

Rookie Horse classes

The horse should be presented under saddle to demonstrate that it has the quality of movement and behavior/expression/attitude to prove itself as a riding horse in the performance classes. On this basis, the following characteristics are evaluated and rewarded:

- a) Quality of movement (according to NSBA Handbook # 139-141)
- b) Behavior/expression/attitude
- b) Execution of the individual maneuvers. The horse should be judged based on its suitability as a riding horse. Since these are young horses, performance and rideability should be evaluated according to their age and level of training.

1. Approved horses

All three and four year old horses registered with NSBA USA.

2. Approved riders

The following riders are permitted to participate in the Rookie Horse classes:

- (L1) Youth
- (L1) Amateur
- Open

Riders must have a valid membership with NSBA USA.

3. Tack requirements

- a. Allowed bridle: Snaffle-Bit and Hackemore
- b. Western Equipment (see NSBA Handbook #135)
- c. Leg protection (polowraps, splint boots) are permitted.

Rookie Horse Basic

This class is judged according to the rideability of the horses in the maneuvers, with emphasis on expression, manners, acceptance of the rider's aids and quality of the gaits. Horses that handle the maneuvers with style and confidence are scored well. Horses that show attention to the rider's aids are scored well.

Hunter-type horses can also be presented and will be judged based on the criteria described.

Horses with an artificial appearance should be punished. The horses are ridden in various maneuvers according to a Rookie Horse Pattern.

The quality and rhythm of the movement should be taken into account when evaluating the maneuvers. The horse should move in a natural forward motion and carry its head in a relaxed, natural position, at or slightly above the height of the withers. The horse should not go behind vertical nor resist, with his head stretched forward.

Scoring

A scoring is assumed to be on a 0 to infinity basis, with 70 representing average performance. Each maneuver is scored with points (Maneuver Score), which are added or subtracted to 70 and possible penalty points (Penalty) are deducted.

Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½ points, where - 1 ½ extremely bad, - 1 very bad, - ½ bad, 0 correct, + ½ good, + 1 very good, + 1 ½ excellent.

The points (maneuver scores) are given and assessed independently of the penalty points.

Penalty points should be awarded for each error as follows:

1 penalty point (penalty);

Incorrect gait or breaking gait in a walk or trot for up to 4 strides - i.e. a "stride" is a complete sequence of movements in the respective gait, for example 2 trot steps is one stride or a full canter jump is one stride - therefore 4 trots are "two strides").

3 penalty points (penalties);

Incorrect gait or breaking gait at walk or trot for more than 4 strides.

Wrong lead in lope/canter or falling out of lope/canter (except to correct an incorrect lead).

5 penalty points;

Serious disobedience (including kicking, bucking, rearing, pawing).

Hold onto the saddle with either hand.

Off Pattern (OP) = Placement behind the horses that have completed all maneuvers:

Missed maneuver

Incomplete maneuver

Final result of 0 points (0 score):

Failure of equipment that delays completion of the pattern.

Touch the horse's neck repeatedly or exaggeratedly to cause him to lower his head.

Intentional mistreatment.

Obvious resistance.

Riding outside the specified boundaries of the course or arena.

Never show the correct gait that is prescribed.

Skip the prescribed, correct gait between obstacles.

Excessive correcting, pulling, turning, stepping or backing at any point on the course.

Lameness.

Errors rated according to their severity:

Constantly carrying the head too high.

Constantly carrying the head too low and/or clearly and constantly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion or other signs of intimidation.

Open mouth exaggeratedly.

Rookie Horse Trail

This class is judged on the horse's performance over obstacles, with emphasis on expression, manners, acceptance of the rider's aids and quality of gaits. Horses that overcome the obstacles with style and confidence are rated well. Horses that show attention to the obstacles and have the ability to find their own way through the obstacles when the obstacles allow it and otherwise willingly accept the rider's aids are rated well. Horses with an artificial appearance over the fences should be penalized.

The horses are ridden in various maneuvers according to a Rookie Trail Horse Pattern. The quality of the movements and the rhythm of the gaits should be taken into account when evaluating the obstacles. Between obstacles, the horse should move in a natural forward motion and carry its head in a relaxed, natural position, at or slightly above the height of the withers. The horse should not go behind vertical nor resist, with his head stretched forward.

Scoring

A scoring is assumed to be on a 0 to infinity basis, with 70 representing average performance. Each obstacle is scored with points (Obstacle Score), which are added or subtracted to 70 and possible penalty points (Penalty) are deducted.

Each obstacle will be graded on the following basis from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½ points, where - 1 ½ extremely poor, - 1 very poor, - ½ poor, 0 correct, + ½ good, + 1 very good, + 1 ½ excellent.

The points (obstacle scores) are given and assessed independently of the penalty points.

Penalty points should be awarded for each error as follows:

½ penalty point (penalty);

Any light contact with wood, poles, pylons, plants or any part of an obstacle.

1 penalty point (penalty);

Any biting, hitting or stepping on wood, poles, pylons, plants or any part of an obstacle.

Incorrect gait or breaking gait in a walk or trot for up to 4 strides

Both front or hind feet in a space that is only intended for one step when walking or trotting.

Skipping or missing a step in the space provided when lope over, taking a pole between the respective front or hind hooves (splitting).

3 penalty points (penalties);

Incorrect gait or breaking gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides.

Wrong lead or falling out of lope/canter (except to correct an incorrect lead).

Knocking down a raised pole, knocking over a pylon, barrel, plant or major dismantling of an obstacle.

Step out of the obstacle with a marked boundary with one foot (e.g. reverse obstacle, 360° box) from the moment the horse enters the obstacle.

Skipping or avoiding a pole that is part of a series of obstacles with one foot.

5 penalty points;

Step out of the obstacle with a marked boundary with more than one foot (e.g. reverse obstacle, 360° box) from the moment the horse enters the obstacle.

Skipping or avoiding a pole that is part of a series of obstacles with more than one foot.

Serious disobedience (including kicking, bucking, rearing, pawing).

Hold onto the saddle with either hand.

Off Pattern (OP) = Placement behind the horses that have completed all maneuvers;

Missed maneuver.

Incomplete maneuver.

Final result of 0 points (0 score);

Faulty equipment that delays completion of the pattern (tasks).

Touch the horse's neck repeatedly or exaggeratedly to cause him to lower his head.

Intentional mistreatment.

Severe resistance.

Entering or exiting an obstacle from the wrong side or direction.

Obstacle worked in the wrong direction, including more than ¼ over-rotation.

Riding outside the specified boundaries of the course or arena.

Third refusal (for the same or different obstacle).

Never show the correct gait that is prescribed.

Skip the prescribed, correct gait between obstacles.

Excessive correcting, pulling, turning, stepping or backing at any point on the course.

Lameness.

Errors that are scored according to their severity;

Constantly carrying the head too high.

Constantly carrying the head too low and/or clearly and constantly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion or other signs of intimidation.

Open mouth exaggeratedly.