



March 23, 2021

Mr. David Mount, Executive Director  
American Saddlebred Horse Association  
4083 Iron Works Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Sent via email: [d.mount@asha.net](mailto:d.mount@asha.net)

Dear Mr. Mount:

Thank you for submitting your request for a Presidential Modification to the application of SB Chapter 22. A Presidential Modification is granted in cases of extraordinary, special circumstances. When measured against that criterion, it has been determined that your request does meet the standard for a Presidential Modification and therefore is approved.

As a result, a Ranch Division will be added to the Saddlebred Rules as outlined in the following document for the 2021 competition year.

Please feel free to contact the Federation office if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. X. O'Mara  
President

cc: William J. Moroney, Chief Executive Officer  
Emily McSweeney, National Breeds & Disciplines Program Coordinator  
Terri Dolan, Director of National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines Sport

Attachment – Subchapter SB-22 Ranch Riding



**SUBCHAPTER SB-22 RANCH RIDING**

***SB206 Eligibility***

***SB207 Class Requirements***

***SB208 Apparel and Equipment***

***SB209 Gaits***

***SB210 Ranch Riding Penalties***

**SUBCHAPTER SB-22 RANCH RIDING**

***SB206 Eligibility***

***Please refer to WS138 for eligibility requirements for American Saddlebred Ranch Riding Classes.***

***1.Exception: For horses three years of age and older, classes can be held for Open, Amateur, and Youth riders as entries warrant and at the discretion of competition management.***

***SB207 Class Requirements***

***Please refer to WS139 for American Saddlebred Ranch Riding Class Requirements***

***SB208 Apparel and Equipment***

***Please refer to WS140 for American Saddlebred Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment***

***SB209 Gaits***

***Please refer to WS141 for American Saddlebred Ranch Riding Gaits***

***SB210 Ranch Riding Penalties***

***Please refer to WS142 for American Saddlebred Ranch Riding Penalties***

***1.Exception: Hoof black is discouraged but will not be penalized.***

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-23 RANCH RAIL PLEASURE**

### **SB211 General**

### **SB212 Eligibility**

### **SB213 Gaits**

### **SB214 Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties**

### **SB215 Ranch Class Apparel and Equipment**

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-23 RANCH RAIL PLEASURE**

### **SB211 General**

*The ranch rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well- broke, quiet and willing to perform for the rider. The horse should be ridden with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be quiet in the bridle and yield to contact from the rein. The ideal ranch horse should carry his/her head in a natural position comfortable for the individual at each gait. In all gaits, movements of the ranch rail pleasure horse should demonstrate a horse needing to cover long distances softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward working speed while under control by the rider. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary consideration. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized.*

### **SB212 Eligibility**

*1. For horses three years of age and older, offered as a junior, senior, or all age open division class, and all age class for amateur, and youth.*

### **SB 213 Gaits**

*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 natural head carriage with a bright, attentive, expression.*

*2. Trot - The trot is a natural two- beat gait demonstrating more forward movement than the Western pleasure jog.*

*3. Extended Trot - The extended trot demonstrates 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.*

*4. Lope - The lope is a three- beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a 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.*

*6. 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. Cues being applied discretely and a horse responding correctly should result in credit- earning.*

*7. A horse in Ranch Rail should be a willing, compliant partner with its rider but should never seem intimidated while performing any of the gaits or maneuvers.*

### **SB214 Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties**

**Minor Penalties are as follows:**

*1. Too slow at any gait.*

*2. Over- bridled/ behind the bit.*

*3. Break of gait.*

*4. Wrong lead*

**Major Penalties are as follows:**

*5. Blatant disobedience*

*6. Kick out, buck, rear*

*7. Major disobedience or schooling by rider*

*8. Failure to flat walk or halt.*

### **SB 215 Ranch Class Apparel and Equipment**

- 1. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable.**
- 2. Working tack is encouraged.**
- 3. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit.**
- 4. Silver headstalls and saddles are discouraged.**
- 5. Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.**
- 6. No braiding or banding of manes, no switches or tail extensions.**
- 7. Trimming of bridle path, fetlocks, or whiskers is allowed. A horse left in a natural state is not to be penalized.**
- 8. Split or rommel reins are permitted.**
- 9. Riders must wear long sleeved, collared shirt, cowboy hat or helmet and boots.-Chaps or chinks are acceptable. Scarves or wild rags are allowed.**
- 10. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown two- handed in a snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. For split reins, rider may place index finger between the reins. Rommel reins shall be held with fingers around the reins, no fingers between the reins. Posting or standing at the extended trot is acceptable. Holding the saddle horn at any extended gait is permitted.**
- 11. The class must enter the ring at the trot. Class shall work both ways of the ring at all requested gaits. The class will be required to work at least one direction at one extended gait (trot or lope) and may be asked to extend gaits in both directions. Horses may be asked to halt as a maneuver during the rail portion of the class but it is not required. Horses may reverse to or away from the rail. Horses are required to back either on the rail or when in line up.**

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-24 RANCH TRAIL**

### **SB216 General**

### **SB217 Mandatory Obstacles and Maneuvers**

### **SB 218 Optional Obstacles**

### **SB219 Apparel and Equipment**

### **SB220 Credits and Penalties**

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-24 RANCH TRAIL SECTION**

### **SB 216 General**

**1. 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 correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural appearance from head to tail in all maneuvers.**

**2. The ranch trail course will include no less than six and no more than 10 obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. Walk can be part of the obstacle score or be scored while approaching the obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific in the pattern. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.**

**3. When setting courses, management will be mindful not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle overly difficult. All courses and obstacles should be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee will have the option of setting up the course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is encouraged wherever available.**

**4. The judge or judges must walk the course and should alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe or unnecessarily difficult.**

**5. Prohibited obstacles: Tarps, water obstacles with slick surface, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rails elevated in a manner that permits the obstacle to roll in a dangerous manner.**

### **SB217 Mandatory Obstacles and Maneuvers**

**1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (wooden rails). Walk, trot, or lope may be used.**

**2. Walk-overs. No more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high and spacing of 28- 32 inches.**

**3. Trot-overs. Trot over no more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high. The space between the rails should be 38-42 inches.**

**4. Lope overs: Lope over no more than 5 rails per obstacle, no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6-7 feet.**

**5. Opening, passing through and closing a gate. A solid gate is suggested when available.**

**6. Ride over a wooden bridge. Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long.**

**7. Backing obstacle: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 36 inches. If elevated, spacing should be wider than the minimum. Suggested obstacles: Back through or around 3 markers, back an "L" "V" or "U" or back an elevated chute (no more than 24 inches high)**

**8. Side pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length. Raised side-pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.**

### **SB218 Optional Obstacles**

**1. Optional obstacles may be used provided the items can be found in everyday ranch work.**

**2. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:**

- a. A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 12 inches and not more than 18 inches.**
- b. Carry object from one part of the arena to another.**
- c. Drag an object. Object being dragged should be of a reasonable size and weight to challenge the horse but not so heavy as to not be manageable by all riders. Dally is required. Dally is defined as at least half a wrap around the saddle horn.**
- d. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.**
- e. Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head.**
- f. Put on or pick up a slicker or coat.**
- g. Walk through a water obstacle**
- h. Lead horse through a gate.**

- i. *Pick up horse's feet.*
- j. *Ground tie.*

**3. The trail course should be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for the riders are helpful and encouraged. If mounting/dismounting is required in the pattern, a safe mounting step is provided. Use of a ground tie maneuver in a pattern is only to be used if there is an appropriate arena enclosure. Use of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) is allowed but only where there is appropriate livestock containment equipment. Riders will not be penalized for touching/holding the saddle horn during extended gaits (extended trot, extended lope) or while working obstacles where rider safety is a concern.**

#### **SB219 Apparel and Equipment**

**1. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver headstalls and saddles are discouraged.**

- a. *Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.*
- b. *No braiding or banding of manes, no switches or tail extensions.*
- c. *Trimming of bridle path, fetlocks, or whiskers is permitted. A horse left in a natural state is not to be penalized.*
- d. *Split or rommel reins are permitted.*
- e. *Riders must wear long sleeved, collared shirt, cowboy hat or helmet and boots. Chaps or chinks are permitted. Scarves or wild rags are permitted.*

#### **SB220 Credits and Penalties**

**1. All entries will be judged upon entering the arena and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle in the pattern; however, this will result in being "off pattern" (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern entirely. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. 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. 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.**

**2. Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles 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 rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Penalties are assessed as follows:**

- a. **1 point penalties:** *Out of frame (head tossing or resistance to the bridle); Hit or stepping on a log, cone, marker or any component of an obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single- stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping or failing to step into required space; split log in lope- over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; moving one or two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting for balance.*
- b. **3 point penalties:** *Wrong lead or cross lead; break of gait at lope, except when correcting and incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides; moving 3 4 steps while mounting/dismounting or ground tie.*
- c. **5 point penalties:** *Spurring in front of cinch: blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/dismount or ground tie.*
- d. **Off-pattern (OP):** *Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience; failure to dally and remained dallied during the drag; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore); more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between rommel reins; failure to open and close gate. Exhibitors with an OP cannot place above other who complete the pattern correctly.*
- e. **Disqualification (DQ):** *Lameness, abuse, leaving working area.*

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-25 RANCHMANSHIP**

### **SB221 General**

### **SB222 Eligibility**

### **SB223 Apparel and Equipment**

### **SB224 Class Maneuvers**

### **SB225 Gaits**

### **SB226 Scoring**

### **SB227 Penalties**

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-25 RANCHMANSHIP**

### **SB221 General**

**1. The purpose of this class is to bring forth the versatility in both the ranch horse and exhibitor, while performing the designated pattern constructed using both Ranch Trail obstacles and Ranch Riding maneuvers. Obstacles and maneuvers will be judged to the standards written in Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding in each part of the patterns that pertains to these classes (See SB 210, SB 217-218).**

**2. Each horse will work individually performing the pattern designated by the judge. The judge may submit a pattern or select one of the four (4) suggested patterns offered in the rulebook as the designated pattern for the class. Horses will be scored on a basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average performance.**

**3. There will be no time limit.**

### **SB222 Eligibility**

**This class is open to all horses 3 years of age and older. Classes can be held for Open, Amateur, and Youth Riders as entries warrant and at the discretion of competition management.**

### **SB223 Apparel and Equipment**

**1. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver headstalls and saddles are discouraged.**

**a. Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.**

**b. No braiding or banding of manes, no switches or tail extensions.**

**c. Trimming of bridle path, fetlocks, or whiskers is permitted. A horse left in a natural state is not to be penalized.**

**d. Split or rommel reins are permitted.**

**e. Riders shall wear long sleeved, collared shirt, cowboy hat or helmet and boots. Chaps or chinks are permitted. Scarves or wild rags are allowed**

### **SB224 Class Maneuvers**

**Please see USEF Website for suggested patterns under applicable breed page.**

**1. Class maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s); or some combination of maneuvers to show the versatility of a ranch horse.**

**2. The judge may designate a pattern combining these maneuvers or may designate one of the suggested patterns offered on the USEF website as the pattern for this show. If the judge designates his own pattern, and does not use one of the suggested patterns, the pattern must include at least 6 maneuvers. If a judge uses one of his own patterns, it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.**

**3. The use of natural logs is encouraged.**

**4. Posting or standing in the stirrups at the extended trot is permitted.**

**5. Touching or holding the saddle horn is permitted at extended gaits or during obstacles where rider safety is a concern.**

### **SB225 Gaits**

**1. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.**

**2. A simple or flying lead change should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple lead change is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to five strides (before break of gait penalty applies). Flying lead changes should be simultaneous front to rear. All changes should be smooth and timely. Penalties will be incurred for halting or losing forward motion when changing leads.**

**3. This class will also be judged on quality of movement of the horse. 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 show 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 shall have a natural head carriage for that individual horse at each gait.*

#### **SB226 Scoring**

- 1. The Ranchmanship class will be scored in ½ point increments from –1½ to +1½ on the score sheets on the overall quality of the horse's movement. The judge will score on all gaits, maneuvers, and obstacles performed at the end of the pattern on overall average of each gait. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness. Posting or standing in the stirrups at extended trot is acceptable. Horn may be held at extended gaits or over obstacles where safety is a concern.**
- 2. Riders will be judged on ability and decision making in the show pen. A rider that puts their horse in the correct positions and making the horse's job easier should receive credit. Riders will also be scored in ½ point increments from –1½ to + 1½ at the end of the pattern for overall performance. No penalties will be given in the quality of movement section of the scoresheet.**

#### **SB227 Penalties**

**A rider shall be penalized should the following occur:**

- 1. One (1) point penalties:**
  - a. Too slow/per gait**
  - b. Over- Bridled**
  - c. Out of Frame**
  - d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less**
- 2. Three (3) point penalties:**
  - a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides**
  - b. Break of gait at lope;**
  - c. wrong lead or cross lead**
  - d. Excessive draped reins**
  - e. Severe disturbance of any obstacle**
- 3. Five (5) point penalties:**
  - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)**
  - b. For each refusal**
- 4. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers:**
  - a. Eliminates maneuver**
  - b. Incomplete maneuver**
- 5. Zero (0) score:**
  - a. Illegal equipment**
  - b. Willful abuse**
  - c. Major disobedience or schooling**
- 6. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score.**
- 7. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.**