

## POA RANCH DIVISION

*The Ranch Division was approved by the POAC Board of Directors for a 3-year trial period in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Classes in this division include Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining and Ranch Conformation. See notes in italics below for additional information specific to the trial period.*

### A. General Ranch Division Rules

The purpose of Ranch Division classes is to demonstrate the ability of the POA to be a pleasure to ride while also being of use in completing tasks that might be carried out on a working ranch. The pony shall demonstrate the attitude, versatility, and movement of a working ranch horse riding beyond the confines of an arena. The POA should be well-trained, relaxed, responsive, soft and cadenced in all gaits and maneuvers, being willingly guided on light contact without displaying any resistance. Ponies should not be shown with a full drape of reins. The ideal ranch POA should have a natural ranch appearance from head to tail in each gait and maneuver.

1. Ranch Division classes are optional at all levels of shows, with the class being pointed in four divisions: 18 & Under Walk/Trot/Lope, 18 & Under Walk/Trot, 19 & Over Walk/Trot/Lope, and 19 & Over Walk/Trot. *[Ranch Riding is already a POAC-approved class and is nationally pointed for Ranch Riding 18 & U and 19 & Over toward National Year-End Awards and ROM. During the trial period, the other Ranch Riding classes will not count toward ROM or National Year-End Awards such as Top Ten. State clubs, however, may wish to have high point awards and other awards available for these Ranch classes.]*
2. Classes must be split as 18 & Under and 19 & Over at minimum, but additional age divisions may be added at the discretion of the Show Committee. Leadline Ranch classes are not permitted. Riders may not cross-enter in Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Lope classes at the same show.
3. Ponies must be 3 years and older to enter Ranch Division classes. A pony must have Tentative or Permanent registration with the POAC to receive national points.
4. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Division classes and Western Division classes.
5. Ranch classes may be run at a separate location and concurrently with other classes at a show. The Show Committee or judge may designate a qualified person over the age of 18 to judge these classes. Judges cards MUST be signed by the person judging the classes. When multiple shows are run concurrently, each show MUST have a separate judge.
  - a. If Ranch classes are held as a standalone show, Ranch Trail is the only class that may be run concurrently in a separate location, and all other classes must be held in the designated main arena.
6. The five Ranch Division classes (Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Ranch Conformation) may be held as a standalone IBC show, and will NOT have to meet the minimum class requirements in Rule 63.A, and no additional halter classes will be required. *[Show approval will be required for standalone Ranch shows in order to receive national points for Ranch Riding and to help the POAC gauge interest/participation in Ranch classes.]* It is highly recommended that judges at a standalone show have experience in Ranch classes or are carded judges.
7. While the pony is in motion, hands shall be clear of the pony and saddle, except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand.
8. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for Junior ponies showing in an accepted snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal, or when using a romal. (Also see Rule 111.F and I, and see Ranch Reining, H.4 below.) One finger may be placed between reins when using split reins. Changing of rein hand is not permitted, except when changing of rein hand is needed to work an obstacle in Ranch Trail.
9. For Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail and Ranch Reining, patterns must be posted at least one hour before the start of the class.

### B. Gaits/Maneuvers

1. **Walk.** The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait that is rhythmic and ground-covering. Ponies should display a level or slightly above-level topline exhibiting a bright, attentive expression.
2. **Trot.** The trot is a natural two-beat gait. The trot should be more forward moving than the western jog.
3. **Extended Trot.** Ponies should demonstrate an obvious lengthening of their stride and increase in pace. Ponies should have an above-level topline and bright, attentive expression.
4. **Lope.** The lope is a smooth, relaxed, three-beat gait with a natural, forward-moving stride.

5. **Extended Lope.** Ponies should display an obvious lengthening of stride and increase in pace while maintaining an above-level topline and bright, attentive expression. The extended lope is not a race.
6. **360 Turns.** Turns should be smooth and efficient.
7. **Back.** Ponies should back in a relaxed manner, soft in the bridle, not gaping at the mouth or bracing.
8. Riders may post the extended trot, stand in the stirrups with or without holding the saddle horn, or sit the gait. Standing at the extended lope is also acceptable.

### C. Ranch Division Tack and Attire

1. **Attire.** See Rule 112, Western Attire. Attire should be neat and clean. Working attire is strongly encouraged; however, show attire may be worn with no penalty.
2. **Tack.** See Rule 111, Western Tack. Working tack is strongly encouraged. Equipment with silver will not be counted over good working tack.
3. Hoof polish, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, and silver bridles and saddles are highly discouraged at state level shows and are NOT allowed at Regional and above level shows. Trimming inside the ears is discouraged at all levels. *[During the trial period, if Ranch classes are held at Regional and higher level shows, the requirements here in C.3 will not be enforced; however, hoof polish, braided/banded manes, tail extensions and silver tack are all highly discouraged.]*
4. It is permitted to trim the fetlocks, long facial hair and bridle path.
5. In Ranch Division classes (with the exception of Ranch Conformation), the use of shin and/or bell boots on the front legs and standard sliding or rundown boots on rear fetlocks is allowed, at the option of the exhibitor.

### D. Ranch Division Classes

Classes include the following, which shall be offered for 18 & Under and 19 & Over exhibitors:

1. Ranch Riding W/T/L
2. Ranch Riding W/T
3. Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T/L
4. Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T
5. Ranch Trail W/T/L
6. Ranch Trail W/T
7. Ranch Conformation - W/T/L Division
8. Ranch Conformation - W/T Division
9. Ranch Reining W/T/L only (W/T exhibitors may not enter Ranch Reining.)

### E. Ranch Riding

This is a pattern class that is judged on the pony's ability to work each part of the pattern correctly and efficiently with a free, forward motion. *[Ranch Riding is already a POAC-approved class. These new rules include additional information and scoring details.]*

#### 1. Class Requirements

- a. Each pony shall work individually, performing each maneuver. Exhibitors will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance.
- b. No time limit on the pattern.
- c. Ponies must display free-flowing, ground-covering gaits and should complete transitions with smoothness and responsiveness where designated in the pattern.

#### 2. Class Routine

- a. **Walk/Trot/Lope Division.** Exhibitors are required to complete the following maneuvers: walk, trot and lope in both directions; extended trot and extended lope in at least one direction; stop; and back.
  - (1) Walk/Trot/Lope exhibitors are required to include at least 13 maneuvers (10 required maneuvers listed here in Sec. 2.a, and 3 optional maneuvers from Sec. 2.c.).
- b. **Walk/Trot Division.** Exhibitors are required to complete the following maneuvers: walk and trot in both directions; extended trot in at least one direction; stop; and back.
  - (1) Walk/Trot exhibitors are required to include 8 maneuvers (7 required maneuvers included here in Sec. 2.b, and an optional maneuver as appropriate from Sec. 2.c.)
- c. **Optional maneuvers** may include turns of 360 degrees or more; walk, trot or lope over log(s); changes of lead (simple or flying); sidepass; or combination of maneuvers that would resemble activities completed by

a working ranch horse. The use of cattle is permitted, if indicated in the pattern. The judge holds final say in the optional maneuvers offered.

### 3. Patterns

- a. Approved Ranch Riding patterns are in the POAC Handbook or posted on the POAC website.
- b. Approved POAC patterns may be used; however, the judge is permitted to offer a different pattern that includes the requirements listed in Sec. 2 above.
- c. Maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- d. Placing a stop after an extended lope is not recommended.

### 4. Penalties

#### a. 1 point

- (1) Too slow, per gait, per maneuver.
- (2) Over-bridled.
- (3) Out of frame.
- (4) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less.
- (5) Split log at the lope.

#### b. 3 points

- (1) Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides.
- (2) Break of gait at lope.
- (3) Wrong lead or out of lead.
- (4) Draped reins.
- (5) Out of lead or cross-firing more than 2 strides when changing leads.
- (6) Trotting more than 3 strides when completing a simple lead change.
- (7) Severe disturbance of obstacle.

#### c. 5 points

- (1) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
- (2) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

#### d. 10 points

- (1) Unnatural ranch horse appearance (pony's tail is obvious and consistently held at an unnatural position throughout the entirety of pattern). One-time penalty. Example: A seemingly dead tail that merely dangles and does not show normal carriage or response.

#### e. Off Pattern. Placed below exhibitors performing all maneuvers.

- (1) Elimination of maneuver.
- (2) Incomplete maneuver.

#### f. Disqualifications

- (1) Illegal equipment.
- (2) Willful abuse.
- (3) Major disobedience or schooling.
- (4) Additional general disqualifications, see Rule 108.

#### g. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits of logs and over/under turns, but a deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

## F. Ranch Rail Pleasure

Ponies should display the versatility, attitude and cadence of a working ranch horse while also appearing to be a pleasure to ride. Ponies should have a natural head carriage and show at a forward, working speed, simulating the look of a ranch pony needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The ideal ranch pony must be responsive to its rider and complete smooth and timely transitions when prompted.

1. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Rail Pleasure and Western Pleasure.
2. Ponies moving at an extended trot are permitted to be collected to a trot before moving into the lope. Judges are aware additional cues may be needed when transitioning from the extended lope to extended trot. Ponies are permitted to collect to a trot and then into the extended trot to complete the transition from extended lope to extended trot. Ponies completing this transition in three strides calmly and obediently will be rewarded.
3. **Class Routine**
  - a. Walk/Trot/Lope exhibitors must work both directions at walk, trot and lope. Extended trot and extended lope are required for at least one direction.

- b. Walk/Trot exhibitors must work both directions at the walk and trot. Extended trot is required for at least one direction.
- 4. **Penalties.** Exhibitors will receive a penalty each time the following occur, based on the severity of the infraction:
  - a. Too slow, per gait.
  - b. Over-bridled, per direction.
  - c. Out of frame.
  - d. Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less / break of gait for 2 strides or more.
  - e. Break of gait at lope.
  - f. Wrong lead or out of lead.
  - g. Draped reins.
  - h. Out of lead or cross-cantering for more than 2 strides.
  - i. Trotting more than 3 strides when taking lead.
  - j. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, etc.).
  - k. Major disobedience or schooling.
  - l. Spurring in front of cinch.
  - m. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
  - n. Disqualifications. See Rule 108.

### G. Ranch Trail

The purpose of Ranch Trail is to demonstrate a pony's ability to effectively manage and navigate through a series of obstacles similar to those that may be encountered in everyday ranch work. The pony/rider team will be scored on their ability to work together in completing a correct and efficient pattern. The ideal Ranch Trail pony should exhibit a well-mannered attitude and be responsive to the rider as the pattern is completed.

- 1. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Trail and Trail.
- 2. **Class Requirements**
  - a. Each pony shall work individually. Exhibitors will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance.
  - b. No time limit on the pattern.
  - c. Ponies must not be required to work on the rail.
- 3. **Patterns.** The ideal Ranch Trail pony should display awareness and remain calm, attentive, and patient while performing each obstacle. Ponies demonstrating attentiveness to obstacles will receive credit in maneuver scores. Unnecessary delays throughout the pattern will result in a penalty. Ticks, hits or clips of obstacles throughout the pattern will result in a lower maneuver score.
  - a. **Walk/Trot/Lope Division.** Must have at least 6 obstacles and no more than 12 obstacles. Patterns must include a walk, trot and lope; it is strongly encouraged to include extended gaits as well.
  - b. **Walk/Trot Division.** Must have at least 6 obstacles and no more than 10 obstacles. Patterns must include a walk and trot; it is strongly encouraged to include an extended trot as well.
  - c. The walk may be included as part of the obstacle or scored with approaching obstacle. The trot must be at least 35' and be scored with approaching obstacle. The lope must be lead-specific, cover at least 50', and be scored with approaching obstacle.
  - d. When setting up patterns, individuals should be mindful to avoid obstacles that could be potentially harmful to exhibitors and their ponies and not creating obstacles that may trap or eliminate exhibitors because they are too difficult. An outdoor course is recommended if the terrain is deemed appropriate by the Show Committee.
  - e. Because courses can be lengthy, it is recommended that courses are designed to be completed in approximately 4 minutes or less.
  - f. The judge will walk through the course before the class begins and is responsible to remove or adjust any obstacles that may be deemed unsafe or unnecessary to the intent of the class. Any changes must be announced before the class and noted on the posted pattern.
  - g. In the event that a trail obstacle is deemed unsafe during the class, the obstacle will be removed and the score for the obstacle will be voided from all exhibitors' score cards.
  - h. If disrupted, the course shall be reset after each pony has finished the course.

- i. Each pattern must include 4 mandatory obstacles, with an obstacle from each category below. Exception: Walk/Trot patterns are not required to include an obstacle from Category 2, but must include an additional obstacle from one of the other categories. The course should be set up keeping in mind safety and the gait at which each obstacle must be navigated.

**(1) Category 1.** An obstacle that demonstrates a pony's ability to be maneuvered over or through an obstacle. Patterns must include at minimum one of the following obstacles:

**(a.)** Ride over at least 4 logs or poles. Items may be placed in a straight, zigzag, raised, curved, or combined formation and do not need to be measured, as objects on the trail are random. Show Management will consider the gait at which obstacle must be navigated to promote safety and forward movement. Lope-over logs/poles must be set at a minimum of 14' apart. Raised logs may be elevated up to 8". All elevated elements must be secured so they cannot roll.

**(b.)** Wooden bridge. Ride over wooden bridge (recommended minimum width is 3' wide and at least 6' long). Bridge shall be sturdy and safe. Bridges may be navigated at a walk or trot. Rocking bridges are permitted, if constructed in such a way that obstacle cannot slide or roll, and will be navigated at a walk only.

**(c.)** Serpentine obstacle. There is no specific measurement of spacing between obstacles, though Show Management should consider the gait at which obstacle will be navigated.

**(d.)** Water obstacle (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom boxes may be used. Obstacle will be navigated at a walk only.

**(e.)** Ride over or through brush, branches or other natural obstacles.

**(2) Category 2.** An obstacle that demonstrates a pony/rider team's ability to work with an object or interact with livestock. Walk/Trot patterns are not required to include an obstacle from this category. Walk/Trot/Lope patterns must include at minimum one of the following obstacles:

**(a.)** Drag an object. Ponies must demonstrate an ability to remain calm and in control throughout the entirety of obstacle, including preparation. Riders must dally rope around saddle horn (full dally or half dally). Rider and pony should not become tangled in the rope at any portion of the obstacle.

**(b.)** Handling of a rope. Riders may be asked to rope a steer head, throw a rope in front of the pony and recoil rope, swing a rope overhead, or throw a rope and back up while dragging the rope. Exhibitors will not be judged on their ability to handle a rope but on the pony's ability to calmly allow the rider to complete the task at hand. The Show Committee will supply a rope for exhibitors who do not have a rope.

**(c.)** Carry object from one end of the arena to another. Objects must simulate objects that may be carried on the ranch.

**(d.)** Pick up a slicker, put it on and take it off.

**(e.)** Move live animals, be guided through live animals or ride past live animals in an enclosure. Animals should be those that would be encountered on a ranch (e.g., cows, goats or sheep).

**(3) Category 3.** An obstacle that demonstrates a pony's ability to be navigated laterally. Patterns must include at minimum one of the following obstacles:

**(a.)** Working a gate. Opening, passing through and closing gate. Gate must be well-constructed and safe for rider and pony. The use of a rope gate is not permitted.

**(b.)** Sidepass. Sidepass obstacles may be elevated up to 12".

**(c.)** Backing obstacle. Obstacle must include a curve, around obstacles, or a change in direction. Backing straight will not count toward a required Category 3 obstacle.

**(4) Category 4.** An obstacle that demonstrates a pony's ability to be handled from the ground. If pony is shown in a bridle with romal reins, a neck rope (get-down rope) is permitted for the handling of the pony from the ground in Ranch Trail. Patterns must include at minimum one of the following obstacles:

**(a.)** Ground tie (hobbles are allowed).

**(b.)** Mount and dismount. The Show Committee must have a mounting block in the arena for exhibitors who need to use a mounting block.

**(c.)** Work a gate while on foot.

**(d.)** Load into a trailer. Trailer must be hitched to a vehicle and have safe, secure footing.

**(e.)** Pick up feet, minimum of at least one front foot and one back foot. Must be specified on the pattern how many and which feet to pick up.

**(f.)** Lead at a walk or trot.

**(5) Additional Suggested Obstacles.** These obstacles will not count toward any Category 1-4 obstacle requirements. Additional obstacles to complete the course may include, but are not limited to:

- (a.) Any additional obstacles from the required categories above.
- (b.) Cross a natural ditch or ride up an embankment.
- (c.) Remove and replace items from a mailbox.
- (d.) Backing straight line obstacle.
- (e.) Jumping an obstacle, 12" or less. Appropriate obstacles could include logs, cross rails covered in brush.
- (f.) Objects representing live animals (e.g., duck decoy, roping steer head, hide, taxidermied animal), that would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting. Obstacles shall not be used in an attempt to spook a pony.

**(6) Prohibited Obstacles.** These obstacles cannot be used in any Ranch Trail class:

- (a.) Tarps.
- (b.) Water obstacle with a slick bottom.
- (c.) Tires.
- (d.) PVC pipe used as an obstacle to ride over.
- (e.) Logs elevated in such a manner that may roll and risk safety of pony and rider.
- (f.) Rope gates.
- (g.) Stuffed/plush animals or toys.
- (h.) Painted poles may be used but are discouraged.

**4. Obstacle Scoring.** Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1½ to minus 1½:

- a. Excellent: plus 1½
- b. Very good: plus 1
- c. Good: plus ½
- d. Correct: 0
- e. Poor: minus ½
- f. Very poor: minus 1
- g. Extremely poor: minus 1½

**5.** Obstacle scores and penalties are to be assessed independently of each other.

**6. Penalties**

**a. 1 point**

- (1) Each bite or stepping on: log, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle.
- (2) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less.
- (3) Split pole in lope-over.

**b. 3 points**

- (1) Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides.
- (2) Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when changing incorrect lead).
- (3) Knocking down or severely disturbing an obstacle.
- (4) Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping out of obstacle (e.g., box, back through, water box) with one foot.

**c. 5 points**

- (1) Dropping slicker or object required to be carried in course.
- (2) First refusal, balk, or attempt to evade obstacle by backing away more than 2 steps.
- (3) Loss of control or letting go of gate, rope, drag or another item required to be handled.
- (4) Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping out of obstacle (e.g., box, back through, water box) with more than one foot.
- (5) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, etc.).
- (6) Failure to demonstrate the correct lead or gait designated.
- (7) Failure to complete obstacle.
- (8) Second refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle by backing away more than 2 steps.
- (9) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

**d. Disqualifications**

- (1) Use of two hands on the reins. (Exception: when using a snaffle, bosal or romal reins.)
- (2) Illegal use of romal rein.

- (3) Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
- (4) Navigating obstacles in different order than pattern states.
- (5) Missing or not attempting an obstacle.
- (6) Touching pony on the neck to lower head.
- (7) Riding outside designated boundary line of course.
- (8) Entering, exiting or working obstacle in a different way than pattern designates.
- (9) Failure to perform correct line of travel within or between obstacles.
- (10) Third refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle by backing away more than 2 steps.
- (11) Illegal equipment.
- (12) Willful abuse.
- (13) Additional general disqualifications, see Rule 108.

#### 7. Ranch Trail Tack and Attire

- a. Ranch Trail exhibitors are encouraged to outfit their pony with a breast collar and back cinch for safety.
- b. Exhibitors are permitted to use romal reins as a get-down rope for the purposes of leading or working on the ground where required in the pattern. The get-down rope may be a neck rope with bosalita that is tied in a manner that will not slide or tighten on the pony's neck. The tail end (lead) of the neck rope may be attached to the front of the saddle with saddle strings or run through the rider's belt loop but should not be tied to the saddle horn.
- c. Also see Sec. C, Ranch Division Tack and Attire.

#### H. Ranch Reining

The purpose of Ranch Reining is to demonstrate a pony's ability to perform basic handling maneuvers while exhibiting an above-level head carriage in a forward-looking manner. The exhibitor/pony team will be scored on their ability to complete maneuvers with finesse, smoothness, quickness with controlled speeds that are exciting and pleasing to watch.

1. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Reining and Reining.
2. There will **not** be Walk/Trot classes in Ranch Reining.
3. Any of the POAC-approved Ranch Reining patterns may be used. Approved patterns are posted on the POAC website. *[During the trial period, recommended patterns will be posted on the POAC website.]*
4. Exhibitors are permitted to straighten excess rein anytime during pattern as long as exhibitor's free hand remains behind the rein hand. However, attempting to adjust tension of reins is considered using two hands on the reins, and is therefore a 5-point penalty.

#### 5. Penalties

##### a. 1/2 point

- (1) Starting a circle at a trot or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to 2 strides.
- (2) Delayed change of lead by 1 stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
- (3) Failure to remain a minimum of 20' from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
- (4) Over-spin/under-spin up to 1/8 turn.

##### b. 1 point

- (1) Out of lead in circles, figure 8s or around the end of the arena (per 1/4 circle pony is out of lead).
- (2) Over-spin/under-spin 1/8 to 1/4 turn.
- (3) Slipping rein.

##### c. 2 points

- (1) Break of gait.
- (2) Freeze up in spins/rollbacks (per maneuver).
- (3) Failure to stop or walk before executing lope in patterns that require exhibitors to trot into the arena.
- (4) Failure to lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns.
- (5) Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.
- (6) Starting a circle at a trot or exiting a rollback at a trot beyond 2 strides but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena.

##### d. 5 points

- (1) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, etc.).
- (2) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- (3) Use of two hands on the reins (per maneuver). (Exception: when using a snaffle, bosal or romal reins.)

- (4) Placing more than one finger between split reins (per maneuver).
- (5) Placing one finger between romal reins (per maneuver).
- e. **10 points**
  - (1) Unnatural ranch horse appearance (pony's tail is obvious and consistently held at an unnatural position throughout the entirety of pattern). One-time penalty. Example: A seemingly dead tail that merely dangles and does not show normal carriage or response.
- f. **Off Pattern.** Exhibitors going off pattern will not be placed above any exhibitor completing the pattern correctly. Examples of off-pattern penalties:
  - (1) Breaking pattern.
  - (2) Inclusion of maneuver (e.g., backing more than 2 steps when not required in the pattern, over or under spinning).
  - (3) Leaving arena before pattern is complete.
  - (4) Repeated blatant disobedience.
- g. **Disqualifications**
  - (1) Lameness.
  - (2) 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 pony in competition.
  - (3) Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.
  - (4) Illegal equipment or improper western attire.
  - (5) Fall of pony or rider.
  - (6) Spurring pony in front of cinch.
  - (7) Additional general disqualifications, see Rule 108.

*[If you are wondering how Ranch Reining patterns are different from Reining patterns:]*

- *Some Ranch Reining patterns look more like a reined cowhorse pattern (spins can be at the end of the arena after sliding stops).*
- *Some of the patterns will ask exhibitors to two-track at the trot to demonstrate the ability of the rider to maneuver their pony.*
- *Some patterns do not require speed transitions (whereas every Reining pattern will incorporate a speed transition).*
- *When executing Ranch Reining patterns, ponies are expected to have a higher head carriage throughout all maneuvers to show the pony is looking up, focusing on what is in front of them; this will also cause spins and sliding stops to resemble more of a reined cowhorse. In Reining, ponies would be shown with a much lower headset which causes the pony to look much more round in their maneuvers.]*

## **I. Ranch Conformation**

The purpose of Ranch Conformation is to select a pony that displays the positive traits to carry out various activities on a working ranch. Such traits include balance, structural correctness and natural, forward movement.

1. Shows offering Ranch Conformation must offer at least one other POAC-approved Ranch Division class.
2. Ranch Conformation will be held after the completion of all other Ranch classes.
3. Ponies entering Ranch Conformation must also compete in at least one other POAC-approved Ranch class. Exhibitors must show in the same division (age division, and W/T/L or W/T) that they are competing in for other Ranch classes.
4. Ponies are permitted to cross-enter Ranch Conformation and regular Halter.
5. **Ranch Conformation Classes**
  - a. Ranch Conformation - 18 & Under W/T/L Division
  - b. Ranch Conformation - 18 & Under W/T Division
  - c. Ranch Conformation - 19 & Over W/T/L Division
  - d. Ranch Conformation - 19 & Over W/T Division
6. Ponies of all ages, all sexes and all heights will be shown together. Per Rule 96.M, 9 & Under competitors are prohibited from exhibiting stallions 2 years and older in any class.
7. If an exhibitor has more than one pony in Ranch Conformation, exhibitors are permitted to designate handlers to present their additional ponies. Youth exhibitors must appoint another youth to present their additional

ponies; adults may appoint a youth or another adult. Additional handlers must be designated prior to the start of the class and the announcer and ring steward must be notified.

**8. Class Routine**

Exhibitors will lead ponies one at a time to the judge at a walk. As the pony approaches, judge will step aside to enable exhibitor to trot with pony to a cone approximately 50' away. At the cone, pony will turn to the left and trot to the wall/fence. Exhibitors will line up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. Judges shall inspect each pony from both sides, front and rear, placing the ponies in order of preference.

- 9. Tack and Attire.** Ponies must be shown in working tack, to include rope or braided halter, nylon halter or plain leather halter. Also see Sec. C, Ranch Division Tack and Attire, for additional information on attire, and Rule 100, Halter Tack and Attire.

**J. Versatile Ranch Pony Award**

1. The Versatile Ranch Pony Award will be awarded in four divisions: W/T/L 18 & Under, W/T 18 & Under, W/T/L 19 & Over and W/T 19 & Over. Classes included in the W/T/L 18 & Under and W/T/L 19 & Over are Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Conformation and Ranch Reining. Classes for W/T 18 & Under and W/T 19 & Over are Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Trail and Ranch Conformation. See Rule 91 for tiebreaker and point designation procedures. *[During the trial period, awards may be given by state clubs at their option.]*