

**Island Reining Horse Association
1st Annual Versatility Ranch & Reining Show
August 5, 2023**

What is.....

Reining:

Reining is a western riding competition for horses where the riders guide the horses through a precise pattern of circles, spins, and stops. All work is done at the lope. Each reining pattern includes seven to eight different maneuvers. These maneuvers trace back to what you could see a horse doing on an actual working ranch. Patterns can include: Walk in, jog-in, sliding stops, spins (turnarounds), rollbacks, circles, backups, hesitations, flying lead changes, and run downs. Each horse and rider combination starts with a score of 70. From there, each pair can either earn positive or negative points depending on how they perform each required maneuver.

Note: IRHA follows NRHA rules and uses NRHA patterns for our reining classes. If you can lope you can rein!

Ranch Riding:

The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required and optional maneuvers. The required maneuvers are the walk, jog and lope (both directions), the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction as well as stops, back and one change of direction. The optional maneuvers are sidepass; turns of 360 degrees or more; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, jog or lope over poles or other reasonable maneuvers a ranch horse could perform. Scoring is on a 0-100 point scale with 70 denoting an average performance.

Note: IRHA uses AQHA rules and patterns for this class. Exception being Green as Grass where we use a dedicated W/J/T pattern.

Ranch Rail Pleasure:

The ranch rail 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 and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, quiet, and willing to perform for the rider. The horse should be ridden 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 quiet in the bridle and yield to contact from the rein. The ideal ranch horse should carry his/her head in a natural position comfortable for the individual at each gait. In all gaits, movements of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward working speed while under control by the rider. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary consideration.

Note: This is a rail class which includes all ranch gaits (Walk, Jog, Extended Trot, Lope) Exception being Green as Grass which is W/J/T only.

Ranch Trail:

The Ranch Trail class is a pattern course with obstacles and is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day's ranch work. The purpose of the Ranch Trail class is to showcase how the ideal ranch horse responds to the rider's slightest cues to perform maneuvers and negotiate through obstacles. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles with an emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Some examples of obstacles would include crossing over a bridge, walking and trotting over poles, carrying buckets or other items, dragging a log, negotiating uneven terrain, backing through hay bales, and side passing poles.

Ranch Conformation:

The purpose of this class is to preserve the Ranch Horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with the appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Horses must be presented well-groomed, no hair trimmed from their ears or muzzle if possible. Tails should be natural. False tails, mane and/or forelock inserts, hoof black, hoof spray and/or face make-up is not permitted.

Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 12-15 meters away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left, and trot toward the wall or fence of the arena. After trotting the horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge.

Horses should stand square. Exhibitors should stay on the opposite side from the judge, to keep the horse exposed to the judge. Stay alert to where the judge is at all times. The judge shall inspect the horse from both sides, front, and rear and place the horses in order of preference.