2025 RULE BOOK



The purpose of East Coast Ranch Riding Association (ECRRA) is to promote education for western horse enthusiasts to ride and train a versatile western horse, to teach rider knowledge, promote a culture of sportsmanship, and to maximize horsemanship skills in addition to offering an affordable and fun show experience. The ECRRA aims to perpetuate and preserve the western tradition and heritage of working western and ranch-type horses. ECRRA encourages the use of standard rules for conducting and judging contests for the western all-around horse. ECRRA promotes honesty, integrity, respect, showmanship, and family values.

All shows and competitions approved by the ECRRA are designed with classes and divisions for entry level competitors up through seasoned professionals.

Any rules not covered in ECRRA rule book will refer to AQHA or SHOT rules, or will defer to decision by ECRRA show committee.

ECRRA Show Year

The ECRRA Show year resets at the end of the KILE ECRRA Championship Show each year. Memberships, points, and division age eligibility are all based on the show year.

Membership and fees

Exhibitors:

> Annual ECRRA membership are $25 for each horse + rider combination. Membership allows the exhibitor to compete for yearend awards. The horse + rider combination must be a member at the time of showing for points to count toward yearend awards. Exhibitors can sign up ahead of time or at the time of the ECRRA approved show. Horse + rider ECRRA names listed on the membership form must match show results names. For example, if the exhibitor completes the membership form using the horse's barn name, the horse barn name needs to be used when showing at ECRRA approved shows.

Judges:

> ECRRA approved judges must be a member to judge approved ECRRA shows and classes. In addition to the annual fee, judges must complete their test every three years, starting with a new test in 2025, to be placed on the list of ECRRA approved judges.

Fees:

> Membership fees for exhibitors (horse + rider combination) and judges is $25 per year. Payment can be paid by check via mail or at approved show, made out to:
>
> > East Coast Ranch Riding Association
> > c/o Chad Moshier
> > 28 Barrens Church Rd. Dillsburg, PA 17019

Payment must be received at the time of membership form completion to become a member and for points to accumulate.

Exhibitors may register more than one horse + rider combination for an additional $25 membership if showing multiple horses in the same year.

Membership year:

ECRRA membership dues are paid annually. The ECRRA year resets annually after the KILE Championship Show. A current list of active members and judges will be posted to the ECRRA website to show current status. Members and show committees can verify membership / judge status against this list.

Non-members:

You do not need to be an ECRRA member to show at an ECRRA approved event. Non-members are only eligible to receive day-of-show awards as offered by the sponsoring club. Non-members are not eligible to accrue points for ECRRA yearend awards.

Horse breeds:

ECRRA approved shows are open to any breed of horse.

Partner Show and Class Approvals

Full slate shows:

Full slate shows are defined as shows offering all ECRRA classes listed on the ECRRA Approved Class list. Hosting show clubs must request approval for dates and locations of ECRRA full-slate shows by completing the Show and Class Approval form on the ECRRA website. The ECRRA show committee will review and approve applications throughout the year, with approvals being granted no less than 60 days prior to the show date. As general guidance, ECRRA approved shows may not be run on the same date within a 100 mile radius of each other. An updated list of ECRRA shows will be posted monthly to the website.

Class approvals:

Any of the ECRRA classes may be approved for any Open Show, 4-H, breed show, or special event. The participating show club must request class approval by completing the Show and Class Approval form on the ECRRA website. To be approved, the show must offer at least 5 classes from the ECRRA class list.

All partner shows agree to pay fees as outlined on the Show and Class Approval form and agrees to run the approved show/classes according to the ECRRA rules. Show results must be returned using ECRRA standard forms to ECRRA c/o Chad Moshier 28 Barrens Church Rd. Dillsburg, PA 17019 no later than 14 days after the date of the show. If you anticipate needing more time to

tabulate show results due to extenuating circumstances, contact Chad Moshier 814-777-0276 before the deadline to make arrangements. To ensure accuracy of results and point standings for our members, results not received in the approved window will not be counted for points and future approvals will be revoked for the club, including in the current show year.

Results received from ECRRA shows are considered final. Any questions or disputes of show results must be handled at the show with the show management.

Regions

The ECRRA is split into three regions and each member declares a region for each membership year. Exhibitors may show in any region with points counting toward total yearend awards (Top 30), but must show within the declared region for regional awards.

Each region will host a minimum of 2 approved full slate shows per season. Shows may be double-judged to count as 2 shows.

1. **Region 1** - Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York
2. **Region 2** - New Jersey and Delaware
3. **Region 3** - Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia

ECRRA will hold the annual all-region Championship Show in conjunction with KILE at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Expo Center. This show is open to members, non-members, and any breed of horse.

The show and membership years reset after the KILE Championship Show. For shows located on the border of two regions, ECRRA will determine the regional alignment based on other shows and proximity to members.

Division and Class Eligibility

Members must declare their eligible divisions when completing their annual membership in line with the below guidance for eligibility. Exhibitors may show in more than one division provided they meet the eligibility requirements of that division. Non-members showing at ECRRA approved events, must follow the below guidance for entry to classes based on eligibility.

Open Division: Open to any rider regardless of age, status, or prior winnings. Exhibitors in the Open Division must ride one-handed in curb bits. Exhibitors may ride two-handed if showing in a snaffle bit or bosal for horses of any age.

Non Pro Division: The Non Pro division is intended for non-professional exhibitors. The exhibitor has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training or showing horses at any time in the last 5 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 at any time in the last 5 years. There is no age requirement for this division. Premium money won is not considered renumeration.

Novice Division: The Novice rider 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, plus the rider has not won any champion titles at any show or cumulative first place yearend awards in ECSHA, ECRRA, SVRA, ASHA, or any State 4-H finals. Exhibitors have not earned 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.). There is no age requirement for this division. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

Rookie Status: Novice or Novice youth exhibitors in their 1st or 2nd year of showing qualify as having rookie status and are eligible to compete for the Rookie of the Year award.

Youth Division: Exhibitors in the Youth Division must be aged 8-18 as of the start of the ECRRA show year (resets at KILE ECRRA Championship Show each year) of the current year. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

Primetime Division: Exhibitors in the Primetime Division must be 50 years of age or older as of the start of the ECRRA show year.

Green Horse classes: New for 2025, ECRRA is running a 2-year pilot program offering Green Horse classes as part of Ranch Pleasure and Ranch Riding, W/T & W/T/L. Green horse eligibility can be marked on the annual membership form. Members and non-members are eligible to show in the Green Horse classes based on meeting eligibility criteria. Green horses are eligible for recognition of the top 5 point earning Green horses in the year. Green horse classes are not a division. For a horse to be eligible, the horse must be in its first two years of showing. Horses in Green classes have not earned more than 10 ranch points in any breed or national association (AQHA, APHA, etc.). Green horses have not won an ECRRA division champion, reserve, or Top 30 designation.

Points and Awards

Eligibility:

Exhibitors must be a current ECRRA member to earn points toward yearend and region awards.

Points from the KILE ECRRA Championship Show will count toward yearend awards and also toward region awards, provided the member has shown in at least one other show in their region.

To be eligible for a division champion, an exhibitor must show in 4 of the 5 classes offered in each division. Green Horse classes do not count toward division awards.

Points calculation:

Points are earned based on placing and the number of entries in a class. For example, if there are 10 horses in a class, the 1st place horse earns 10 points, 2nd place 9 points, 3rd place 8 points, etc.

For Ranch Pleasure, the top 10 horses will be placed. 11th place and lower will receive points by taking the total number of points left and dividing by the number of horses out of the placings. For example, if there are 15 horses in a class, 1st place gets 15 points, 2nd place 14 points, 3rd place 13 points, 4th place 12 points, 5th place 11 points, 6th place 10 points, 7th place 9 points, 8th place 8 points, 9th place 7 points, 10th place 6 points, then divide 6 (last points placed) by 2 to get 3 and that leaves 11th through 15th place each getting 3 points.

Ranch in Hand classes cap the maximum number of points earned to 7 points regardless of the number of horses in the class. Any horses placing lower than 6th place in a class of 7 or more earn 1 point.

All points are based on horse + rider combination.

Points year:

Points follow the same annual cycle as ECRRA memberships, renewing each year after the KILE ECRRA Championship show.

Yearend awards:

ECRRA recognizes several categories of awards for active members accruing points in the show year. Only active members are eligible for these awards and are based on the horse + rider combination declared on the membership form.

Top 30: recognizes the top 30 point earners across all regions

Region Champion and Reserve champion: recognizes the 1st and 2nd place point earners in each division, by each region. Regions must have at least 25 members for region awards. Youth W/T division will split out 13 and under youth riders.

Top 5 Green horse: recognizes the top 5 point earning Green horses for the year

Top 10 Youth: recognizes the top 10 point earning youth riders.

Rookie of the Year: recognizes the top point earning Novice and/or Novice Youth exhibitor WT or WTL in their first 2 years of showing. Award may be won only one time per exhibitor.

Division awards:

ECRRA will award a champion and reserve champion award per division for the first and second place point-earners in each of the 10 divisions, provided the region has a minimum of 25 members. In order to be a regional champion, the member must show in at least one regional show in addition to the annual KILE Championship Show. Showing at the KILE Championship show is not required to receive a regional award.

Equipment and Attire:

Approved Equipment:

All exhibitors may ride two-handed or with bridged reins in any legal western bit, except for Open Division exhibitors, unless showing in a snaffle bit or bosal.

Horses will be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not be counted over clean, working equipment. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. Open Division riders must ride one-handed if using a curb bit. Riders in other divisions may ride two-handed in all legal bits. Split reins or romal reins will be used with all curb 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 curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Protective leg gear is acceptable in all performance classes.

Prohibited Equipment:

Tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, twisted-wire mouth pieces, mechanical hackamores, bitless bridles, sidepulls, and running martingales are prohibited.

A judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane. Judges may inspect bits and equipment at any time. Trimming horses is optional.

Attire:

Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long sleeved shirts and western boots. Western boots will include typical cowboy boots or lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps is optional. Clothing should be neat and clean.

These rules apply to all ECRRA approved classes.

Class Rules

Ranch Horse in Hand

To be shown in a halter. Silver show halters are discouraged. Classes will be divided in to Mares all ages and Geldings/Stallions all ages. All entries will be judged at a walk, trot, and extended trot. Entries will line up at the judge's discretion. 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

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. This class consists of exhibitors completing a pattern individually. 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 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 continuous, positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less. The course must be designed using the ECRRA acceptable obstacles and maneuvers.

ECRRA acceptable obstacles and maneuvers:

- Poles and logs
  - Walk overs 26-30”
  - Trot overs 36-42”
  - Lope overs 6-7’
  - No more than five logs or poles no more than 10” high.
  - Formation can be straight, curved, zig zag, or raised.
- Opening, passing through, and closing gate
  - Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing.
  - Rope gates are acceptable
- Ride over wooden bridge
  - Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only.
  - Heavy plywood laying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge.
  - Suggested minimum width is 36” wide and at least 6’ long
- Backing obstacles
  - Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 34”
  - Back through and around at least three markers
  - Back through L, V, U, straight, or similar shape
- Side pass obstacle
  - Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals.
  - Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12”
- Other acceptable obstacles
  - Rope drag (for Open and Non Pro classes only)
  - Carry object from one part of the arena to another
  - Remove and replace materials from mailbox
  - Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6’ apart
  - Step in and out of obstacle
  - Put on a slicker or coat

    - Stand to mount with mounting block
    - Pick up feet
    - Walk through brush
    - Ground tie
- Prohibited obstacles
    - Tarps
    - Water obstacles with slick bottoms
    - PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over
    - Tires
    - Rocking or moving bridges
    - Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner

Ranch Round Up

Ranch Round Up is a timed event. This class proves 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.

- Knocking down of each obstacle will incur a 5 second penalty added to the time.
- Performing the pattern incorrectly will result in a **no time** and will not place.
- For walk/trot Ranch Round Up, loping more than 3 strides in a pattern will result in a **no time** and will not place.

Judging Guidelines

Gaits for Ranch Riding and 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. Extended walk - the extended walk is an obvious lengthening of the stride with forward motion while maintaining a four-beat walk.
3. Trot - the trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
4. 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.
5. Lope - the lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

6. 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 trot is acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

Other guidelines:

1. No hoof polish
2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged
4. Trimming bridle path is allowed as is trimming of fetlocks or 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 and penalties Ranch Riding

Each horse will work a pattern individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and a minimal of three optional maneuvers. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 - 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that is added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to penalties that are subtracted.

Each maneuver is score 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 determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

The required gait maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope in both directions. The extended trot and extended lope are to be included in at least one direction in addition to stops and back.

Optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lop over a log(s), or other reasonable combination of maneuvers reasonable for a horse to perform or encounter during ranch work.

Ranch Riding penalties are assessed each time the following occur:

- 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
- 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
- 5 point penalties
  - Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each incident
- 10 point penalties
  - Unnatural ranch horse appearance (ex. 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
- Disqualified (DQ) illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions. Willful abuse. Major disobedience or schooling or lameness. Fall off horse.
- No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over under spin, but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

Class requirements and penalties Ranch Trail

All runs begin upon entering the pen. Any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, but 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 rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle.

Each maneuver is score 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 determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

Ranch Trail penalties are assessed each time the following occur:

- 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 a walk or trot for two strides or less
    - Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot of 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 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/remount or ground tie
    - Blatant disobedience
    - Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
    - Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore, or classes where exhibitors may use two hands per ECRRA rules) 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
- 10 point penalties

    - Unnatural ranch horse appearance (ex. horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)
- 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 DQ and will not be placed)
    - Improper western attire
    - DQ entries are counted as an entry in the class, but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

Overall judging guidelines

Judges are ineligible to judge a horse belonging to or being exhibited by any member of his/her immediate family (spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, sister, brother, grandchildren) or any situation deemed unethical (immediate clients, as agent or seller of horses sold in the past 60 days, business partnership or employee, etc.)

For a judge to remain on the ECRRA approved judges list, they must annually complete a membership form, pay dues, and complete a judge's test every 3 years, starting with a fresh test in 2025.

Questions: Chad Moshier 814-777-0276
ecrrassociation@gmail.com
www.ecrrassociation.com

2025 ECRRA CLASS LIST

RANCH HORSE IN HAND 1. Mares 2. Geldings and Stallions	
RANCH PLEASURE: WALK TROT 3. Open 4. Non-Pro 5. Youth 6. Novice 7. Prime Time 43. Green Horse Pleasure	**RANCH PLEASURE: WALK TROT LOPE** 8. Open 9. Non-Pro 10. Youth 11. Novice 12. Prime Time 44. Green Horse Pleasure
12A. RANCH LEADLINE 8 yrs. and under	
RANCH RIDING: WALK TROT 13. Open 14. Non-Pro 15. Youth 16. Novice 17. Prime Time 45. Green Horse Ranch Riding	**RANCH RIDING: WALK TROT LOPE** 18. Open 19. Non-Pro 20. Youth 21. Novice 22. Prime Time 46. Green Horse Ranch Riding
RANCH TRAIL: WALK TROT 23. Open 24. Non-Pro 25. Youth 26. Novice 27. Prime Time	**RANCH TRAIL: WALK TROT LOPE** 28. Open 29. Non-Pro 30. Youth 31. Novice 32. Prime Time
RANCH ROUND-UP: WALK TROT 33. Open 34. Non-Pro 35. Youth 36. Novice 37. Prime Time	**RANCH ROUND-UP: WALK TROT LOPE** 38. Open 39. Non-Pro 40. Youth 41. Novice 42. Prime Time