
Special Needs Division

General rules as stated in the Fair Book apply to this division. The information in the horse show supplement also applies. Below are definitions of each of the classes in this division. Classes offered are Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Pole Bending and Barrel Racing and will be counted for points. All classes will be offered at the walk only.

Although riders will be assisted, they are encouraged to do as much as they can to complete the class requirements. They will be judged on their efforts. At the time the exhibitor's class entry form is filled out an additional form – SUPPLEMENTAL – RIDER ACCOMMODATIONS – SPECIAL NEEDS will also be completed and turned in with the entry and required ownership documentation.

The following **RIDER'S POINTS** have equal consideration in judging all the classes:

- ✓ Rider's balance
- ✓ Rider's seat
- ✓ Use of aids
- ✓ Ability to follow directions
- ✓ Overall effort of rider
- ✓ Ring etiquette and safety
- ✓ Sportsmanlike conduct
- ✓ Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the manner used in obtaining them.

Exhibitors are allowed to ride with one or two hands at any time during their class and allowed to hold the saddle with either hand if necessary without penalty.

It is understood that riders in this division may have one or more people on foot to assist as a horse handler, side walker or assistant to keep rider on task if short term memory is affected. The assistant will do all they can to encourage the exhibitor's highest level of ability to work the horse.

Safety is paramount. If person in arena with the exhibitor feels an unsafe condition is occurring he/she is expected to assume control of the horse until it is calm and can continue showing.

Western Horsemanship

The exhibitor will perform a designated pattern as designed by the judge.

In addition to Rider's Points exhibitor will be judged on correctness of pattern and rein contact – looking for reasonably loose rein or light contact.

Consideration will be given to the horse as to:

- Suitability to rider
- Ease of handling
- The ability to stand quietly

Failure to execute the pattern as drawn will not disqualify the exhibitor but will result in penalties in scoring.

AT JUDGE'S DISCRETION the exhibitors may be asked to work as a group on the rail.

Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the manner used in obtaining them.

Western Pleasure – This class is ridden as a group – all exhibitors are in the arena at the same time. The exhibitor will show the horse at a walk both directions in the arena. The judge may call for reverse, back up, halt/stop. Horses will be lined up at completion of the class to await results.

In addition to Rider's Points the horse will be judged on:

Suitability to rider

Ease of handling

Condition of animal

Rein contact – looking for reasonably loose rein or light contact

Timeliness and smoothness of transitions – stop to walk, walk to stop, stop to back up

The ability to stand quietly

Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the manner used in obtaining them.

Trail – Exhibitors will perform individually in this class.

Riders are to take the horse over/through obstacles as designated. How the horse navigates the obstacles will be considered in addition to Riders Points but are not to be considered more important than the manner used in obtaining them.

Failure to navigate an obstacle or working the obstacle other than as drawn will not result in disqualification but will result in a zero score for that obstacle.

If a horse is refusing to navigate an obstacle, after reasonable try, the judge may ask the exhibitor to move to the next one.

Timed Events

The timed events are performed at the walk. Any horse breaking into a trot will be penalized with five (5) seconds added to their total time for each break in gait. If the exhibitor has a horse handler assisting and the handler causes the horse to speed up, the exhibitor will be penalized with time added (5 seconds) for each infraction. Although this is a timed event, it is important that the **rider** try to the best of his/her ability.

Timed event equipment exemptions apply to these timed events also.

If an exhibitor fails to perform the pattern correctly or has to back the horse in order to complete the course, he/she will receive a zero score and will not be considered for a ribbon.

The exhibitor may use two hands on the reins without penalty.

The classes offered in the timed events section are:

Pole Bending

Barrel Racing