissa present a marketing update.

Membership, Events, and Office Updates

Melissa reported on membership renewals, social media initiatives, and upcoming events, including a Christmas giveaway and trail ride video content planned for early next year. Lex provided updates on the office relocation to Oklahoma City, including progress on internet connectivity, insurance changes, and various administrative tasks, while noting an increase in stallion breeding report revenue. The Executive Committee, led by Alison, discussed the FY2025 financial numbers and national/world show budgets, with plans to finalize and share these details with Melissa for year-end planning.

Ranch and Roping Rule Updates

The board reviewed several rule changes for ranch and roping classes. They approved amendments to working cow horse rules and ranch trail rules, including new definitions for dallying. The board also approved changes to heritage rules and a new rule requiring rail classes to be judged from inside the arena. For roping events, they amended a rule to allow either physical or electronic barriers, or marker cones at 10 feet, with the requirement for barriers at APHC sponsored shows (national shows). The board discussed the need for a second vote on the steer wrestling barrier rule to include the same language as the roping rule.

Committee Updates and Rule Changes

The board discussed several committee updates and reports, including the approval of an amendment to a rule changing "G" to "C" and increasing the distance to 10 feet. Various committee chairs provided their reports, with Deb expressing gratitude for Melissa's work on sponsorships and in-kind gifts for the Nationals, and Brent mentioning a productive town hall meeting and plans for another after the first of the year. The judges' selection process for the national show was halfway complete, with contracts being sent out. The youth committee worked on clarifying bylaw requirements for board member declarations and proposed a point system to encourage involvement. The breeders committee planned to discuss program changes in January, and the office staff was working on a proposal for ICSI embryo registration issues. The trail committee's next meeting was scheduled for January 8th, and the international committee had no report.

2026-2027 Facility Planning and Rules

The board discussed several topics including facility planning for 2026 and 2027 shows, with Sean reporting positive findings from his recent Waco facility visit and Brent mentioning potential availability in Lincoln, Nebraska for 2027. The board agreed to continue using IntelliScan for voting services in 2026, and Theron raised concerns about transparency during executive sessions, proposing a 10-minute recess to notify members when returning to open session. IT is confirming if this is possible to do within Zoom. The board also acknowledged the successful handling of Multi-Purpose flooding issues at the World Show and discussed potential rule changes regarding helping horses in cutting and roping events, which were determined to require review by the show committee.

Transparency in Voting Processes

The group addressed the logistics of sending notifications to registered meeting attendees and the potential for using breakout rooms during closed sessions. Brent and others suggested further discussion on these topics at the January meeting, with Dave (O'Keefe) tasked to investigate the feasibility of the proposed changes. The conversation ended with a reminder about committee applications opening after officer elections in January and wishes for the holidays.

Financial Planning and Project Updates

The board discussed several financial matters, including a motion to purchase a new AS400 server for approximately \$60,000 to be funded from IT relocation expenses. Alison presented the 2025 financial statements and proposed publishing them on the website rather than in the journal, which the board approved. The board also discussed pre-approving Melissa's budget for the two shows, with a total approval of up to \$100,000 for ribbons, prizes (not including

trophies), decor, and buckles, though the exact amounts would be finalized by the Finance Committee. Rich provided an update on statue production, noting plans to meet with the artist and foundry in Joseph, Oregon, with video documentation scheduled for Thursday.

Statue Financing and License Plate Money

Rich explained the casting process for smaller statues and outlined a pay-as-you-go financing plan, with a 50% deposit required for pre-sales. He will present a budget at the January meeting showing how selling 60 smaller statues can finance the larger statue. Lori mentioned that Cody will meet with the board in January to discuss some topics the board has raised. Ray made a motion to transfer control of license plate money to the museum.

Office Relocation

Lex gave an update on the OKC move, including coordinating the setup with a local member to potentially help with local connections. They agreed to wait until April 15th for a ribbon-cutting ceremony when the office is more fully prepared.

Summary of Motions:

Motion 09.17.2025-04 (Second Vote)

Approve Working Cow Horse language in Rule 741 to recommended changes by JAC, which align more closely to NRCHA and have been approved by the Rules Committee (See Appendix for specific wording)

Motion: Dave Parlier

Seconded By: Brent Woolery

Motion passed unanimously, rule goes into effect in 2026

Motion 12.15.2025-01

Motion to amend Ranch Horse changes and accept addition of definition of a dally into rule 724.F.2.A as submitted by Kathryn Erickson on 11Dec2025:

RULE 724 F. 2. A.

- a. Drag an obstacle. At no time should the rider or horse get tangled in the rope. Horses should stand quietly during the preparation and then pull or drag in control. The exhibitor is required to have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag. ***A full dally is bringing the rope one and a half times around the horn, from the front of the horn around the back, not from behind. A half dally is bringing the rope 3/4 of the way around the horn, from the front of the horn around the back, not from behind.*** No tying hard and fast permitted.

Motion: Nick Beil

Seconded By: Deb Dyer

Motion 09.17.2025-05 (Second Vote)

Motion: Approve All Rule Changes proposed by JAC in Rules 720, 722, 723, and 724 (as outlined in Appendix), as well as addition of language in Motion 12.15.2025-01

Motion: Deb Dyer

Seconded By: Alison Phillips

Motion passed unanimously, rule changes effective in 2026

Motion 09.17.2025-06 (Second Vote)

Motion: Accept recommended changes from Rules Committee on Heritage, Rule 760 (See Appendix for specific wording)

Motion: Deb Dyer

Seconded By: Nick Beil

Motion passed unanimously, rule changes effective in 2026

Motion 09.17.2025-07 (Second Vote)

Motion to introduce a new rule to require all rail classes be judged from inside the arena (See Appendix for specific wording)

Motion: Brent Woolery

Seconded By: Deb Dyer

Motion passed unanimously, rule changes effective in 2026

Motion 12.15.2025-02

Motion to amend the language around the use of cones in roping events to include the requirement for a barrier at ApHC sponsored shows. Rule 745G Updated to:

G. A barrier (physical or electronic) must be used in all roping events. If no barrier is available, marker cones must be placed 10 feet from the box and the horse shall not leave the box until the cow's nose has passed the markers. **At ApHC sponsored shows, a barrier is required.**

Motion to Amend: Deb Dyer

Seconded By: Ray Burchett

Motion passed unanimously

Motion 12.15.2025-03

Motion to amend the language around the use of cones in roping events to include the requirement for a barrier at ApHC sponsored shows. Rule 743C Updated to:

C. The horse and exhibitor must start behind a barrier; if the horse breaks the barrier there is an automatic ten-second penalty. If no mechanical barrier is available, marker cones must be placed 10 feet from the box and the horse shall not leave the box until the cow's nose has passed the markers. **At ApHC sponsored shows, a barrier is required.**

Motion to Amend: Ray Burchett

Seconded By: Nick Beil

Motion passed unanimously

Motion 09.17.2025-08 (Second Vote)

Motion to amend the rules for Steer Daubing (743C) and Roping (745G) to allow for electronic barriers to be used, and cones if no mechanical or electronic barrier is available.

Motion: Nick Beil

Seconded By: Ray Burchett

Motion passed unanimously, rule changes effective in 2026

Motion 12.15.2025-04: Post the FY2025 Financial Summary on the ApHC website

Roll Call Vote:

Alison: Yes

Jordan: Yes

Brent: Yes

Dave Parlier: Yes

Nick Biel: Yes

Deb Dyer: Yes

Sean Schembri: No

Ray Burchett: No

Theron McHammond: Abstain

Motion Carries

Motion 12.15.2025-05: Post the FY2025 Financial Summary in the AJ sometime during 2026

Motion: Sean Schembri

Seconded By: Ray Burchett

Discussion included looking at the expense of including these and that it would helpful to include this with the FY2026 Financial Summary when available

Roll Call Vote:

Alison: No

Jordan: No

Brent: No

Dave Parlier: Yes

Nick Biel: No

Deb Dyer: No

Sean Schembri: Yes

Ray Burchett: Yes

Theron McHammond: Abstain

Motion Defeated

Motion 12.15.2025-06: Allocate \$100,000 from building sale to IT moving expenses, including a new AS-400. The current lease is expiring

Motion: Deb Dyer

Seconded By: Dave Parlier

Motion passed unanimously

Motion 12.15.2025-07: Motion to allocate up to \$100,000 for Melissa's budget for the National and World Show to include ribbons, décor, additional prizes, and buckles.

Note: The Finance Committee will finalize separately. This does not include the cost of trophies, which are ordered separately.

Motion: Deb Dyer

Seconded By: Nick Biel

Motion passed unanimously

Appendix A: Proposed Rule Changes

741. WORKING COW HORSE

- A. Both the cow work portion of this event and the reined work portion are mandatory. Scoring emphasis on the cow work portion shall be based on the horse maintaining control of the cow at all times, exhibiting superior cow sense and natural cow working ability without excessive reining or spurring. Failure of an exhibitor to attempt to complete the cow work portion of the class, as well as the reined work, will result in the exhibitor not being considered an entry in the class. A horse going off pattern in the reined work will receive a score of zero. A horse that attempts both the reined work and the cow work portions may be placed, even if disqualified in one portion of the class. (Example: If a horse is disqualified and receives a 0 score for the reined work, but scores a 70 for the cow work, its total score would be 70 and the horse would be eligible for placing.)
- B. In approved working cow horse classes, any of the twelve ApHC-approved patterns may be used. A pattern is to be selected by the judge of the class and used by all contestants in the class. Each contestant will cause his horse to travel at the gait indicated for each part of the pattern. **All trot-in patterns may be modified to lope-in patterns and may be designated as starting toward or away from the judge. When selecting a lope-in pattern, judges should take into consideration the direction of the exhibitor's approach to the arena center so the horse can be on the correct lead from the gate to the start of the patterns. Rider will walk through the gate and, without trotting, pick up the correct lead and continue loping to the center of arena. At the center, without stopping or breaking gait, begin pattern. When using a lope to the center pattern, judging of the pattern will begin at the center of arena. Penalties occurring while loping to the center of arena to begin pattern will be assessed. ~~When judging reined work, the judge should refer to the reining portion of the handbook for scoring/penalty guidelines, except that the reined work in working cow horse will be scored 60-80.~~**
- C. Scoring will be on the basis of 60-80, with 70 denoting an average performance. The same basis of scoring shall apply to both the reined work and cow work. In the event of a tie, the entry with the highest cow work will be declared the winner. If still tied, a work-off on the cattle work will be required.
 - 1. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.
- D. Reined Work
 - 1. Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs terminating in well-

balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a backup of a reasonable distance with slight hesitations denoting each maneuver. The judging ends when the rider indicates he/she is finished by coming to a complete stop. Praising or rewarding of the horse is only allowed after the reining pattern is complete and before the exhibitor calls for a cow.

2. The best reined horse shall be easily guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized. All deviations from the exact given pattern must be considered a loss of control and marked down accordingly. Credit shall be given for the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse more exciting and pleasing to watch.
3. Maneuver Scores for Reined Work: Each rein pattern is divided into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

–1½ ----- Extremely Poor
–1 ----- Very Poor
–½ ----- Poor
0 ----- Correct
+½ ----- Good
+1 ----- Very Good
+1½ ----- Excellent

4. Penalties. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score:
 - a. One-half (½) Point Penalties:
 - i. Not changing leads within the same stride
 - ii. Over or under spin 1/8 turn
 - iii. Jogging first two strides
 - b. One (1) Point Penalties:
 - i. Out of lead
 - ii. Out of lead each 1/4 circle
 - iii. Slipping a rein in the bridle
 - iv. Scotching or anticipating a stop
 - v. Over or under spinning up to 1/4 turn
 - c. Two (2) Point Penalties:
 - i. Lead missed around end of arena past 2nd corner

- ii. Not ever changing leads in patterns where there is only $\frac{1}{2}$ circle
 - iii. Failure to run by marker before stop is initiated
 - iv. Freezing up in turn
 - v. Breaking gait (Break of gait is defined as "when the cadence of the lope is disrupted or not maintained." Break of gait only occurs from the lope gait)
 - vi. Jogging beyond two strides up until one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena
 - vii. On trot in patterns, failure to "Stop" before executing a lope departure
 - viii. A stop in the first one-quarter of the circle, after a lope departure, is a break of gait
 - ix. At end of pattern, failure to hesitate to demonstrate completion of pattern.
- d. Five (5) Point Penalties
- i. Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at any time or excessively whipping or spurring the horse
 - ii. Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or obviously insubordinate
- e. Zero (0) Score
- i. Failure to complete the pattern as given (i.e. over or under spin more than $\frac{1}{4}$)
 - ii. Using 2 hands on the reins in a bridle or two rein class
 - iii. Fingers between the reins in a bridle class except in the two rein class
 - iv. Horse balking - Bloody Mouth (inside)
 - v. Illegal Equipment
 - vi. Leaving the working area before pattern is complete
 - vii. Fall of horse or rider
 - viii. Backing more than two strides, when backing is not called for
 - ix. Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena
 - x. Improper Western Attire
 - xi. Failure to work in the proper working order.
 - xii. A judge may blow his/her whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that time

xiii. Failure to follow pattern as written. The exhibitor must trot or lope at least half the way to center of arena when pattern specifies trot or lope in.

f. No Score

i. Abuse

ii. Lameness of the horse

E. Prescribed Cow Work:

1. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and cow work when the cow work immediately follows the rein work; the penalty for this will be a zero.
2. At the start of the work, each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold the cow on the prescribed end of the arena for sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow on that end. Boxing: Working the cow on the end of the arena until such time as the contestant has proven the ability of the horse to hold the cow. The horse should exhibit superior cow sense and natural cow-working ability without excessive reining or spurring. In the head to-head working position, the degree of difficulty shall be considered.
3. After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. Turning on the fence: A good turn on the fence may be defined as one in which the cow, while being run down the fence on one side of the arena, is turned in the other direction and held near the same fence while being run in the new direction. During the turn the horse should use himself in a controlled, athletic manner, using its hocks to stop and drive out of the turn, while using its front end to balance and turn. The contestant must get at least one turn in each direction. To be considered a turn, the contestant must be close enough to the cow to be the cause of the turn. The turn must be tight enough so as not to be considered just circling the fence. More than two good turns in each direction should not result in extra credit but also should not be penalized, unless the cow is thereby too exhausted to circle correctly. One turn each way may not necessarily result in extra credit if the horse and/or cow are out of control.
4. The contestant shall then take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle it at least once in each direction. Circling: Maneuvering the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right

and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted.

~~5. The exhibitor has thirty (30) seconds in which to accept or reject the cow. If s/he does not reject the cow within 30 seconds, the cow is hers/his. If s/he does exercise her/his option to reject the cow, s/he gets one new cow.~~

6. The judge has the option of calling for a new cow at any time if he/she has determined that the cow drawn is unreasonably difficult or unworkable. ~~even if the exhibitor has already accepted or rejected the cow.~~

a. **Criteria for awarding new cattle:**

i. **The cow won't or can't run**

ii. **The cow won't leave the end of the arena**

iii. **The cow is blind or won't yield to the horse**

iv. **The cow leaves the arena**

b. It is up to the exhibitor to determine if they wish to continue working the cow they currently have drawn or to accept the new cow that the judge has called for. **If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, they must pull up immediately**

F. The judge should take into consideration the size of the arena, condition of the ground and disposition of the cattle in scoring each work. If ground, arena and/or weather conditions are deemed unfavorable by the exhibitors, they may inform the judge who may elect to alter the required cattle work for safety reasons.

1. The greater the difficulty of the run, the more credit should be given. The difficulty may be due to the extreme speed or stubbornness of the cow, or the cow's reluctance to move down the fence when sufficiently driven by the contestant. The most controlled cow work with the highest degree of difficulty should be marked the highest. Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized under run content.

2. Allowing the horse to quit working after 30 seconds has elapsed and before the judge signals for a new cow, will result in a zero score. The judge may blow his/ her whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that point. If a new cow is called, judging and time will start over with the new cow. With a multiple judge system, any one of the judges may signal for a new cow. Judging ends when the whistle blows.

a. The judge may blow his/her whistle at any time during the work – one whistle to terminate the work, two whistles to award a new cow.

3. In the cow work phase of any class, one hand on the horn may be used to prevent the fall of the rider. Holding the horn excessively may be penalized under run content.
4. During the cow work, when a cow leaves the working area, it is automatic that the contestant will receive a new cow and scoring will begin again with the new cow.
5. At the discretion of the judge, cow work may be done immediately following each individual's pattern work or immediately after completion of pattern work by all horses being exhibited.

~~F. Scoring will be on a basis of 60 to 80 with 70 denoting an average performance. The same basis of scoring shall apply to both the reined work and cow work. In the event of a tie, the entry with the highest cow work score will be declared the winner.~~

G. Penalties:

1. 5-point penalties
 - a. Not getting one turn each way (5 points each way).
 - b. ~~Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at any time or excessively whipping or spurring the horse.~~ (This was not approved by the rules committee as it is otherwise defined as abuse in other sections of the rulebook and consistency should be maintained)
 - c. **Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or obviously insubordinate**
2. 3-point penalties
 - a. **Dangerous position**
~~Biting or striking the cow~~
 - b. Hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn)
 - c. Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling
 - d. Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage
3. 2-point penalties
 - a. Going around the corner of the arena before turning the cow when going down the fence (when the cow's head breaks the plane of the 2-point penalty marker).
 - b. **When working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned. This applies when going from one end of the arena to the other.**
 - c. **Circling Turn – This penalty applies only in a two (2) turn run in which the second turn is an attempted open field turn where the**

horse never achieves a stopping position between the 2nd turn and the first circle; in the situation where it is not possible to tell where the second turn ends and the first circle begins.

4. 1-point penalties

- a. Loss of working advantage
- b. For each length horse runs past cow. A length is one horse length of daylight between the cow's head and the top of the horse's tail.
- c. ~~Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence. In an oval arena, when the cow's head breaks the plane of the end marker.~~ **When the cow's head breaks the plane of the 1 point marker**
- d. Changing sides of arena to turn cow (1 point each time)
- e. **Working out of position**
- f. Slipping a rein
- g. Turning cow before passing middle marker on first turn
- h. **Excessive hollering**

5. Zero (0) score

- a. Turning tail to the cow
- b. Fingers between the reins **in a bridle**
- c. **Deliberate spurring or use of the romal forward of the cinch (Rules committee did not approve striking this.)**
- d. **If the rider hits or kicks the animal being worked, with the romal or reins, in an abusive manner**
- e. Extremely out of control
- f. Leaving the work area before the pattern or work is complete
 - i. Any horse that is out of control while working the cow, thus endangering the rider (i.e. crossing the path of the cow) shall be called off the cow.
 - ii. Any horse that runs over the cow thus causing the fall of horse and/or rider shall terminate the work at that time.
- g. During the cow work, use of two hands on the reins, except with junior horses ridden two handed in an acceptable snaffle bit or bosal.
 - i. The non-rein hand is not allowed, at any time, to touch the reins or a score of -0- will be applied. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner.
 - ii. If the hand holding the romal touches the closed part of the reins it is considered two hands on the reins.

- h. Fall of horse or rider
- i. Balking
- j. Schooling the horse between the rein and cow work when the cow work immediately follows rein work

6. No Score

- a. Abuse
- b. Lameness of the horse

H. The following characteristics of the horse are considered faults:

1. Exaggerated opening of the mouth
2. Hard or heavy mouth
3. Nervous throwing of head
4. Lugging on bridle
5. Halting or hesitation while being shown, particularly when being run out, indicating anticipation of being set up
6. Losing a cow or being unable to finish a pattern because of a bad cow – the contestant should be penalized at the judge's discretion.
7. Touching the horse or saddle with the free hand except during the cow-work portion of the class where the rider may hold onto the horn

I. The characteristics of a good working cow horse are:

1. Good manners
2. Shifty, smooth and having its feet under it at all times; when stopping, hind feet should be well under it
3. A soft mouth and should respond to a light rein, especially when turning
4. Head should be maintained in its natural position
5. Work at reasonable speed and still be under control of the rider

Rationale: The Judges Advisory Committee met earlier this week and reviewed rule change proposals that Alison initially prepared and sent to me, which I reviewed in conjunction with work I was already doing for the JAC for the same purpose. The proposed changes were sent to the JAC and then reviewed during our zoom meeting.

Based on discussion and deliberation, followed by voting of the committee, the attached rule changes were finalized to be presented to the rules committee.

The purpose of the Working Cow Horse changes are to more clearly align our rules with those of the NRCHA, the premier cow horse organization. With rule alignment, joint or co-sponsored events could be held without conflict in rules or scoring. It also makes this complex class more consistent for judges with multiple cards if we are more closely aligned to the others.

Judges Advisory Committee: June 22, 2025

RANCH CLASSES

720. RANCH CLASSES GENERAL RULES

- A. The ranch riding 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. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal ranch horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. These classes 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, responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
 - 1. Ranch classes are offered for horses three years of age and older
- B. Ranch Class Apparel and Equipment: Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged.
 - 1. Hoof polish is discouraged.
 - 2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
 - 3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
 - 4. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
 - 5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.
- C. The following terminology shall apply:
 - 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.
 - 2. Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
 - 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.
 - 4. Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
 - 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.
- D. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent

resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control.

- E. When exhibiting in a snaffle or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the rein at any time
- F. Sitting at the regular trot and lop is recommended, though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot or extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.
- G. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable
- H. Use of two rein equipment is permitted as outlined in Rule 715.A.10
- I. Use of a get down rope is permitted as outlined in Rule 715.A.11 721.

J. Cross Entry

1. Cross entry with any other division or individual class is permitted at ApHC approved shows

2. Cross entry at the ApHC sponsored show (Nationals, Youth World and World show) is prohibited for all open, non-pro, and youth divisions or individual classes, except Walk Trot.

3. Cross entry at ApHC sponsored shows is permitted for all entries in Walk-Trot non-pro and youth classes.

721. RANCH RIDING

A. Class Requirements

- 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.
- 2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot and lope in both directions, the extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction, stops and backs.
- 3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass; turns of 360-degrees or more; a change of lead (simple or flying); walk, trot, or lope over a pole or poles; or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
- 4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- 5. The overall cadence and performance of the gait should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on free-flowing and ground-covering forward movement for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- 6. No time limit.
- 7. One of the suggested patterns may be used; however, a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more)

optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of his or her own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.

8. The use of natural logs is encouraged.

B. Penalties:

1. One (1) point penalties

- a. Too slow/ per gait
- b. Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- c. Out of frame (per maneuver)
- d. Break of gait at walk or ~~jog~~ trot for 2 strides or less
- e. Split log at lope
- f. Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less

2. Three (3) point penalties

- a. Break of gait at walk or ~~jog~~ trot for more than 2 strides
- b. Break of gait at lope
- c. Wrong lead or out of lead **for more than two strides**
- d. Draped reins (**per maneuver**)
- e. Wrong lead, out of lead or cross cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads
- f. Trotting more than 3 strides when making simple lead change
- g. Trotting more that 3 strides in lope departure or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- h. Severe disturbance of any obstacle

3. Five (5) point penalties

- a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
- b. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

4. ~~Placed below horses performing all maneuvers~~ **Off-pattern (OP): Exhibitors going off pattern as defined below cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly:**

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

5. Zero (0) score

- a. Lameness
- b. Abuse
- c. Illegal Equipment

- d. Disrespect or misconduct
 - e. Improper western attire
 - f. Fall of horse/rider
 - ~~g. Illegal equipment (included braided or branded manes or tail extensions)~~
 - ~~h. Willful Abuse~~
 - ~~i. Major disobedience or schooling~~
6. No specific penalties will be incurred for ticks/hits on logs but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.
 7. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

C. ApHC SMALL HORSE PROGRAM RANCH RIDING

1. Open to all horses three years of age and older certified with the ApHC Small Horse Program.
2. No cross entry is allowed between any ApHC Ranch Riding class and
3. ApHC Small Horse Program Ranch Riding class.

D. GREEN RANCH RIDING

1. The purpose of green ranch riding is to allow a horse to compete on an entry level field with horses of the same level of experience. The green ranch riding is a stepping stone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.
2. Horses, regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by ApHC equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under ApHC equipment rules and that also complies with ranch class apparel and equipment rules.
3. The course should be designed for the entry-level horse. Ample space should be used to execute the course.
4. With the exception of eligibility and equipment requirements, the same rules apply in green ranch riding as apply in ranch riding.
5. Horses eligible to compete:
 - a. Horses that have never shown or were shown during previous years in ApHC-approved green ranch riding, open ranch riding, non-pro ranch riding or youth ranch riding, but have not earned more than 15 points in those classes as of January 1 of the current show year. No horse shall be eligible who has been World or National show champion in any open division ranch riding class (AA, JR, SR, Green). Points from all divisions will count and are cumulative in determining eligibility.
6. Green ranch riding points are not eligible for Breeder's Trust payout, year-end or lifetime awards.

E. WALK-TROT RANCH RIDING

1. Except as noted below, general ranch riding rules apply (except that the exhibitors will not be asked to lope but may be asked to extend the trot).
2. If the horse breaks into a lope for more than three consecutive strides, it shall be disqualified.
3. See NON-PRO WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 901.E for rules regarding non-pro eligibility for non-pro walk-trot classes.
4. See YOUTH WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 807 for rules regarding eligibility for youth walk-trot classes.

722. RANCH RAIL PLEASURE

- A. All General Ranch Class Rules in Rule 720 apply.
- B. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized.
- C. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation.
- D. Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:
 1. Too slow/per gait
 2. Over-bridled
 3. Out of frame
 4. Break of gait at walk or ~~jog~~ trot for 2 strides or less
 5. Break of gait at walk or ~~jog~~ trot for more than 2 strides
 6. Break of gait at lope
 7. Wrong lead or out of lead
 8. Draped reins
 9. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides
 10. Trotting more than three strides when taking lead
 11. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
 12. Major disobedience or schooling
 13. Spurring in front of cinch
 14. Use of either hand to instill fear/ praise

- E. For shows conducted in international countries, the exhibitor has the option of using the traditional attire of the country.
- F. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits. **Extended gaits should be requested in at least one direction**
- G. Horses may cross enter western pleasure classes at ApHC-approved shows but not at ApHC-sponsored shows.

H. GREEN RANCH RAIL PLEASURE

- 1. The purpose of green ranch rail pleasure is to allow a horse to compete on an entry level field with horses of the same level of experience. The green ranch rail pleasure is a stepping stone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.
- 2. Horses, regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by ApHC equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under ApHC equipment rules and that also complies with ranch class apparel and equipment rules.
- 3. With the exception of eligibility and equipment requirements, the same rules apply in green ranch rail pleasure as apply in ranch rail pleasure.
- 4. Horses eligible to compete:
 - a. See Rule 607.O for eligibility. Open division Ranch Rail Pleasure Classes include AA, JR, SR, Green.
- 5. Green ranch rail pleasure points are not eligible for Breeder's Trust payout, year-end or lifetime awards.

I. WALK-TROT RANCH RAIL PLEASURE

- 1. Except as noted below, general ranch rail pleasure rules apply (except that the exhibitors will not be asked to lope but may be asked to extend the trot).
- 2. If the horse breaks into a lope for more than three consecutive strides, it shall be disqualified.
- 3. See NON-PRO WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 901.E for rules regarding non-pro eligibility for non-pro walk-trot classes.
- 4. See YOUTH WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 807 for rules regarding youth eligibility for youth walk-trot classes.

723. RANCH REINING

- A. All General Ranch Class Rules in Rule 720 apply.
- B. The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns, working cow horse patterns, or

approved by the show management and judge. The use of standard reining patterns is discouraged.

- C. CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.
- D. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/ rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/ rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch.
- E. PENALTIES
 - 1. ½ point penalty
 - a. Starting a circle or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to two (2) strides
 - b. Delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description
 - c. Failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback
 - d. Over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn
 - 2. 1 point penalty
 - a. Out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead)
 - b. Over-or under-spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn.
 - c. Slipping rein
 - d. **Over-bridled (per maneuver)**
 - e. **Out of frame (per maneuver)**
 - 3. 2-point penalty
 - a. Break of gait
 - b. Freeze-up in spins or rollbacks
 - c. Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns
 - d. Failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns
 - e. Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position
 - f. Trotting beyond 2 strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.

4. 5-point penalties
 - a. Blatant disobedience
 - b. Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
 - c. Spurring or hitting the horse in front of the cinch (not approved by rules committee)
 5. Off-Pattern (OP): Exhibitors going off pattern as defined below cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.
 - a. Breaking pattern
 - b. Elimination of or inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over-or under-spinning)
 - c. Backing more than two (2) strides
 - d. Repeated blatant disobedience
 - e. Use of two hands per maneuver (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore). More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein)
 - f. Trotting more than ½ circle or ½ length of arena
 6. Disqualification
 - a. Lameness
 - b. Abuse
 - c. Illegal equipment
 - d. Disrespect or misconduct
 - e. Improper western attire
 - f. Fall of horse/rider
 - g. Spurring or hitting the horse in front of the cinch. (removal not approved by rules committee)
 - h. Leaving the arena before the pattern is complete
- F. Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand.

~~G. Off-Pattern (OP): Exhibitors going off pattern as defined below cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.~~

~~1. Breaking pattern~~

~~2. Elimination of or Inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under spinning)~~

~~3. Backing more than two (2) strides~~

~~4. Leaving arena before pattern is complete~~

~~5. Repeated blatant disobedience~~

~~6. Use of two hands per maneuver (except junior horses shown in snaffle bit/ hackamore),
More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver
(except two rein)~~

~~7. Incomplete maneuver~~

G. GREEN RANCH REINING

1. The purpose of green ranch reining is to allow a horse to compete on an entry level field with horses of the same level of experience. The green ranch reining is a stepping stone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.
2. Horses, regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by ApHC equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under ApHC equipment rules and that also complies with ranch class apparel and equipment rules.
3. With the exception of eligibility and equipment requirements, the same rules apply in green ranch reining as apply in ranch reining.
4. Horses eligible to compete:
 - a. **See Rule 607.O for eligibility. Open division Ranch Trail Classes include AA, JR, SR, Green**~~Horses that have never shown or were shown during previous years in ApHC approved green ranch reining, open ranch reining, non-pro ranch reining or youth ranch reining, but have not earned more than 15 points in those classes as of January 1 of the current show year. No horse shall be eligible who has been World or National show champion in any open division ranch reining class (AA, JR, SR, Green). Points from all divisions will count and are cumulative in determining eligibility.~~
5. Green ranch reining points are not eligible for Breeder's Trust payout, year-end or lifetime awards.

724. RANCH TRAIL

- A. All General Ranch Class Rules in Rule 720 apply.
- B. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can navigate and negotiate the course.

- C. Horse shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. The horse/rider team should negotiate each obstacle with calmness and patience, moving safely through each obstacle. Horses should show awareness, be attentive and not spook, shy or spin. The horse should not stumble, tick or clip obstacles. Ticks, hits, or clips of obstacles should be factored into the maneuver score as appropriate for the spacing, gait required and type of obstacle.
- D. A minimum of six (6) obstacles (maximum of ten (10) obstacles) will be used. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course. It is suggested that extended gaits be included. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must be at least 35 feet and score with the approaching obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and score with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. When setting courses, the management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All course and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each single performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less. Judge must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles that they deem unsafe, nonnegotiable, or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class. The course must be designed using a combination of four (4) mandatory obstacles and anything from the list of suggested optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.
- E. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacle correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for obstacles. Each obstacle should receive an obstacle score and is subject to penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle should be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1½ to minus 1½. Plus 1½ - excellent; Plus 1 – very good; Plus ½ - good; 0 – correct; Minus ½ - poor; Minus 1 – very poor;

Minus 1½ - extremely poor. Obstacles scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

~~1. Disqualification (from entire class) a. Lameness~~

~~b. Abuse~~

~~c. Leaving work area before pattern is complete~~

~~d. Illegal equipment~~

~~e. Disrespect or misconduct~~

~~f. Inappropriate western attire~~

~~g. Fall of horse and rider~~

1. 1-point penalty

- a. Each bite or stepping on a log, pole, cone, or obstacle
- b. Break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less
- c. Split pole in lope-over
- d. d. One to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie, except shifting to balance.
- e. Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less
- f. Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- g. Out of frame (per maneuver)

2. 3-point penalty

- a. Break of gait at walk or ~~jog~~ trot for more than 2 strides
- b. Out of lead for 2 strides or more or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- c. c. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- d. d. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping of an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with one foot.
- e. Three to four steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
- f. Trotting more than 3 strides in lope departure or exiting a rollback into a lope from stop or walk

3. 5-point penalty

- a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course
- b. First refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than 2 strides away

- c. Loss of control or letting go of gate, rope, drag or another item required to be handled
 - d. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (back through, bridge, side pass, box, water box) with more than one foot
 - e. Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, rearing, striking)
 - ~~f. Failure to ever demonstrate the correct lead of gait if designated~~
 - ~~g. Failure to complete obstacle~~
 - h. Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying away or backing more than 2 strides away.
 - i. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
 - j. Five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.
 - k. Blatant disobediences including biting, kicking, rearing, pawing, and horse continually circling behavior.
 - l. Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than one foot
4. Off Pattern (OP): **Exhibitors going off pattern as defined below cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly**
- a. Incomplete maneuver
 - b. Eliminating or adding a maneuver
 - c. Failure to follow the line of travel, work obstacle from incorrect side/direction
 - d. Third refusal, balk or attempt to evade an obstacle by shying or backing away more than 2 strides
 - e. Repeated blatant disobedience
 - f. Failure to dally and remain dallied
 - g. Use of two (2) hands (except Junior horses shown with a snaffle bit or hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)
 - h. Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate
 - i. Failure to ever demonstrate the correct lead or gait if designated.
5. Disqualification ~~(from entire class)~~
- a. Lameness
 - b. Abuse
 - c. Leaving work area before pattern is complete
 - d. Illegal equipment
 - e. Disrespect or misconduct
 - f. Inappropriate western attire
 - g. Fall of horse and rider

- F. There will be four (4) mandatory obstacles, one selected from each of the following categories (1-4). The course is to be set up at the discretion of show management and/or judges. Obstacles should be constructed of safe material and test the horse and rider's skills. Care shall be taken to design the course with safety in mind when determining the gait at which the obstacles will be maneuvered.

1. CATEGORY 1 - An obstacle that demonstrates the horse's ability to be guided through or over obstacles. A minimum of one of the following must be included in the pattern.
 - a. Ride over at least 4 logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zig zag, raised or combination. The space between poles/logs is not required to be measured as obstacles on a trail are random. It is suggested that the logs/poles be set in a manner that allows and emphasizes forward movement. Lope over poles shall be set a minimum of 14'.
 - b. Ride over a wooden bridge. Minimum width shall be 36" (91.44 cm) wide and at least 6' (1.83 m) long. Bridges should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk or trot only. Rocking bridges are optional if constructed in a safe manner and cannot slide or roll.
 - c. Serpentine obstacles. Spacing of obstacles should take into consideration the gait required while allowing the exhibitor to demonstrate the willingness and ability of the horse to be guided easily.
 - d. Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes may be used.
 - e. Ride over or through brush, branches, or other natural obstacles.
2. CATEGORY 2 - An obstacle that demonstrates the horse's ability for the rider to handle another object. A minimum of one of the following must be included in the pattern.
 - a. Drag an obstacle. At no time should the rider or horse get tangled in the rope. Horses should stand quietly during the preparation and then pull or drag in control. The exhibitor is required to have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag. No tying hard and fast permitted. **No drag shall be permitted for novice or walk-trot classes.**
 - b. Handling of a rope – examples include: rope a steer head, throw a rope in front of the horse, and recoil the rope, swing a rope overhead or throw a rope and back up dragging the rope. The object is not to judge the ability of the exhibitor but the patience and willingness of the horse in allowing the rider to complete the task at hand.
 - c. Move live animals or be guided through live animals (must be animals that would normally be encountered on a ranch such as cattle, goats, or sheep).

- d. Carry object from one part of the arena to another. Only objects that might be reasonably carried on a trail may be used.
 - e. Pick up a slicker while mounted, put it on and take it off.
 - f. If measured distances are used, recommend walk over be set 30-36", trot overs 32-36", extended trot overs 36-42"
- 3. CATEGORY 3 - An obstacle that shows the ability of the horse to be moved laterally. A minimum of one of the following must be included in the pattern.
 - a. Opening, passing through and closing gate. A gate that will not endanger horse or exhibitor must be used. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, exhibitors must work the gate moving forward through it. Rope gates are not permitted.
 - b. Side pass (over obstacle is optional). May be elevated to 12" (30.48 cm) maximum.
 - c. Backing obstacle completed in a curve, around obstacles, or showing change of direction (not a straight line).
- 4. CATEGORY 4 - An obstacle that demonstrates the horse's ability to be handled from the ground. If a horse is shown in a bridle with romal reins, a neck rope (get down rope) will be allowed for the purposes of handling the horse on the ground in ranch trail. A minimum of one of the following must be included in the pattern.
 - a. Ground tie (hobbles are allowed).
 - b. Mount and dismount. May remount with a mounting block, which should be provided.
 - c. Work a gate while on foot.
 - d. Load into a trailer.
 - e. Pick up feet.
 - f. Lead at a walk or trot.
- 5. Suggested obstacles to complete the course can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any additional obstacles from the required categories above.
 - b. Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.
 - c. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.
 - d. Backing obstacle (straight line), can include backing off a bridge.
 - e. Objects representing live animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting but shall not be used in attempt to spook a horse.
- G. PROHIBITED OBSTACLES: Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner, painted poles, rope gates, stuffed animals.
- H. GREEN RANCH TRAIL

1. The purpose of green ranch trail is to allow a horse to compete on an entry level field with horses of the same level of experience. The green ranch trail is a steppingstone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.
 2. Horses, regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by ApHC equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under ApHC equipment rules and that also complies with ranch class apparel and equipment rules.
 3. The course should be designed for the entry-level horse. Ample space should be used to execute the course.
 4. With the exception of eligibility and equipment requirements, the same rules apply in green ranch trail as apply in ranch trail.
 5. Horses eligible to compete:
 - a. See Rule 607.O for eligibility. Open division Ranch Trail Classes include AA, JR, SR, Green.
 6. Green ranch trail points are not eligible for Breeder's Trust payout, year-end or lifetime awards.
- I. WALK-TROT RANCH TRAIL
1. Except as noted below, general ranch trail rules apply (except that the exhibitors will not be asked to lope but may be asked to extend the trot).
 2. **No drag shall be permitted.**
 3. If the horse breaks into a lope for more than three consecutive strides, it shall be disqualified.
 4. See NON-PRO WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 901.E for rules regarding nonpro eligibility for non-pro walk-trot classes.
 5. See YOUTH WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 807 for rules regarding youth eligibility for youth walk-trot classes.

Heritage – 760

Leslie Foxvog – 3/4/2023 – Missed with transition from Ray to Jordan

760. Heritage

A. To be judged on appropriateness of trappings and equipment, attire of exhibitor, markings and colorful qualities of the horse—the overall picture including the exhibitor's verbal description is to be considered and is limited to no more than ~~90~~ 60 seconds. The trappings, equipment and attire of exhibitor should be appropriate to the time era of their description.

1. Show management may, in an effort to showcase the class to the audience, allow exhibitors to turn in a written description, limited to 200 words, describing the outfit, era and attire displayed. Use of the word or phrasing “authentic” is discouraged as this cannot be verified due to the limited time frame of the class. The description is to be of the trappings, equipment, attire, and markings – not a story.
 - a. **The exhibitor may not speak to the judges during the time period that the description is being read. Judges shall move on from the exhibitor at the end of 60 seconds without delay.**

Rationale: The current rule A indicates, and exhibitors verbal description is to be considered and is limited to no more than 90 seconds. Yet at the National and World Show, the premium cites that the exhibitors verbal description is limited to 60 seconds. I request/suggest to make this consistent across the board and hold a finite period of time both regionally and for ApHC sponsored events. Additionally, since the verbal presentation is limited by rule A, exhibitors should not speak to the judges during the time a written description is read by the announcer either.

Add:

F. Faults to be scored according to severity:

1. Breaking gait
2. Excessive speed at any gait
3. Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum.
4. Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for.
5. If the horse breaks into a lope/canter for more than three consecutive strides, it shall ~~be severely penalized~~ or disqualified.
- ~~6. Any part of the costume is dropped or falls off.~~

New Rule:

Kathryn Erickson – 8/30/2025

Placement could be either section **500 – Rules for Judges** or 714 – General Performance Rules, or both.

#xxx – All rail classes, including but not limited to, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Ranch Rail, Saddle Seat Pleasure, Pleasure Driving, and Heritage, must be judged from inside the arena.

Rationale: Recently, and more frequently, some judges are judging rail classes from the stands or outside the arena. Rail classes are evaluated/judges on the correctness and quality of movement. It is impossible to effectively evaluate the leg movement, foot fall, and cadence of these classes from outside the arena, particularly when there are solid walls. To effectively evaluate the entire performance of rail horses, the judges should be inside the arena.

ROPING GENERAL RULES 745 G (pg 230)

G. A barrier (physical or electronic) must be used in all roping events. If no barrier is available, marker cones must be placed 10 feet from the box and the horse shall not leave the box until the cow's nose has passed the markers. At ApHC sponsored shows, a barrier is required.

STEER DAUBING 743 C (pg.229)

C. The horse and exhibitor must start behind a barrier; if the horse breaks the barrier there is an automatic ten-second penalty. If no mechanical barrier is available, marker cones must be placed 10 feet from the box and the horse shall not leave the box until the cow's nose has passed the markers. At ApHC sponsored shows, a barrier is required.