

ETI National Horse Show Circuit Rules

The Equestrian Trails Inc (ETI) National Horse Show Circuit (NHSC or High Point) is an ETI National (rather than individual Corral) program, set up for members to earn points for ETI National year-end awards. Competitors interested in pursuing these awards and recognition pay a fee to the NHSC for each class entered, and then compete at the individual shows in NHSC recognized classes.

ETI shows are not rated. ETI offers Open/All-Breed Shows and, in most classes, horses do not require registration papers. All breeds of horses and equines are welcome to participate. Over the years there has been some refining and streamlining of rules, but ETI has always stressed sportsmanship and fair play, along with having fun more than the price of a horse, tack or attire. The shows are governed by these Rules.

I. ETI NHSC COMMITTEE

A. Committee Membership

1. The Committee shall consist of five to ten persons and will include if possible:
 - a. Chairperson: Oversees program
 - b. Co-Chairperson: Assists Chairperson
 - c. Points Person: Records and tallies points from High Point Shows
 - d. Contestant Representative: a current or recent competitor (or trainer) that will represent all competitors & be a liaison between the committee and competitors as needed.
2. Membership shall be on a volunteer basis with approval of the previous NHSC Committee and the current Chairperson. Committee members must be members of ETI.

B. Committee Responsibilities

1. Booking and approval of all NHSC Shows.
2. Tallying points for the contestants based on submitted NHSC sheets from participating NHSC Shows.
3. Fund Raising to support the Program.
4. Booking and giving at least one NHSC Benefit Double Point Show, the proceeds of which will help pay for NHSC expenses, if feasible.
5. Arranging for and hosting the NHSC Awards Banquet.
6. Updating the NHSC Rules as necessary.
7. Correspondence Including:
 - a. Sending necessary forms and membership cards to verified participants.
 - b. Periodically apprising each contestant of his or her current standing, either by direct mail, handed out at shows or by E-mail.
 - c. Informing contestants of any changes affecting them
8. Addressing any problems that arise not covered in the rules.
9. The NHSC Chairperson will refer any issues not resolvable by the NHSC Committee to the ETI Board of Directors. The Board's decision will be final.
10. Any committee member who is also an exhibitor or a trainer for or related to an exhibitor, must notify the committee and excuse themselves from discussing or

voting on any issues that may present a conflict of interest (i.e. – the ruling would directly affect their points or standings)

II. NATIONAL HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT PROGRAM GENERAL RULES

A. **Horse Shows approved for the NHSC will also use the following rules:**

1. United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rule book should be used as guideline, but these NHSC Rules take precedence where there is a conflict,
2. Specific rules not covered by USEF.
 - a. Rules for classes, apparel, tack, gaits and equines for specific breed standard for Quarter Horse-AQHA Handbook; for, Paints-APHA Handbook; for Gaited Horses - see individual breed standard handbooks for gait, tack, and attire. Be prepared to show your breed book.
 - b. For Ranch Horse Classes – The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rules will cover standards for conduct and judging of Ranch Horse classes.
3. Each competitor is responsible for knowing his/her own Breed Standards.

B. Booking of Show Dates NHSC Shows may be held by ETI Corrals and recognized horse organizations. Outside organizations will only be able to book dates after all ETI Corrals have had a chance to.

C. Show Year. The NHSC Year will run from January 1st through December 31st. No shows will be booked in December or January.

D. Non High Point Shows. Corrals may present shows in addition to those included in the list of NHSC Shows booked for the current year. This includes the ETI National Horse Show & Convention.

E. Class Adjustment. The NHSC Committee reserves the right to combine or cancel any class on the NHSC class list for that year if the class has less than three NHSC competitors. Classes may be combined regardless of whether the class it is being combined with originally had three entries. This decision will be made as soon as possible and entrants' high point registration fees will be refunded if the class is canceled.

F. Substitution of Classes. Except for the listed exceptions, no class may be substituted. If an exact class (i.e. age division, open, etc.) is not offered, NO points will be earned. Points are allowed if classes are combined at the show due to lack of participation.

1. **Exception:** County Pleasure and Walk/Trot classes and Divisions are listed on the NHSC lists as English and Western high point class categories separately. Each show is allowed to decide ahead of time if they want to offer these classes as

combined English/Western classes or keep them separate. NHSC points will be allowed either way.

G. Open Shows. NHSC Classes will be open to all types of equines except where specifically restricted, such as pony classes, any registered breed classes or gaited horse classes.

H. Sponsorships

1. All sponsors of \$100.00 or more will be a member of the NHSC Honor Roll. The Honor Roll will appear in the ETI National On-line Magazine each month with the names of each member.

2. Any High Point participant bringing in sponsorships will receive a free class entry in the program for each \$50.00 sponsorship submitted.

III. CONTESTANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Enrollment

1. NHSC Shows are open to any participant, but only ETI members enrolled in the program may accumulate points.

2. Entrants are responsible for keeping their ETI membership current.

3. Deadlines for Entry into High Point Program: Applications for entrants can be submitted at any time during the ETI NHSC Year. NO application will be accepted without proof of payment

4. Accumulation of Points: Applications must be turned in by the 3rd National High Point Show for points to be applied for the current year. You may still sign up after the 3rd show but points will not count.

5. There is a \$15.00 fee per equine/rider/handler combination per class (unless a special price is stated on application) to enter the NHSC Program. This will help pay for expenses of the program.

6. The age of an individual on January 1st shall be maintained throughout the next NHSC year for purposes of qualification in age-restricted classes. Persons born on January 1st shall assume the greater age of that date.

7. No one under the age of 18 may show or handle a stallion in any ETI class or on the show grounds. A stallion is any unaltered male horse of any age (including foals.)

8. Requirements for Age Breaks In Classes: Proof of age of a rider must be provided upon request (i.e. driver's license or birth certificate). Proof of age of horse must also be provided upon request (i.e. ownership or lease of papers).

9. Each contestant (or parent/guardian if under 18) must sign an Insurance Waiver form.

10. All points will be taken from each Horse Show Committee's results, including judges' cards and class results sheets.

11. When entering a Registered Horse class, registration and/or lease papers must accompany the application.

12. All entrants must specify English or Western or Ranch Horse on their entry form for the classes they sign up for. However, applicants may also sign up for Western, Ranch Horse or English classes in the same year, as long as the points are

accumulated separately for the western classes, the Ranch Horse classes and the English classes, and all other class requirements are met.

B. Contestant General Rules

1. All Halter class entries are based on the Equine. Although one handler should be the main handler, substitutes are allowed as needed. The main handler of the equine should be the name listed on the application.

2. All Performance class entries are based on an equine/rider combination that must be maintained throughout the NHSC Year.

a. Unapproved substitutions of equine or rider will be grounds for exclusion from the NHSC Program. Points are given to same horse/rider combination all year.

b. If a contestant needs to change equines, in case of injury, death, loss of lease, etc., a one time permanent change will be allowed for all classes entered for the remainder of the year, and points will be carried over to the substituted equine provided that the contestant notifies and obtains the approval of the High Point Program prior to competing on the substituted equine. Only one substitution will be allowed per year. The new equine/rider combination will be in effect for the remainder of the year. A written statement as to the need for the change must be submitted to the High Point Program Committee before the substitution is effective, and a vet's note may be required in case of injury.

3. *In the case of two classes being combined at a particular show and the same exhibitor was entered in the two classes with different equines, an alternate exhibitor may be accepted for one of the entries.*

4. Minimum Participation Requirements for Year End Awards. It is a goal of the High Point Program to encourage participation in multiple shows presented by different entities, know as either "Host Shows" or "Show Hosts", whether that be a corral or other group (such as Junior Ambassadors) each year. Towards that end, competitors must meet the following requirements to be eligible for year end awards:

a. Year-End Class Qualification. A competitor is required to participate in at least 3/4 of the show circuit unless that specific class would make it not possible to happen, such as over fences classes. Where it is not available at all high point shows. (IE: If there are 15 Shows you must attend 10)

b. Year-End Division Qualification. A competitor is required to go in at least half the classes in their division offered and qualify under paragraph (a) above, to participate in at least 3/4 of the show circuit, to qualify for a year-end division award.

c. Participation at Multiple Host Shows. In meeting its minimum participation requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) above, a competitor must compete in at least two separate Host Shows, unless the particular class is not offered by more than one Host Show, Participation in Convention is not considered a separate "Host Show" for purposes of this requirement

5. Amateur and Professional Status

a. *An Amateur is any person who, after their 18th birthday, has NOT accepted remuneration (money or other significant compensation) for riding, driving, showing in halter, training, schooling, conducting seminars or clinics, or for giving instruction in equitation or horse training in the previous two years.*

b. A Professional is any person who, after their 18th birthday HAS accepted remuneration (money or other significant compensation) for riding,

driving, showing in halter, training, schooling, conducting seminars or clinics, or for giving instruction in equitation or horse training at any time for the previous two years.

c. *Only Amateurs may compete in Amateur to Ride (ATR) Amateur to Show (ATS) Classes. If a competitor's status changes from Amateur to Professional, points will stop at that time, and the competitor must notify the NHSC Committee immediately.*

d. Professionals may show in all open classes that are not restricted to amateurs, provided they meet the other requirements of the class, such as age breaks.

C. Calculation of Points

1. High Point Program Points are based on an equine/rider/handler combination. Points will be included from all classes in High Point Shows in which you compete.

2. Weighting of Points According to Number of Participants in Class. Points will be based on a competitor's placing in class. **Example:** *In a class with only 5 exhibitors, placing 1,2,3,4,5, you will receive 6,5,4,3,2 points. In a class with 3 exhibitors you will receive 6,5,4 points and so on*

a. The number of entries in a class for purposes of weighting of points does not include entries that are only "schooling", but does include entries that compete but are disqualified.

Example of Point System

Placing in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
	6	5	4	3	2	1
	points	points	points	points	points	point

3. Participation Without Placing. A half point for participation will be awarded if you show and do not place. Your participation in the class must be reflected on the class sheets, the judge's card or verified by the Horse Show Committee.

4. Points may only be accumulated in those exact classes in which the entrant is registered.

5. If a class is scheduled at a show, and it is cancelled due to lack of participants, the high point competitor may receive 1 point for intention of showing. If the class is conducted with only one rider, then points will be awarded as shown above.

6. The NHSC will accumulate your points from each Corral's show results and Judge's cards.

D. Suspensions and Penalties

1. The Host Show Officials or High Point Chairperson may, at their discretion, suspend any contestant from participation in the High Point program, for any

infraction of the NHSC rules. The officials must submit in writing the nature of the violation, the contestants' name, and any action taken.

2. Any contestant who has been suspended from the NHSC program will be ineligible to participate or to accumulate points for year-end awards for the following two calendar years from the date of suspension. Once the suspension period is over and the individual wishes to rejoin the NHSC program, that individual will be on a probationary status for a period of one year. If there are no infractions of any NHSC rules, the individual will then be removed from probationary status.

3. *The use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited on the show grounds for safety and insurance reasons.*

4. Protests

a. *Formal protests must be made in writing within 48 hours of the incident and must have a signature to be valid.*

b. *Each formal protest must be accompanied by a \$50.00 money order and sent to the ETI High Point Program Chair.*

c. *The NHSC Committee will review the protest. If the protest is deemed valid, the \$50.00 will be refunded and appropriate action will be taken.*

d. The Judge's decision is final, with respect to placing in the class.

IV SHOW HOST POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Booking of Shows

1. All NHSC Shows must be registered with the NHSC Committee a minimum of 60 days prior to the show date. In the event of a cancellation the replacement show will not be held to this rule. Rain dates also fall into this category.

2. If two or more applications are received for the same show dates, and all meet the NHSC requirements, the first application received in the ETI Office shall have precedence. Only one NHSC Show will be approved for each particular date.

3. Booking for the coming year will begin in January of the current year.

4. The number of high point shows allowed by any Host Show in a particular year will be subject to the approval of the NHSC Committee, taking into account factors contained in these Rules.

5. The responsibility portion of the registration form must be signed for the show to qualify.

6. If the NHSC Committee determines that a show does not qualify the Show Host will be notified immediately.

7. No additional shows will be booked for the NHSC Year after June 1, except in case of a cancellation.

8. Show Hosts are encouraged to have a scheduled rain date for each show they book. If another rain date must be used it may be scheduled on any open weekend date in July of that year or any open weekend date remaining if cleared with NHSC Committee. No rain date may be booked on the date of any already approved High Point Show.

9. The NHSC Committee must approve a Show Host's listing of NHSC classes before that show is accepted as a NHSC show for a particular show year. Host Show generated premiums for High Point Shows may not be publicly circulated until they are reviewed and approved for consistency with high point class listings.

B. Show Requirements

1. The Show Hosts have the option of running any combination of the following for their High Point shows: English and Western conventional show; one English and one Western arena simultaneously on one day; an all English one-day show and an all Western one-day show.

2. Approved NHSC Shows must offer a comparable number of age break NHSC classes in English flat, Western Flat and Walk/Trot flat. In addition, an approved High Point Program Show must also offer either multiple Ranch Horse Classes or Over Fences Classes.

3. All High Point Program classes must be selected from the High Point Program's Class list for that show year and must use the same wording and age breaks as shown on that list. This will reduce confusion for the competitor on which class to enter.

a. Exception: Although Country Pleasure and Walk/Trot classes are listed as English and Western separately on the High Point Program Class List, if the Show Host combines the Western and English competitors into a single class and marks the competitors as western or English on the class results sheets, then those classes will count towards NHSC points.

4. Each High Point Show Host should offer as many of the listed High Point classes as possible. Although some Corrals have their own Point Programs, the NHSC class list should take precedence at all High Point Shows in terms of numbers of classes offered.

5. All NHSC classes on premiums should have a code designation (i.e. “#” or “@”) to designate an NHSC class.

6. ETI Convention Horse Show. The ETI Convention Horse Show must offer at least all NHSC classes that have NHSC entries for that year. A different Judge must be offered for each like set of classes offered. For example: Friday English Equitation 17 & Under must have a different Judge than Saturday English Equitation 17 & Under or points will not count for both days.

7. Double Pointed Shows. Corral Shows are allowed to have two Double Pointed Shows a year. Double pointed shows must include all NHSC classes that have entries for that year.

C. Judge Selection

1. The individual Show Host will select Judges for their shows. The Judge must be carded currently with a recognized major breed or society.

2. The NHSC Program will supply a list of such Judges. These Judges must be members of ETI and must have submitted an application and proof of their current credentials in order to be listed.

3. If a Show Host is unable to find a Judge to its liking on the list, it is free to find a different carded Judge. However, the Judge must be willing to become a member of ETI, to be included on the Judges list, and must submit copies of judge cards and credentials along with the required fee.

4. Judges may judge up to three NHSC shows per year. But, in order to avoid even the appearance of bias, a judge cannot judge back-to-back NHSC shows. A

corral offering more than one NHSC show must use different judges for each NHSC show.

D. Fees, etc.

1. High Point Program Fees must be submitted directly to the High Point Program Chair. Those fees include:

a. Registration Fee. A \$25.00 registration fee per show, plus a class list and Judge's name should accompany each registration form, which must be submitted directly to the Highpoint Chair.

b. Show Competitor Fee. Each NHSC Show host is required to pay a fee of \$5.00 per equine/rider/handler combination at their show, regardless of whether the participant is a member of the NHSC Program. The Show Host may charge this fee to each contestant combination at its show, or pay it out of show profits. This fee plus original class results sheets and judges cards must be submitted to the NHSC Program Chair within 10 days of the event.

c. Sponsorship. The Host Show must obtain a sponsorship for the NHSC program with a value of at least \$100, during the show year. This may be a cash donation, at the option of the Host Show.

d. Late Fees. If the \$5.00 Show Competitor Fee or the show results required by rule E, 3 below, are not submitted within 10 days of the show, the Show Host must pay a late fee of \$10.00 per day past the 10 days.

2. Drug Fee. It is important that the \$5.00 drug fee be paid by all corrals participating in the High Point Program. It is of paramount importance to retain the random drug testing of show horses for the animals' safety and to keep the sport clean.

E. Hosting Corral Reporting Responsibilities

1. Advertising of Shows. Any advertising for an NHSC Show, including listing in the Coming Events column of the ETI National magazine, is the sole responsibility of the respective show management.

2. Providing Show Premiums to Contestants. The NHSC Committee will provide a mailing list/e-mail list of all NHSC Contestants to each Hosting Corral. Each Corral should provide its premium and entry forms for its high point shows to all NHSC entrants.

3. Reporting and Retention of Show Results, etc.. Within ten days of each high point show, the Hosting Show must submit to the NHSC Chair the original results (including class result sheets, along with the judge's card and placings.) The Judges

cards showing the class placing must be signed by the judge and must show the number of competitors in the class.

a. All Corrals are required to keep copies of each NHSC show results for one year for verification purposes.

b. Each show must also have signed and must send to the ETI office the original insurance waiver signed by each competitor and/or parent/guardian.

F. Conduct and Penalties for Show Hosts

1. Courtesy.

a. The Show Host will be courteous to the competitors and the Judge at all times.

b. The Show Host will arrange times for the competitors to speak with the Judge if necessary.

c. At no time shall the Show Host make comments about the judge, the competitors, or their horses that is negative while they are on the show grounds.

2. Penalties

a. Any infraction of these rules may be reported to the NHSC Committee in writing.

b. If the NHSC Committee finds you in violation, a letter of warning will be sent.

c. After two such letters, the Show Host will be suspended from giving an NHSC Show for a period of one calendar year. All fees will be forfeited.

V. ETI CONVENTION

A. NHSC Convention

This is a National event and a fund-raiser for all of ETI

1. The ETI convention will be booked each year at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

2. Pre-entry forms will appear in the ETI National magazine.

B. Convention High Points

1. The ETI Convention can be considered up to two shows, if each day has a different judge, and the same High Point Program classes.

2. Double points for each NHSC Program Classes will be given at the discretion of the NHSC Committee.

3. Convention may have additional rules that apply only to Convention activities.

VI. ETI NATIONAL HORSE SHOW CIRCUIT AWARDS & AWARDS BANQUET

A. Banquet

The NHSC Program Annual Awards Banquet will be held before June 1st of each year for the contestants of the previous year. Reservations are required. The specific place and date will be printed in the National magazine.

B. Awards

1. In General:

a. Determination of Placing. Placing may go as high as 3rd place.

b. Number and Value of Awards. Awards will vary from year to year depending on monies earned for that year. The number and value of awards for

each placing will be calculated on a percentage basis, depending on number of class entrants and overall ETI High Point Program revenue and expenses

c. Ties will be determined by who placed the most 1st places, then 2nd places and 3rd places and so on. If the competitors remain tied after that tie breaker, they will be designated as tied for the particular position, and there will be no additional tie breakers for that position.

2. Classes or Divisions with Three or More Entries.

a. A Championship Award and a Reserve Award will be presented for each class with three or more entries.

b. An Overall High Point Champion Saddle (if in the budget for that year). A saddle will be awarded to the Horse/Rider combination with the highest point total for their during the year, as follows: (1) A competitor must qualify for year end awards in a minimum of ten classes to qualify for the saddle award. (2) Points can be combined from any category of classes, whether English, Western, Walk/Trot, Showmanship, Over Fences, etc. (3) The saddle will be given according to the discipline (English or Western) of the winner's`choosing, and (4) Only one saddle will be awarded during the year under this rule..

3. Classes and/or Divisions with Two or Fewer Entries. If a class or Division of two or fewer entries has not been combined or cancelled, awards may be given at the discretion of the NHSC Committee. The awards may be sponsored or paid.

a. If there is enough participation or sponsorships in the discretion of the NHSC Committee, the awards may also include a saddle. If the Committee decides to award a saddle for classes or Divisions with two or fewer entries, it will be awarded pursuant to the same rules as for classes of three or more entries, as in paragraph 2, b above.

VII. HORSE SHOW RULES

A. General Rules

1. Registered Horse Classes, including Halter and Performance classes.

Contestants must be able to show registration papers upon request of show management.

2. Walk/Jog/Trot Flat Classes. Walk/Jog/Trot contestants are free to enter Halter (no stallions if under 18), Showmanship, Country Pleasure, or classes where they only walk and trot/jog, but they may not enter Leadline or any other flat classes.

3. Leadline Classes. Leadline contestants may not enter any other Performance classes.

4. Age Restricted Classes. There will be no cross entries of age breaks in pleasure or equitation classes.

B. Safety.

1. Safety is of the utmost importance. If any competitor is unable to control a horse in the arena and poses a danger to themselves or another competitor, they will be excused from the class. If any person is unable to safely handle a horse on the show grounds, they will be excused from the show grounds.

2. Anyone under the age of 18 riding in English, Hunter, Jumper or Hunter Seat Equitation classes must wear properly fitting protective headgear passing or surpassing current applicable ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards with harness secured while riding anywhere on the competition grounds. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent/guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from

further riding until such headgear is properly in place. All divisions and age groups are encouraged to follow this rule.

C. Pony Height Requirements:

1. The maximum height for an equine in a Poly class is 14.2 hands (58 inches) at the withers unless papers are shown from a recognized pony breed.
2. Classifications as pony or horse may not be changed once classified as such.

D. Conduct and Penalties for Competitors and Spectators

1. Courtesy
 - a. Courtesy towards the Judge, Show Officials and fellow competitors is required at all times.
 - b. If you wish to speak to the Judge, you must ask the permission of the Show Officials and make an appointment to speak with him/her after your last class.
2. Grounds for expulsion from show and/or NHSC program.
 - a. *No one may directly approach the judge at a show. The decision of a judge is final and may not be argued. After the show a competitor or representative may inquire as to how the judge arrived at a decision, and how to improve a placing next time. Any harassment or argument with the Judge is a violation of the NHSC Rules and will result in expulsion from the show and/or the program.*
 - b. No drugs may be used to enhance or tone down a horse's performance.
 - c. No one may change the color or marking of his/her horse at an NHSC Show.
 - d. Medical altering of tails is prohibited. No soring agents or any abuse of equines are permitted. Violation of this rule constitutes grounds for an immediate disqualification from that show and/or expulsion from the program at the discretion of the NHSC Committee.
 - e. No harassing, gossiping, or arguing with fellow competitors, show management or NHSC Committee is permitted in or out of the arena or on the rail. No bumping, cutting-off on the rail, or any behavior believed to be either dangerous or malicious will be tolerated and is grounds for expulsion.
 - f. *If the Host Show management determines that a horse, competitor or spectator constitutes a danger to others at a High Point Show, it may require that horse, competitor or spectator to leave the show facility grounds.*

VIII. HIGH POINT CLASSES

The High Point Committee will determine which classes will constitute High Point Classes for each show year, prepare a list of those classes, and will make that list available to

potential Show Hosts, potential high point competitors, and interested parties. Those classes may include one or more of the following:

A. Class Descriptions.

1. **Halter Color** - *Halter Color classes are open to color breeds and is to be judged 70% Color and 30% Conformation.*
2. **Leadline** - Contestants may not enter any performance class other than Leadline equitation and Leadline Trail.
3. **1st & 2nd Year Green Horse** - These classes are open to equines in their 1st or 2nd year of showing at any show, whether it be an ETI High Point show or otherwise.
4. **Novice** – Novice classes are open to riders that have not won three 1st place ribbons in that particular type of class (i.e. equitation or pleasure) in any prior ETI High Point show year or at any other previous horse shows. Novice rating will be maintained for the remainder of the current show year regardless of the number of first places received in that year.
5. **Walk/Jog/Trot Flat** – *Competitors in these classes may also enter Halter, Showmanship, Country Pleasure, or flat classes where they only walk/jog/trot, but may not enter a flat class with a canter/lope, or a leadline class.*
6. **Country Pleasure** - This class is open to all breeds and judged as a pleasure class. The class will consist of walk and horse's favorite gait. The emphasis is on the most pleasurable horse to ride. English country pleasure is open to Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat and Side Saddle riders. Country pleasure classes may be offered as English only, Western only, or as combined English/Western, in the discretion of the Host Show, and will count as ETI High Point Classes provided the Host Show maintains certain records required by these rules.
7. **Obedience** – This class is shown at any gait or command the judge calls for (i.e.: trot, hand gallop, side pass, counter canter, etc.) As the judge calls out instructions, horses making errors are brought to the center of the arena. The last horse on the rail wins the class. Obedience may be offered separately as a walk/jog/trot class.
8. **Hunter Hack** – This class is shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the arena. Horses are required to jump two fences at a height of 1'6"-2' and follow additional instructions given by the judge.
9. **Trot Crossrail over Fences**- This class is shown at the trot over a course of fences at a height of 1'6" to 2'.
10. **Crossrail over Fences**- This class is shown at the canter over a course of fences at a height of 1'6" to 2'.
11. **Gaited Horse**- Gaited Horses may enter Halter, Showmanship, Country Pleasure, 2-Gait Trail or classes where they only Walk/Gait. Gaited horses may not enter any other walk/trot/jog or canter/lope classes.
12. **Ranch Horse Classes**. These classes include *Ranch Horse Riding, Ranch Horse Trail* and Ranch Horse Reining. *The content of Ranch Horse Classes is governed by the rules of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), as well as these ETI High Point Rules.*

Ranch Horse Class Requirements

Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers and 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, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 ½ excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

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

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 a pole(s); or some reasonable combination maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

Posting at the extended trot is acceptable, Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable, Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.

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

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

Gaits

Below are the descriptions that AQHA has set forth the rulebook for each gait in the Ranch Riding class. As you read these rules, consider how you can better show and prepare your horse's talents to meet the guidelines set forth.

In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should stimulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

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.

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

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 was covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural forward moving stride.

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 topline with a bright attentive expression.

Penalties

Penalties are something we all aim to avoid. Making yourself aware of them to prevent them when you are showing. Notice that there are penalties for going too slow and being too over-bridled. Look to the guidelines above for direction on preparing your horse for success.

A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

One (1) point penalties

Too slow/per gait
Over-bridled
Out of frame
Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point penalties

Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
Break of gait at lope
Wrong lead or out of lead
Out of lead or cross-cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads
Trotting more than 3 strides when making a simple lead change
Draped reins
Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five (5) point penalties

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

Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

Eliminates maneuver
Incomplete maneuver

Zero score

Willful abuse
Major disobedience or schooling

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

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

Western rail horses (Pleasure and Equitation type classes) may cross enter into Ranch Riding.

The Ranch Trail class shall be judged basically the same as regular Trail going over and through obstacles. This class has 3 mandatory obstacles but may have more as the pattern dictates.

The 3 mandatory are:

1. Dismount and re-mount
2. Dragging an object
3. Opening and passing through a gate

Same penalties and point structure as the regular Trail shall apply to judging this class.

Western Trail horses may cross enter into Ranch Trail

2018 NHSC COMMITTEE~

Lesley Reisinger-Green, Sharyn Henry, Diane Semple-Cameron, Walter De La Brosse, Nell
Faulkner, Shelly Freed, Angela LoCascio, Dawn Surprenant

Chairperson

Kim Estrada
(818) 497-4730
rockbacknzip@aol.com

Co-Chairperson

Laurel Surprenant
(661) 212-7713
equinediva@hughes.net

Points Person

Dawn Surprenant
(661) 433-9069
equinediva@hughes.net

Contestant Representative

Shelly Freed
(805) 208-0228
donttouchmytux@gmail.com