

Horse Evaluation



Purpose

The purpose of the Tennessee FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event is to:

- *Promote the study of and interest in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management and production through the agricultural education curriculum.*
- *Encourage experiential learning through use of practical skills, critical thinking and applied knowledge.*
- *Provide recognition for those who have demonstrated skills and competencies as a result of instruction in equine science.*

Objectives

By incorporating horse evaluation instruction in the agricultural education program, teachers can instill leadership and motivate learning in the classroom through development of student skills in cooperative learning, observation, analysis, critical thinking and communication.

Through participation in the national event, participants will be able to

- Develop and exercise competitive spirit in a team atmosphere.
- Create a foundation for career choices by building an awareness of opportunities within the equine industry.
- Advance knowledge in equine science, selection, care and well-being, management and production of horses.
- Evaluate, make decisions and orally justify decisions on conformation traits and performance of horses.

Event Rules

- Each team will be comprised of four members. All scores will be used to determine the total team score.
- FFA Official Dress is required at the state event.
- All attire of riders and handlers and all tack is to be considered legal in the selection classes.
- All halter horses will be judged as sound, and all performance classes will be judged as they go regarding soundness.
- AQHA novice rules will be used in Hunter Under Saddle, Ranch Pleasure and Western Pleasure classes in reference to head set and head carriage.
- Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

Event Format

Materials each participant needs to provide:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils for placing classes.
- No pre-printed materials are allowed during the event.
- Clean clipboard

Tennessee FFA will provide:

- Scantron sheet(s) needed for the event which will be provided by Tennessee FFA.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Identification class (50 points)

Participants will identify breeds and/or colors and markings of horses, tack and equipment as well as leg deviations (i.e., toed out, toed in, sickle hocked etc.,) items. Each problem will be worth two points each with 25 items total.

Selection classes (400 points)

There will be a total of eight classes evaluated, consisting of halter and performance classes. There will be four classes of reasons, two reasons classes in each area. Classes will be approximately 12 to 15 minutes in length. All classes will be 50 points.

Halter classes will be evaluated. Halter classes may be represented by the following breeds and types: Quarter Horse, Conformation Hunter, Appaloosa, Arabian, Paint, American Saddlebred and Morgan. All halter classes will be evaluated as sound.

Performance classes will be evaluated. Performance classes may include: Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure, Ranch Riding, Western Riding, Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat), Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), Trail and Hunter Hack. Performance classes will be evaluated as presented (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). Patterns and scoresheets will be provided to the teams prior to the start of the event for all classes requiring patterns.

Oral Reasons (200 points)

Performance reasons will be selected from Western Pleasure, Ranch Riding, Western Riding, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Reining, English Pleasure (Saddle Seat) Hunter Under Saddle (Hunt Seat), Trail and Hunter Hack. (50 points each)

Halter oral reasons classes selected from the halter classes listed above (50 points each).

Three sets of oral reasons will be given during the contest with at least one set being halter and at least one set being a performance class. The third remaining class can come from either halter or performance at the discretion of the host facility.

Note: A maximum of 20pts will be awarded if participants use notes during oral reasons presentations.

Scoring

The event is organized into the following parts, classes and point values:

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Identification class	50	200
Halter/Performance classes – 6 total classes	300	1200
Halter/Performance Reasons – 3 sets	150	600
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE	500	2,000

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken in the following order:

Individual:

1. Oral reasons total.
2. Performance classes total.
3. Halter classes total.

Team:

1. Team oral reasons total.
2. Team performance classes total.
3. Team halter classes total.

References

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- National FFA — CDE Questions and Answers, [FFA.org](https://www.ffa.org)
- Performance Classes rules — These are updated from the current [AQHA Rulebook](#). *Please reference the AQHA Rulebook directly for the latest changes to their rules.*
- AQHA Forms and Resources, <https://www.aqha.com/forms-and-resources>.
- Score sheets
 - Pattern Classes (Horsemanship, Showmanship & Hunt Seat Equitation)
 - Trail
 - Ranch Riding
 - Reining
 - Western Riding
- Patterns
 - Ranch riding
 - Reining
 - Western riding
- American Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo Texas – Video References, <https://www.aqha.com/-/educational-judging-videos>
- Heird, James C. and The American Quarter Horse Association, Competitive Horse Judging. First Edition. The American Quarter Horse Association, 1990. <https://equinehusbandry.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/AQHA-Competitive-Horse-Judging.pdf?fwd=no>
- American Paint Horse Association, Fort Worth Texas-Judging References, <https://www.horseiq.com/>
- CEV Videos on horse judging, <https://store.icevonline.com/>
- Evans, J. Warren, Borton, Anthony, Hintz, Harold F., and Van Vleck, L. Dale, The HORSE, current edition. W. H. Freeman and Company, 41 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010 ISBN 0-7167-1811-1
- The American Youth Horse Council, <http://ayhc.com>, then select Resources
- Equine Science Curriculum – a special project from the National Council for Agricultural Education, <https://www.ffa.org/thecouncil/resources>
- Tack Identification: Horses and Tack, Howard Ensminger, <http://teskeys.com>, then select Tack
- Oklahoma State University horse breed website, <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
- University of Kentucky Agripedia website, search horse judging, <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/>
- Texas A&M Agrilifelearn Online Horse Judging Course, <https://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/equine/online-judging/>
- Black Hawk Horse Judging Manual available for purchase, <http://bookstore-east.bhc.edu/MerchDetail?MerchID=1522504&CategoryName=horse%20judging%20manual&CatID=34342&Name=horse%20judging%20manual>
- National Horse Judging Team Coaches' Association offers DVD's, www.nhjtca.org
- Official Judging Guide from each of the various breed associations and audiovisuals

Resources – AQHA Performance Classes*

**These are updated from the current AQHA Rulebook. Please reference the [AQHA Rulebook](#) directly for the latest changes to their rules. Select Rulebook from the list then select the current year Rulebook.*

SHW416 RANCH RIDING

The purpose of 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. This class 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 the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

SHW416.1 For horses three years of age and older, offered as a junior, senior or all-age open division class, and as an all-age class for Level 1 (Novice) and higher, as an all-age class for amateur, (including Select) and youth.

SHW416.2 No horse may cross enter a western pleasure and ranch riding class at the same show regardless of division (youth, amateur, select or open).

SHW417 CLASS REQUIREMENTS

SHW417.1 Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers and be scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.

Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -½ poor, 0 correct, +½ good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

SHW417.2 One of the 15 approved patterns must be used.

SHW417.3 The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, (SHW334 Ranch Riding) with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

SHW417.4 No time limit.

SHW417.5 The use of natural logs is encouraged.

SHW417.6 Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

SHW417.3 Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over one or more poles, or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

SHW417.4 The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

SHW417.5 The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed, where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

SHW417.6 No time limit.

SHW417.7 Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

SHW418 RANCH RIDING APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT

SHW418.1 No hoof polish.

SHW418.2 No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.

SHW418.3 Trimming inside ears is discouraged.

SHW418.4 Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

SHW418.5 Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

SHW418.6 It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

SHW418.7 When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

SHW419 RANCH RIDING PENALTIES

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

SHW419.1 One-point penalties

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

SHW419.2 Three-point penalties

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides.
- Break of gait at lope except when correcting an incorrect lead.
- Wrong lead or out of lead.
- Draped reins (per maneuver)
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads.
- Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

SHW419.3 Five-point penalties

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

SHW419.4 Ten-point penalties

Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver.

SHW419.5 Off Pattern (OP) Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates or adds maneuver
- Incomplete maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience

- Use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)

SHW419.6 Zero score

- Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions.
- Willful abuse.

SHW419.7 No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

SHW419.8 No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

SHW480 REINING

Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse in the confines of a show arena. In reining competition, contestants are required to run one of several approved patterns. Each pattern includes small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, rollbacks over the hocks, a series of 360 degree spins done in place, and the exciting sliding stops that are the hallmark of the reining horse. 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. Any one of the 18 approved reining patterns may be used and is to be selected by the judge of the class and used by all contestants in the class. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena. Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored accordingly. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

SHW481 SCORING Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to Infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following bases, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 average, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

SHW482 The following will result in no score:

- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.
- Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains.
- Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains. When using a snaffle bit, an optional curb strap is acceptable; however, curb chains are not acceptable;
- Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;
- Use of whips or bats;
- Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;
- Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;

- Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor;
- Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins and mecates on bosals in classes where the use of two hands is allowed;
- Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to the rein hand is to be considered use of two hands a penalty score of zero will be applied. In addition, should the judge determine the free hand is being used to instill fear or praise, a penalty five will be applied, and a reduction in the maneuver score.

SHW482.1 The following will result in a score of zero:

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins;
- Use of two hands (exception in junior, snaffle bit, or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands;
- Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT;
- Failure to complete pattern as written;
- Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order or exceeding greater than one quarter of the circle out of order;
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to:
 - Backing more than two (2) strides;
 - Turning more than ninety (90) degrees;
 - On run in patterns, once beginning a lope, a complete stop prior to reaching the first marker. (Exception: a complete stop in the 1st quarter (1/4) of a circle after a lope departure is not to be considered an inclusion of maneuver; a two (2) point break of gait penalty will apply.)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion;
- Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;
- Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena;
- Overspins of more than 1/4 turn;
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider;
- When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line;

SHW483 Neither a no score nor a zero are eligible to place in a go round or class single go round, but a zero may advance in a multi-go event while a no score may not.

SHW484 The following will result in a reduction of five points:

- Spurring in front of cinch;
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
- Holding saddle with either hand;
- Blatant disobediences including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking;
- Horse dropping to its knees or hocks.

SHW485 The following will result in a reduction of two points:

- Break of gait;
- Freeze up in spins or rollbacks;
- On walk-in patterns, loping prior to reaching the center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure; On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to the first marker.
- On run-in patterns, failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker or break of gait prior to the first marker;
- If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.

SHW486 Starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows:

SHW486.1 Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to penalize by one point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will deduct one penalty point for each one quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse 1/2 point for a delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.

SHW486.2 Deduct 1/2 point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two strides. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena, deduct two points.

SHW486.3 Deduct 1/2 point for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn; deduct one point for over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. A horse can only be assessed one over or under spin penalty per maneuver.

SHW486.4 A 1/2-point penalty deduction will be given for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) from the side of the arena when approaching a stop and/or rollback.

SHW487 In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows: for 1/2 the turn or less, one point; for more than 1/2 turn, two points.

SHW487.1 In a pattern requiring a run-around, there will be a one half (1/2) point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 10 feet from either side of the center of the arena; for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion.

SHW487.2 A horse which severely stumbles, significantly detracting from the maneuver shall have the maneuver reduced by one half (1/2) point.

SHW488 Faults against the horse to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:

- Opening mouth excessively when wearing bit;
- Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head raising on stop;
- Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches — bouncing or sideways stop;
- Refusing to change leads;
- Anticipating signals;
- Stumbling;
- Backing sideways;
- Knocking over markers;

SHW489 A show may have up to three approved reining classes and no horse may be entered in both junior bit and hackamore/snaffle bit reining classes at the same show.

SHW489.1 If three reining classes are to be held at a show, they shall be the following:

SHW489.1.1 Senior reining shown with bit;

SHW489.1.2 Junior reining shown with bit;

SHW489.1.3 Hackamore/snaffle bit reining (five years old and younger, shown with hackamore or snaffle bit).

SHW489.2 If two reining classes are to be held at a show, they shall be the following:

SHW490.2.1 Senior reining shown with bit;

SHW490.2.2 Junior reining shown with either bit, hackamore or snaffle bit at the discretion of the exhibitor.

SHW489.3 If only one reining class is to be held at a show, it shall be reining — all ages — horses six years old and older must be shown in bit; horses five years old and younger may be shown in either bit, hackamore or snaffle bit at the discretion of the exhibitor.

SHW461 TRAIL

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, positive expression, and minimal visible or audible cueing, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

SHW462 The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.

SHW463 Scoring Scoring will be on the basis of zero to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle 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. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

SHW464. Penalties. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

SHW464.1 One-half point.

- Each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant or any component of an obstacle.

SHW464.2 One point

- Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.
- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Split pole in lope-over.
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified.

SHW464.3 Three points

- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e., back through, 360-degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot.

SHW464.4 Five points

- Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
- First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e., back through, 360-degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
- Holding saddle with either hand.

SHW464.5 Disqualified 0 – Score

- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT, or to straighten reins when stopped.
- Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order;
- No attempt to perform an obstacle;
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern;
- Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head;

- Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction;
- Working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn;
- Riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area;
- Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing;
- Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated;
- Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles;
- Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course;
- Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate (except for Level 1 youth, Level 1 amateur, or rookie classes where they place below all who complete course correctly)

SHW464.6 Faults scored according to severity which occur on the line of travel between obstacles include:

- Head carried too high;
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.
- Opening mouth excessively.

SHW464.7 Faults which will be cause for disqualification that occur on the line of travel between obstacles, except in rookie/ Level 1 amateur or rookie/Level 1 youth classes which shall be faults scored according to severity, include (1) head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers consistently); (2) over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

SHW465 Trail Course Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. If difficult courses are set, rookie/Level 1 trail should be less difficult. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog [at least 30 feet (9 meters)] and lope [at least 50 feet (15 meters)] for the judges to evaluate these gaits. For trail warm-up, obstacles must be set according to class rules per SHW466.

SHW465.1 If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire obstacle.

SHW465.2 The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.

SHW465.3 At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others selected from the list of optional obstacles.

SHW466. Mandatory trail course obstacles include the following:

SHW466.1 Opening, passing through and closing gate. (Losing control of gate is to be penalized.) Use a gate which will not endanger horse or rider. If the gate has a metal, plastic or wooden support bar under the opening, contestants must work the gate moving forward through it.

SHW466.2 Ride over at least four logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. The space between the logs is to be measured, and the path the horse is to take should be the measuring point. Trotovers and lopeovers cannot be elevated in rookie/Level I classes. All elevated elements must be placed in a cup, notched block or otherwise secured so they cannot roll. The height should be measured from the ground to the top of the element. Spacing for walkovers, trotovers and lopeovers should be as follows or increments thereof.

SHW466.2.1 The spacing for walkovers shall be 20 to 24 inches (50–60 cm) and may be elevated to 12 inches (30 cm). Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22 inches (55 cm) apart.

SHW466.2.2 The spacing for trotovers shall be 3 feet to 3 feet 3 inches (90–100 cm) and may be elevated to 8 inches (20 cm).

SHW466.2.3 The spacing for lopeovers shall be 6 feet to 6 and 1/2 feet (1.8–2 meters) or increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8 inches (20 cm).

SHW466.3 Backing obstacle. Backing obstacles are to be spaced a minimum of 28 inches (70 cm). If elevated, 30 inches (75 cm) spacing is required. Entrants cannot be asked to back over a stationary object such as a wooden pole or metal bar.

SHW466.3.1 Back through and around at least three markers.

SHW466.3.2 Back through L, V, U, straight or similar-shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24 inches (60 cm).

SHW467 Optional trail course obstacles include but are not limited to:

SHW467.1 Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slickbottom boxes will be used. When a water hazard/box is used, it shall remain dry at all times in all divisions.

SHW467.2 Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6 feet (1.8 meters) for jog.

SHW467.3 Carry object from one part of arena to another. (Only objects which reasonably might be carried on a trail ride may be used.)

SHW467.4 Ride over wooden bridge. (Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches (90 cm) wide and at least 6 feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only.

SHW467.5 Put on and remove slicker.

SHW467.6 Remove and replace materials from mailbox.

SHW467.7 Side pass (may be elevated to 12 inches (30 cm) maximum).

SHW467.8 An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, laid in a square. Minimum width of the square should be 6 feet (1.8 m). Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.

SHW467.9 Any other safe and negotiable obstacle which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.

SHW467.10 A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.

SHW468

Unacceptable trail course obstacles include the following:

- Tires
- Animals
- Hides
- PVC pipe
- Dismounting
- Jumps
- Rocking or moving bridges
- Water box with floating or moving parts
- Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
- Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll
- Ground ties

SHW451 WESTERN RIDING

The horse is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes at the lope, response to the rider, manners and disposition. The horse should perform with reasonable speed, and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving. Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits (i.e., starting and finishing pattern with the same cadence), and the horse's ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously both hind and front at the center point between markers. In order to have balance, with quality lead changes, the horse's head and neck should be in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The horse should have a relaxed head carriage showing response to the rider's hands, with a moderate flexion at the poll. Horses may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. The horse should cross the log both at the jog and the lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride.

SHW452 The judge will select one of the fifteen (15) patterns to be performed. The judge is responsible for the pattern being correctly set. The six Level 1 western riding patterns may be used for rookie and Level 1 classes. On the pattern:

SHW452.1 The small circles represent pylon markers which are recommended. These should be separated by a uniform measured distance of not less than 30 feet (9 meters) nor more than 50 feet (15 meters) on the sides with 5 markers (see diagram). In pattern 1, the three markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers. It is recommended that markers be set a minimum of 15 feet (4 1/2 meters) from the fence and with 50 to 80 foot (15 to 24 meters) width in the pattern, as the arena permits.

SHW452.2 A solid log or pole should be used and be a minimum of 8 feet (2.5 meters) in length.

SHW452.3 The long serpentine line indicates the direction of travel and gaits at which the horse is to move. The shaded area represents the lead changing area between the markers. The dotted line (...) indicates walk, the dash line (- - -) jog, and the solid line (-) lope.

SHW452.4 A cone shall be placed along the wall or rail of the arena to designate where the exhibitor should initiate the walk. On western riding patterns 1, 3, 5 and Level 1 pattern 1, the start cone should be placed a minimum of 15 feet before the first pattern maker. On western riding patterns 2, 4 and Level 1 patterns 2 and 4, the start cone should be placed even with the first pattern marker. The on-deck exhibitor should not go to the startcone until the contestant on pattern has cleared the working area by the start-cone for the final time.

SHW453 Scoring Exhibitors will be scored on a basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following bases, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 average, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

SHW454 Penalties Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

SHW454.1 One-half point

- Tick or light touch of log.

SHW454.2 One point

- Hitting or rolling log
- Out of lead more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers
- Splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope
- Break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides
- Non-simultaneous lead change (including front to hind, hind to front, front or hind legs coming together during the change)

SHW454.3 Three points

- Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or not stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet (3 meters) of the designated area
- Simple change of leads
- Out of lead at or before the marker prior to the designated change area or out of lead at or after the marker after the designated change area
- Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead)
- In patterns 1 and 6 and Level 1 pattern 1 and 6 failure to start the lope within 30 feet (9 meters) after crossing the log at the jog
- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
- Break of gait at the lope.

SHW454.4 Five points

- Out of lead beyond the next designated change area (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering. Two consecutive failures to change would result in two five-point penalties).
- Blatant disobedience including kicking out, biting, bucking and rearing.
- Holding saddle with either hand.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

SHW454.5 Disqualified – 0 score

- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- Off course

- Knocking over markers
- Completely missing log
- Major refusal — stop and back more than two strides or four steps with front legs
- Major disobedience or schooling
- Failure to start lope prior to end cone in patterns 1 and 6 and Level 1 patterns 1 and 6
- Four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads (except for Level 1 and rookie classes).
- Failure to start lope beyond 30 feet of designated area in Patterns 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and Level 1 patterns 2, 4, 7, and 9.
- Overturn of more than 1/4 turn.

SHW454.6 Faults scored according to severity, which will be cause for disqualification, except in Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth classes, include:

- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

SHW454.7 The following characteristics are considered faults and should be judged accordingly in maneuver scores:

- Opening mouth excessively.
- Anticipating signals.
- Stumbling.
- Head carried too high.
- Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers).
- Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical.
- Excessive nosing out.

SHW454.8 Credits

- Changes of leads, hind and front simultaneously
- Change of lead near the center point of the lead change area
- Accurate and smooth pattern
- Even pace throughout
- Easy to guide and control with rein and leg
- Manners and disposition
- Conformation and fitness

