

*Class rules for the pleasure classes are in the TABHSA rule book.*

*Open Pleasure Driving and Ranch Horse Pleasure are on these two pages.*

## **OPEN PLEASURE DRIVING**

Open to horses, ponies and minis.

Can use any suitable 2-wheel cart.

Will go by AQHA Pleasure Driving rule number 467 of 2010 Official AQHA Handbook:

### **467. PLEASURE DRIVING**

**(a)** A pleasure driving horse should carry himself in a natural balanced position with a relaxed head and neck. His poll should be level with, or slightly above the level of the withers.

**(b)** Maximum credit should be given to a horse that moves straight, with free movement, manners and a bright expression.

**(c)** The horse shall be severely penalized if he carries his head behind the vertical, is overflexed, excessively nosed out, the poll is below the withers or exhibits lack of control by exhibitor.

**(d)** This class will be judged 80 percent on the horse's performance and suitability for assuring a pleasurable drive, with a maximum of 20 percent on condition and conformation.

**(e)** Horses must be shown with natural American Quarter Horse hoofs and standard shoes. No extended hoofs, heavy shoes or toe weights allowed.

**(f)** Horses shall enter the ring in the same direction. Each horse shall then be exhibited at the walk, park gait and road gait in both directions of the show ring. The recommended class procedure is walk, park gait, road gait, park gait and walk. Consistently showing too far off the rail shall be penalized according to severity. At the direction of the ring steward, such change of direction shall be accomplished by the horses crossing the show ring on the diagonal while walking only.

**(g)** Each horse shall also be required to back easily and straight and stand quietly.

**(h)** No exhibitor shall drive a horse while standing, kneeling or using a seat extension in the cart at any time. An exhibitor may momentarily rise if circumstances warrant. No horse shall be unbridled or unattended while hooked to a cart. Excessive noise making by exhibitors shall be penalized according to severity.

**468. HORSE EVENTS**

# Ranch Horse Pleasure Class

This class serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one western stock horse task to another. This 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. Excessively long floppy reins will not be given extra credit. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make all required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.

**Horses shall be shown individually at the walk, trot and lope in both directions. The trot and lope with be extended in one direction only.**

The class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. Markers shall be setup to designate gait changes or called on the public address system. If the class is held inside of an arena, the pleasure course shall be setup to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The order of gaits/obstacles shall be:

- 1) Open & Close Gate
- 2) Walk
- 3) Trot
- 4) Extended Trot
- 5) Lope
- 6) Stop & Reverse
- 7) Walk
- 8) Lope
- 9) Extended Lope
- 10) Trot
- 11) Stop & Back
- 12) Cross Bridge

The extended trot may be ridden with the rider either posting or standing in the stirrups to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible, at this gait, as might be done in open terrain. When transitioning from the extended trot to the lope, it is permissible to take the horse back a bit (collecting) before loping. The reverse may be executed in either direction.

## Description of Ideal Pleasure Gaits

The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage at each gait -- neither too high nor too low.

**Walk** – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead.

**Trot** – This gait should be a square two-beat diagonal trot. The trot should be steady, soft and slow enough for riding long distances. Trots which are rough and hard to sit should be penalized. Excessively slow and uncadenced trots should also be penalized.

**Extended Trot** – The extended trot should show an evident lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This trot should be level, flat and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for an extended distance.

**Lope** – This gait should be a three beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances

**Stop** (from both lope and trot) – The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters.

**Reverse** – A horse should turn briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot.

**Extended Lope** – This gait should be an obvious lengthening of stride from the previous lope, be at the same cadence and cause an increase in speed. The gait needs to be steady, quiet, and holding the increased speed while being under control.

Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. There is no advantage to making these transitions with cues that are imperceptible to a judge. Judges expect to see horses that been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation.

All transitions should be smooth without undue fuss from the horse. Please note that the rules allow for a horse to be taken back (collected) a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is very difficult to achieve, however, a good stock horse will have to make this transition several times during a day's work. This transition is down to the normal or sitting trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that bring the hocks together to go into a stopping position should be penalized according to the magnitude of the error.

