



# OKLAHOMA HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION



## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Please note that more detailed information can be found from supported organizations such as: American Paint Horse Assoc., American Quarter Horse Assoc., Pinto Horse Assoc., Appaloosa Horse Assoc., and NSBA.

OKHSA keeps safety its #1 priority and while participating in an OKHSA sanctioned show any exhibitor may be asked to leave the arena/class for any unsafe behavior deemed necessary by show staff.

- HALTER

- Evaluates conformation of the Horse. Halter classes are divided by age and sex. Horses are shown with a leather halter and are traveled before judges so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling. Of these, balance is the most important.

- WEANLING/YEARLING LOUNGE LINE

- The objective of the yearling longeline class is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners, expression, attitude and conformation to become competitive under saddle, and to reward these qualities. Yearlings are not expected to demonstrate the behavior or quality of a finished show horse. In this class, each horse is set up individually in front of the judge(s) to be inspected for conformation, and then at a signal from the judge, trotted off around a cone. Horses showing evidence of lameness are dismissed. The horses may all be kept in the arena or may wait outside to be ready to start the longeline portion. A lead shank can be used for the conformation inspection, and then must be changed to a longeline. For the horse includes a halter only, plain or show-type. A longeline no longer than 30 feet is snapped to the halter, hanging free from the halter without touching any part of the horse (i.e. no chains over or under the jaw). A longe whip may be used, but a disqualification will occur if the exhibitor strikes the horse with the whip. (This does not mean that an exhibitor cannot subtly use the whip away from the horse to encourage movement.) The exhibitor's attire must be conventional western attire, unless the horse is being shown as a hunter under saddle prospect, in which case English attire should be worn.

- SHOWMANSHIP

- It is designed to judge the showmanship skills of the exhibitors. Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse, and expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse. Each exhibitor is required to perform a pattern designed by the judge with emphasis on preciseness of pattern and degree of confidence exhibited by the showman. **Make consistent decisions.** The pattern usually doesn't tell you whether you need to be 2 feet or 5 feet off a cone. You must figure that out for yourself, and then stick to that decision.

- HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

- A preliminary class for English riding disciplines in which judges evaluate a hunter-type Horse on the flat, at a walk, trot and canter and extended gates both directions. Emphasis is placed on smoothness of gait, free-flowing stride and willingness to perform. Exhibitors must wear traditional English attire.

- HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

- Tests an amateur or youth's ability to ride – not the performance of the horse. As in horsemanship, contestants work a predetermined pattern consisting of maneuvers such as changing gaits; travel in a figure-8 pattern; backing up as well as posting on correct diagonal and counter-cantering. Top riders return to be judged as they travel the perimeter of the arena performing gait changes at the judge's discretion. Emphasis is placed on ability to sit correctly, hold the correct riding posture, and control the horse on a precise pattern.

- **WESTERN PLEASURE**

- Contestants compete simultaneously, traveling the perimeter of the arena, and at the discretion of the judge, are asked to walk, jog, lope as well as extend all gates and reverse the direction of the horse. Horses are evaluated on quality of movement while staying quiet and calm, traveling on a loose rein.

- **HORSEMANSHIP**

- Designed to test the horsemanship abilities of youth and amateur riders as well as Open using western tack. Riders first follow a prescribed pattern of maneuvers at a walk, trot or lope and extended gates, sometime with or without dropped irons. Judging focuses on the rider's body position, seat in the saddle and ability to control the horse.

- **REINING**

- Judges the horse on movements, mastery of a prescribed maneuver and attitude as he is guided through one of 15 AQHA patterns. The horse is required to perform a number of stops, spins, rollbacks, lead changes and circles at a lope. The horse should be willing to be guided with little or no resistance.

- **TRAIL**

- The trail class tests the maneuverability of the Horse through an obstacle course. Obstacles include one in which the rider will open, pass through, and close a gate, jogging cones, serpentines, and elevated logs. Scoring is based on the horse's willingness, ease, and grace in negotiating the course. Two mandatory obstacles are riding over at least four logs or poles and one backing obstacle.

## **RANCH CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

- **RANCH HALTER**

- Evaluates conformation of the Horse. Halter classes are divided by age and sex. Horses are shown with a leather halter and are traveled before judges so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling. Of these, balance is the most important.

- **RANCH PLEASURE**

- The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog, and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction.

- **RANCH COMMAND**

- Disciplined Rail is an advanced ranch pleasure class which tests the skills of both horse and rider, as they execute specific gaits, transitions and movements as requested by the judge. In this class, competitors are asked to do things other than just go around the rail- you may be asked to side pass, hand gallop, pivot, back up, roll back, extend trot, counter canter (lope), ride 10 ft. of the rail, drop your irons, post the extended trot, sit the trot etc.- The class is judged on performance and manners. There are maneuvers the judge is allowed to call for under his/her discretion and safety will be the #1 thing and any rider may be excused for being unsafe.

- **RANCH RIDING**

- The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse. A horse that shows capability of being a good hand on a working ranch. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction. The optional maneuvers are sidepass; turns of 360 degrees or more; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over poles or other reasonable maneuvers a ranch horse could perform. Scoring is on a 0-100-point scale with 70 denoting an average performance.

- **RANCH TRAIL**

- This class, modeled on the Versatility Ranch Horse ranch trail class, tests the ability of an American Quarter Horse to negotiate obstacles that might commonly be found on ranches. Maneuvers include riding over obstacles, opening and closing hinged gates, riding across bridges, backing, sidepasses, roping objects or simply swinging a rope at a standstill and dragging objects. If one does not feel safe performing any maneuver, the exhibitor may ride up to the maneuver halt and move or simply bypass the maneuver and head to the next.

- **IN HAND TRAIL 2 & UNDER**

- This class is judged on the performance of the horse over and through obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the handler and attitude. Contestants will travel, leading the horse on a halter/lead over or through trail obstacles in a pattern format, to be chosen by the judge and posted minimum of one hour prior to the beginning of the class. The course will consist of any obstacles which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style, expression and a degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed. Special credit is given to a horse picking its way through an obstacle that warrants it and willingly responding to a handler' cues on other obstacles. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles or for blatant disobedience. They will also be penalized for failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait, if designated, failure to complete obstacles, failure to follow correct line of travel within or between obstacles or for performing obstacles incorrectly or other than specified order or no attempt to perform an obstacle.