

# ***RULE BOOK***



# ***2019***

*Revised 1/1/19*

The purpose of the **East Coast Ranch Riding Association** shall be to promote education for western horse enthusiasts to ride and train a versatile western horse, to teach rider knowledge and to maximize horsemanship skills, performance and safety, to offer affordable, fun, and standardized versatile western horse educational programs and competitions, to perpetuate and preserve the western tradition and heritage of working western and ranch type horses, to encourage the use of standard rules for conducting and judging contests for the western all-around horse, to define, promote and improve the quality of the versatile western horse, and to encourage honesty, integrity, respect, sportsmanship and family values.

All shows and competitions run or approved by the **ECRRA** are designed with classes and divisions for entry level competitors.

All shows will offer Ranch Horse In Hand ( *to be shown in a halter* ), Ranch Pleasure ( *judged as a group on the rail. or individually following the guidelines and patterns of the Stock Horse of Texas program SHOT* ), Ranch Riding ( *showing individually, a specific pattern posted on ECRRA website or day of show* ) Ranch Trail ( *negotiating a series of obstacles found on a farm or ranch* ) and Ranch Round Up ( *timed not judged* ).

**ECRRA** will offer a Walk/Trot & Walk/Trot/Lope Divisions in all classes and all levels of competition. When competing for a Division a rider must show in 4 of the 5 classes offered.

**Hosting an ECRRA approved event and fees.** All host must request approval for dates and locations through the ECRRA. Approved shows may not be run on the same date within a 100 mile radius of each other.

East Coast Ranch Riding Association host request applications can be obtained on ECRRA website or by contacting an ECRRA representative.

**Class Approval Program:** Any of the ECRRA classes may be approved for any Open Show , 4H, breed show or special event. The participating show would be approved if they offer any of the 5 classes offered in the ECRRA Program. The participating show would be granted approval after they have filled out an ECRRA class approval form and agrees to pay appropriate fees and to run those classes according to the rules set forth by the ECRRA. The participating show will receive an ECRRA class approval packet for the day of the show.

#### **ECRRA Members Programs and Fees:**

**Membership Fees** will be an annual fee (January 1 to December 31). \$20.00 / person

**Horse Enrollment Fees.** A one-time fee of \$20.00. Once the horse has been enrolled the enroller will receive a Certificate Of Enrollment with a permanent ECRRA reference number through email or postal service. (This is not an exhibitor number)

**Please note: You do not need to be a member or have your horse enrolled to show at an ECRRA approved show or ECRRA approved classes. Non members will be entitled to day of show awards only.**

#### **Lifetime Recognition Awards (LRA)**

There are two ways for a member to be eligible for the Lifetime Recognition Awards and Annual Division Awards

**# 1.East Coast Ranch Riding Approved Shows:** All points earned at any ECRRA approved event will be accumulative from year to year as long as an exhibitor renews their membership annually and the exhibitor's horse is enrolled and has been issued an ECRRA Enrollment number.

**# 2 Class Approval Program (CAP):** Any member that shows an enrolled horse at any other competition that has been ECRRA Class Approved (Open, 4H, breed shows, special events etc.). These participating shows will be listed on our website.

### **RIDER ELIGIBILITY**

**Open Division Eligibility:** The Open Division is open to any professional or nonprofessional regardless of age or rider eligibility, regardless of past winnings. Must ride one handed in curb bits

**Non Pro Division Eligibility :** The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training, or showing horse(s) at anytime during the past five years. The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training or showing a horse any time during the past five years. No age requirement. **Premium money won is not considered remuneration.**

**Novice Division Eligibility and Restrictions:** The Novice Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience who wish to learn more about showing in ECRRA at a beginner's pace. The rider must meet all Non Pro eligibility requirements listed above. The rider has not won any champion titles at any show or cumulative #1 year-end award in ECSHA, ECRRA, SVRA, ASHA, or any State 4-H finals; more than 10 points in any breed or national association (AQHA, APHA, etc.); or any money in a national organization (NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, etc.) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.). No age requirement.

**Stallions are prohibited in this division.**

**Youth Division Eligibility:** Exhibitors in the youth division must be aged 8 through 18 as of January 1 of the current year. **Stallions are prohibited in this division**

**Primetime Division Eligibility and Restrictions:** Exhibitors in the Primetime Division must be 50 years of age or older as of January 1 of the current year. The rider must meet all Non Pro eligibility requirements listed above.

**ALL riders may ride 2 handed or ride with bridged reins in any legal western bit**  
**Except Open Division**

**Point Tabulation for Champions, Day End, Year End, Lifetime:** To be eligible for a Division Champion an exhibitor must show in 4 of the 5 classes offered in each Division. A rider will receive points by their placings and number of entries in a class. (*Example: 10 horses in a class, 1<sup>st</sup> place receives 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place 9 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place 8 points etc.*). | **Ranch Pleasure**, the top 10 horses will be placed. Eleventh place and lower will receive points by taking the total number of points left and divided by the number of horses out of the placings then each of those horses receive that number of points. (*Example : 15 horses in the class 1<sup>st</sup> 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 14 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> 13 pts, 4<sup>th</sup> 12 pts, 5<sup>th</sup> 11pts, 6<sup>th</sup> 10 pts, 7<sup>th</sup> 9pts, 8<sup>th</sup> 8 pts, 9<sup>th</sup> 7 pts, 10<sup>th</sup> 6pts 11<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> place 3 points each* ). **Ranch In Hand** classes the most points a horse can receive is 7 points regardless of the amount of horses over 7 that are in the class. All horses placing lower than 6<sup>th</sup> place in a class of 7 or more will receive 1 point.

**All point tabulations are by horse rider combination.**

## **East Coast Ranch Riding Association (ECRRA) Regional Program**

### 3 Regions

# 1 New England (ME, MA, CT, RI, VT, NH, NY)

# 2 Mid Atlantic (NJ, DE)

# 3 Central (PA, MD, VA, WV, OH)

#### **PURPOSE:**

Create three regions to expand the ECRRA program to reach throughout the Northeast.

The ECRRA Association mission is to:

- Promote education for western horse enthusiasts to ride and train a versatile western horse
- Teach rider knowledge and to maximize horsemanship skills, performance and safety
- Offer affordable, fun, and standardized versatile western horse educational programs and competitions
- Perpetuate and preserve the western tradition and heritage of working western and ranch type horses
- Encourage the use of standard rules for conducting and judging contests for the western all-around horse, to define, promote and improve the quality of the versatile western horse, and
- Encourage honesty, integrity, respect, sportsmanship and family values

#### **REGIONAL FUNCTION AND RULES:**

Every ECRRA member will choose one of the three regions when they do their annual membership, which will be at no additional fee.

Each ECRRA region will hold approved shows and have ECRRA approved classes at Open Horse Shows within the region.

**REGIONAL POINTS:** A members will earn points towards regional yearend awards every time they show at an ECRRA full slate show within their declared region.

**ECRRA POINTS:** A member will earn ECRRA points towards yearend and lifetime awards whenever they show at an ECRRA approved show regardless of the region.

Each ECRRA region will host a minimum of 2 full slate shows a season (as per ECRRA Rule Book 42 classes with 10 Divisions). A show may be double judged which would count as 2 shows.

All ECRRA approved shows and classes must operate by the East Coast Ranch Riding Association rule book and are open to all members and non-members with any breed of horse.

East Coast Ranch Riding Association will award the 1st and 2nd place Division winners in each of the 10 Divisions in each region as long as the region has a minimum of 25 members. The winners will be named "ECRRA Regional Division Champion / Reserve Champion ". In order to be a regional Champion an individual must show in at least one regional show besides the Championship show. Showing at the Championship show is not a requirement to receive a regional award.

East Coast Ranch Riding Association will hold a season finale show at the end of the show season offering 2 full slates of classes. This show will be open to all 3 regions and the named "East Coast Ranch Riding Regional Championships ". This show will be open to all members, non-members, and all breeds of horses. All members will have a chance to earn Regional, ECRRA yearend, and ECRRA lifetime points.

The Regional Championship Show will be the last show of the year to earn points toward ECRRA year-end or regional awards. Shows held after the championship show until the end of the year will only receive points toward lifetime achievements.

Lifetime points will always be awarded at all approved shows and classes even if held after the East Coast Regional Championship show.

### LIFETIME RECOGNITION AWARDS

Rookie Of The Year: Awarded to the Novice and/or Novice Youth Exhibitor (walk trot or walk trot lope) in their 1st two years of showing, earning the highest number of ECRRA points in a year. A novice or novice youth rider may only win this award one time.

Award Of Recognition (AOR): Any horse /rider combination earning 100 points in any class. Points are accumulative from division to division. (Example: horse & rider may earn points in Non Pro Trail and Prime Time Trail and all points will go towards a Trail AOR)

Award Of Achievement (AOA) : Any horse /rider combination earning 300 points in any class. Points are accumulative from division to division. (Example: horse & rider may earn points in Non Pro Trail and Prime Time Trail and all points will go towards a Trail AOA)

ECRRA Champion Award : Any horse /rider combination earning 60 points in Ranch Horse In Hand and 100 points in Ranch Pleasure or Ranch Riding and 100 points in Ranch Trail or Ranch Round Up. Must be earned in walk trot or walk trot lope.

Supreme Champion Award : Any horse/rider combination earning 3 AOR's in any 3 classes and 2 AOA's in 2 other classes must be earned in either walk trot or walk trot lope.

Superior Champion Award : Any horse/rider combination earning 5 AOA 's in 5 walk trot or 5 walk trot lope classes

**All LRA and Annual Division Awards will be awarded in Walk Trot and in Walk Trot Lope classes.**

***All Day End, Year End Division and Lifetime Recognition Award Champions are horse rider combination***

### EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

**Equipment and Apparel** Horses shall be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over good clean, working equipment. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. Split reins or romal reins shall be used with all curb bits. Split reins may be used with snaffle bits. When a bit is used, the mouth piece must be at least 5/16" and not more than 3/4" in diameter measured one inch from the cheek and must be smooth; no twisted wire mouth-pieces. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as prongs. Curb straps are required for curb bits and the curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted,

regardless of the amount of padding or tape. **Prohibited Equipment** Tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, twisted-wire mouth pieces, mechanical hackamores and running martingales are prohibited. A judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane. Trimming horses is optional

**Attire:** Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long-sleeved shirts and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots or lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps shall be optional. Clothing should be neat and clean. This rule applies to all ECRRA approved classes.

## **RANCH HORSE IN HAND**

To be shown in a halter. **SILVER SHOW HALTERS are discouraged.** Classes will be divided MARES all ages, GELDINGS / STALLIONS all ages. All entries will be judged at a walk, trot & extended trot. Entries will line up at the judges direction. To be judged 60% on correctness, balance, way of moving and conformation suitable for a working ranch type horse and 40% on manners & disposition. **Show committees may ask for these classes to be combined depending on entries.**

## **RANCH HORSE PLEASURE CLASS**

The Ranch Horse 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 while riding with a group of horses or individually. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein 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 soft in the bridle and yield to contact. The ideal stock horse should have a natural, level headed carriage at each gait.

## **RANCH RIDING**

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. 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 shown 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 should have a natural head carriage at each gait.

## **RANCH TRAIL**

The Ranch Trail Class, as the name implies, tests the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered in everyday riding. The horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday 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, well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.

The trail course will include no less than six obstacles. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All

courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committees have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous, positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less. The course must be designed using the ECRRA acceptable obstacles and maneuvers.

### **RANCH ROUND UP**

This is a timed event. This class is to prove the agility, versatility and the quickness of a ranch horse when called upon. Exhibitors will perform a specific pattern designed by ECRRA. The pattern must be run correctly, the fastest time wins.

**Penalties:** Knock down of each obstacle will be a 5 second penalty added to the time, performing the pattern incorrectly will result in a **no time** and will not place.

**Walk Trot entries, loping more than 3 strides in a pattern will result in a NO TIME and will not place.**

*(Any rules not covered in the ECRRA rule book will refer to AQHA or SHOT rules)*

### JUDGING GUIDELINES (revised January 1, 2018)

GAITS-RANCH RIDING / RANCH PLEASURE. In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

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 level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

2 Trot- The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

3 Extended Trot- The extended trot is 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 with an above level top line.

4 Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, 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. The horse should display an above level top line with a bright, attentive expression.

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

Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

- 1 No hoof polish.
2. No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
4. Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

**Class Requirements: RANCH RIDING (pattern class)**

Each horse will work a pattern individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and a minimum of three optional maneuvers. Horses will be 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.

The required gait maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.

The optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a log(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a horse to perform or encounter during ranch work.

**Ranch Riding Penalties.** A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

One (1) point penalties

Too slow (per gait)

Over-bridled (per maneuver)

Out of frame (per maneuver)

Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalties

Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides

Break of gait at lope

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

Five (5) point penalties

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

Ten (10) point

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

**OFF PATTERN (OP)** Placed below horses performing all maneuvers: Eliminates maneuver, Incomplete maneuver Zero (0) score Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions. Willful abuse, Major disobedience or schooling and Lameness

No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over or under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

**RANCH TRAIL CLASSES Credits and Penalties.**

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. The rider has the option of eliminating any



obstacle however this will result in being “Off Pattern” and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A Judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. 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 pick through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to riders’ cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. 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.

Penalties are assessed as follows:

#### RANCH TRAIL CLASSES Penalties.

- 1 Point Penalties: Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the 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 over or failing to step into required space; Split pole in lope-over; Incorrect number of strides, if specified; One step on dismount/ remount or ground tie except shifting to balance; Over-bridled (per maneuver).
- 3 Point Penalties: Wrong lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at lope; Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides, Two to three steps on dismount/remount or ground tie.
- 5 Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch: Four or more steps on dismount or ground tie, Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore or those classes aloud to use two hands as per ECRRRA rules) per maneuver; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver; Knocking over, stepping out of, or falling off of an obstacle; Dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; Letting go of gate; Four or more steps in dismount/remount or ground tie
- Off-Pattern (OP): Breaking pattern; Repeated disobedience; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.
- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Fall of horse/ rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

***(Any rules not covered in the ECRRRA rule book will refer to AQHA or SHOT rules)***



**ECRRA APPROVED CLASSES**

[www.eccrassociation.com](http://www.eccrassociation.com)

**RANCH HORSE IN HAND (may show in a rope, nylon or leather halter )**

- 1. Ranch Mares ( all ages )
- 2. Ranch Geldings and Stallions ( all ages )

**RANCH PLEASURE ( on the rail in a group )**

- 3. Open Ranch Pleasure walk trot
- 4. Non Pro Ranch Pleasure walk trot
- 5. Youth Ranch Pleasure walk trot
- 6. Novice Ranch Pleasure walk trot
- 7. Primetime Ranch Pleasure walk trot
  
- 8. Open Ranch Pleasure walk trot lope
- 9. Non Pro Ranch Pleasure walk trot lope
- 10. Youth Ranch Pleasure walk trot lope
- 11. Novice Ranch Pleasure walk trot lope
- 12. Primetime Ranch Pleasure walk trot lope

\*\*\*\*\* 12a. RANCH LEADLINE 10 yrs & under \*\*\*\*\*

**RANCH RIDING ( individual with a pattern )**

- 13. Open Ranch Riding walk trot
- 14. Non Pro Ranch Riding walk trot
- 15. Youth Ranch Riding walk trot
- 16. Novice Ranch Riding walk trot
- 17. Primetime Ranch Riding walk trot
  
- 18. Open Ranch Riding walk trot lope
- 19. Non Pro Ranch Riding walk trot lope
- 20. Youth Ranch Riding walk trot lope
- 21. Novice Ranch Riding walk trot lope
- 22. Primetime Ranch Riding walk trot lope

**RANCH TRAIL ( must show over at least 6 obstacles )**

- 23. Open Ranch Trail walk trot
- 24. Non Pro Ranch Trail walk trot
- 25. Youth Ranch Trail walk trot
- 26. Novice Ranch Trail walk trot
- 27. Primetime Ranch Trail walk trot
  
- 28. Open Ranch Trail walk trot lope
- 29. Non Pro Ranch Trail walk trot lope
- 30. Youth Ranch Trail walk trot lope
- 31. Novice Ranch Trail walk trot lope
- 32. Primetime Ranch Trail walk trot lope

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**RANCH ROUND UP( timed event / individual pattern )**

- 33. Open Ranch Round Up walk trot
- 34. Non Pro Ranch Round Up walk trot
- 35. Youth Ranch Round Up walk trot
- 36. Novice Ranch Round Up walk trot
- 37. Primetime Ranch Round Up walk trot
  
- 38. Open Ranch Round Up walk trot lope
- 39. Non Pro Ranch Round Up walk trot lope
- 40. Youth Ranch Round Up walk trot lope
- 41. Novice Ranch Round Up walk trot lope
- 42. Primetime Ranch Round Up walk trot lope

**10 Day End DIVISION AWARDS : Horse / Rider Combination**  
**OPEN, NON PRO, YOUTH, NOVICE , PRIMETIME ( walk trot )**  
**OPEN, NON PRO, YOUTH, NOVICE, PRIMETIME ( walk trot lope )**

FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact : Terry Helder 717 887 6608 or Chad Moshier 814 777 0276