

## Country Tough Trail Versatility (CT2V) Rulebook

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### History and Philosophy

Country Tough Trail Versatility was created by David and Brandy Von Holten, owners and operators of Von Holten Ranch, LLC. Von Holten Ranch (VHR) is a trail riding facility that is located in central Missouri. VHR is proud to be built on a treasured century farm since 1906. David is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to own the family farm. When the gates to VHR opened to the public in 2014, David and Brandy hosted events for a wide variety of associations. What they found was a lack of appreciation for the trail horse. The Von Holten's had previously created all cowgirl and co-ed competitions that allowed teams and individuals to showcase their versatility. Those competitions were based upon the rider, since some divisions were in cooking and knowledge tests. David and Brandy come from extremely vast backgrounds and understanding the importance of being well rounded. They realized that a competition was needed to embrace the importance of a solid trail horse. CT2V is designed to increase safety while developing a family atmosphere revolving around trail riding. There are three main elements of the CT2V competition: trail, ranch horsemanship, and obstacles. An In Hand option was added to help growth of CT2V. The ranch horsemanship is designed to help guide riders through an increase in skill sets/maneuvers as they progress in the organization. The obstacles are designed to test the relationship between the equine and rider with the use of practical and useful obstacles. The trail is to be actual trail without any outside obstacles being used. A solid trail horse must embody the skills used to navigate through any situation and have a trusting relationship; both of which will be tested in CT2V. Country Tough Trail Versatility is designed to create a platform for the trail horse to join the ranks of other disciplines, and not be "just a trail horse".

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## **General Rules & Regulations**

### **Competition Season**

Begins the day after the National Championship and ends the last day of the National Championship. No CT2V events may be hosted during the 14-day period prior to the National Championship.

### **Types of Competitions**

1. Local Competitions and/or Series: Must be 150 miles from a different host if events are on the same day.
2. State Championship: If there are no other hosts, then your competition/series may become the state championship. If other hosts join CT2V, the original host will be able to retain the State Championship, but will no longer be able to make it a series but rather a single competition weekend.
3. National Championship: Will be hosted by Von Holten Ranch, LLC.

### **Qualifying for the National Championship**

Equine and rider pairs must compete in one Country Tough Trail Versatility competition in the same year as the National Championship or after the previous year's National Championship. Each equine may only compete with one rider. Exceptions to this rule apply to the Buckaroo and Schooling Class Division. (see Equine Guidelines)

A competitor can "buy in" and attend the National Championship if there is not a qualifying competition within 150 miles of their residence.

### **Membership**

Membership in the Country Tough Trail Versatility is a privilege not a right. You must be a member to compete at any CT2V competition.

- In 2018, the membership fee has been waived for all members. An electronic copy of the rule book can be found at [www.vonholtenranch.com](http://www.vonholtenranch.com) under Country Tough Trail Versatility.
- In 2019, there will be a \$20 membership fee. You will receive a membership card and a printed copy of the latest rule book.

The membership is valid from the day after the previous year's national championship, through the conclusion of the current season's national championship. A current membership is required to compete in any CT2V event other than the Schooling Class.

### **Code of Conduct**

CT2V is a family oriented organization.

- Absolutely no illegal drugs are permitted.
- Competitors are not allowed to consume alcohol during or before the competition.
- Smoking on the trails during any CT2V event is 100% not permitted.
- Competitors are to be respectful and positive towards other competitors, staff, hosts, judges, and especially volunteers.

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- Please remember that any equine event is a glimpse into the “way of the cowboy”, where trust, loyalty, honor, and a hand shake meant something. Honor those traditions put into place by our cowboy ancestors.

### **Chain of Command**

Since the CT2V headquarters is at a different site than most competitions, please try to solve all problems on a local level first.

- No competitor can directly address a judge about a score. All concerns must go to the host. The judges decision is final.
- Any issues with the competition must first go to the host. The host determines whether to engage the judge or not.
- Each host will be assigned a specific board member as a support contact.

### **Dress Code**

- All competitors under 18 must wear a helmet. Minors without helmets will not be allowed to begin competition.
- All competitors must wear a cowboy hat or a helmet.
- All Western competitors may wear either a collared long sleeve button up shirt, a collared short sleeve polo, or a collared short sleeve button up shirt. Shirts are to be tucked in before the competitor begins competition. At the National Championship, only collared long sleeve button up shirts will be permitted.
- All Western competitors are to wear jeans and boots, including lace up riding boots. Chaps, chinks, and half chaps are acceptable.
- If a competitor chooses to ride an English saddle, they may wear a collared polo or a traditional shirt and jacket. At the National Championship, only a traditional shirt and jacket will be permitted.
- All English competitors are to wear breeches and boots.
- Competitors, judges, and all support staff can wear any additional clothing during inclement weather.
- Judges are to adhere to the same dress code as competitors. The cowboy hat is preferred but is optional for the judge.
- There are no parameters on clothing for support staff.
- Any dress code rules not adhered to will result in a 2-point deduction in horsemanship.
- The host shall try to correct any clothing infractions before the competitor competes as an act of kindness. Being in compliance with the dress code is the competitors responsibility.

### **Tack and Equipment**

No running martingales, tie downs, or cavesons are allowed. Cavesons are allowed if rider is using English tack.

No gag bits or mechanical hackamores are allowed. Curbs must be flat chain or flat leather.

Crop, whip, over & under is permitted if done with slight contact. Anything deemed as more than light contact will warrant a disqualification.

### **Equine Welfare and Lameness**

The judge or host can check equine for evidence of harshness. If either the judge or the host conclude that there was harshness, the rider will not be permitted to compete that day, nor keep the points for the competition when harshness occurred.

If the equine is not serviceably sound, then the horse will be considered lame. Lame equine are not allowed to compete.

### **Rule Changes**

Any rule changes for the following year will be announced at the National Championship or before January 1<sup>st</sup> and will be put into action the day after the National Championship. If you have a proposal for a rule change, please submit it in writing to CT2V postmarked no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Competition Divisions and Guidelines**

### **Key Points**

- **Stallions in Competition**  
Stallions not allowed in Wrangler, Buckaroo, Youth, or ridden by a youth in a different division.
- Monies earned in competition does not constitute a professional rider.
- If you are competing in Wrangler, Maverick, Bronc Buster, or Trail Boss (classes based on rider's skill) with multiple equine, a rider must choose one division.

### **Equine Guidelines**

- The equine can only be shown once in each of the following: Youth, Green Horn, Wrangler, Maverick, Bronc Buster, Trail Boss, Futurity, Foundations I, and Foundations II.
- The same equine can be shown in the Schooling Division in addition to any other regular division. The Schooling division will follow the regular divisions and can be entered multiple times.
- Any equine can also be used for the Buckaroo Division, which will also follow the regular divisions. The same equine can be entered by multiple riders in the Buckaroo Division.
- An equine can only be competed with by a maximum of SIX rider combinations.
- A rider may show multiple equine, but may only show in one division based upon rider ability or age (Youth, Wrangler, Maverick, Bronc Buster, or Trail Boss). The rider can show in the Green Horn or Futurity, as long as the equine is not shown in another division, other than Foundations I or II and Buckaroo.

### **Buckaroo (8 & under lead line, or any age special needs)**

The Buckaroo divisions is a lead line division intended to include the younger family members to the excitement of competing. The Buckaroo Division will only compete on the Obstacle

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Course and may use an equine that is competing with another rider. Age is determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Buckaroo is also open to any age special needs rider. Buckaroo will be the last division to exhibit on the Obstacle Course. Every entry will receive a ribbon and/or prize.

### **Youth (15 & under)**

A youth can earn money and ride in the youth division, until they are no longer eligible due to their age. At that time, if they choose to no longer earn money in the equine industry as a trainer the rider is then eligible to ride in the appropriate division based on their riding ability.

### **Green Horn (inexperienced horse, no professional riders)**

Any age equine that has competed in 10 or less competitions in any discipline (fun shows, 4H, obstacles, breed shows, etc). This division is not open to professional riders.

### **Wrangler (novice rider)**

A person shall be considered a novice or beginner if they have some basic experience with equine. They have possibly taken a few lessons. A novice rider may or may not be able to post a trot, but they can trot without bouncing and can stay comfortable with a slow canter on a gentle, well broke equine. A novice has not directly or indirectly earned money for training equine or for lessons. A Wrangler rider cannot be a judge in any other equine competitive association.

### **Maverick (intermediate rider)**

A rider that still may lack some horsemanship skills, but they are not a beginner/novice. Cantering may or may not be a skill that is comfortable for the rider, but they are able to do it with the basic understanding of leads. A Maverick has not directly or indirectly earned money for training equine or lessons in the last 5 years.

### **Bronc Buster (advancing intermediate rider)**

A rider too advanced for the Maverick Division, but not quite ready for the Trail Boss Division. A Bronc Buster has not directly or indirectly earned money for training equine or lessons in the last 5 years.

### **Trail Boss (advanced or professional rider)**

Open to anyone of any age. It is recommended the competitor to be an advanced or professional rider.

### **Advancing to the next division based upon rider skill level:**

1. Local Level: Division eligibility is up to the host with the help of an appointed board member. This is prior to someone competing at the National Championship. After someone has competed in the National Championship, then their placement will be used to indicate the competitor's appropriate division.
2. National Championship placement: If there are 10 entries, the first-place person must move up.

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3. CT2V Presidents or Advisory Board: The right is reserved to place competitors into appropriate divisions at the end of the competition season.

### **Schooling Class (training division)**

Open to any rider at any level. This division is designed to help train your equine or to try the competition. You will receive judge's feedback, but will not be eligible for prizes. The same equine can be entered up to three times total when including the Schooling Class and Buckaroo. There are no constraints on how long you can stay in the Schooling Class.

### **Futurity (3-5 year old)**

This division is only offered at the National Championship. Open to any level of rider. Equine must be 3-5 years of age. Equine must be shown in a snaffle or a bosal. There will be awards for the champion, reserve champion, and special certificates for the top of each breed represented at the national championship. Equine can only be shown in this division once.

## **Judging**

### **Key Points**

Absolutely no video reviews will be considered.

Judges may not judge their family members.

Judges are not allowed to compete in Buckaroo, Youth, Wrangler, or Maverick.

Judges are to be respected. A judge's word is final.

If there is a concern, please address the concern with the host in a private manner first.

In the social media world that we live in, please refrain from public questioning. If you do reach out to a judge, please do not argue with the judge and only reach out in private manner such as an email or private message. Only accept what they say and politely say thank you. Please remember that after the competition, the judge is on their personal time.

### **Scoring Range**

Every obstacle or maneuver will be judged on a 10-point scale. A score of 5 is average. Scores will be awarded in ¼ point increments.

9-10 Excellent

7-8 Great

6 Above Average

5 Average

4 Close to Average

2-3 Major Faults

1 Attempt

0 Left maneuver out, was not able to start

### **Scoring**

Riders will be scored on their approach, the obstacle/maneuver, and their departure.

### **Additional Scoring Information**

The equine and rider will be scored separately in the trail competition. There will not be an overall horsemanship for the trail division.

Ranch horsemanship and obstacles will have an overall horsemanship score in addition to the individual maneuver or obstacle score.

### **Tie Breakers**

Each class will have the maneuvers and overall horsemanship assigned a tie breaking order before the competition starts. This ranking system will be assigned by the judge. In the overall placing in the versatility competition any ties will be decided by trail, ranch horsemanship, and then by the obstacle scores. If there are ties that remain, a coin will be tossed in front of the competitors by the judge or host.

### **Losing Control of Equine**

If a rider loses control of their equine during the competition and the equine is loose, the rider has one minute to regain control of their equine. If after one minute, control of the equine has not been regained, the rider will leave the course and will only receive credit for maneuvers/obstacles already completed. If someone else aides the rider and places a hand on the equine to assist, the rider will not be able to continue but will receive points already earned. This shall include falling off, loose horse from any unmounted obstacle or a fall of equine and rider.

### **Disqualifications**

No equine will be disqualified except for illegal equipment, obvious lameness, inhumane treatment, or misconduct from the rider. A disqualification will result in 0 points for that round of competition. CT2V is a positive environment and reward for what we see right instead of punishing when things go wrong.

### **How to Become a Judge**

You will need to fill out the "Judge Application" and mail to CT2V. Two tests/interviews will be administered by two board members. Potential judges must score a combined 90% to gain their CT2V judge's certification. You will be contacted within 1 week after your second phone interview with results. CT2V would like for each judge to have at least one other judge's certification. If you are new to judging, it is *highly recommended* that you scribe or shadow a CT2V judge before becoming a certified judge. Being a judge is an honor, not a right. CT2V reserves the right to revoke a judge's certification if deemed necessary to ensure a fair and high-quality association.

## **Opportunity Classes**

Open to allow the host to add creativity to their event. The board will gladly help a host establish criteria for an additional class. The Opportunity Classes will not go towards the versatility placings and is meant to be an additional opportunity for competitors to grow.

### **Current Opportunity Classes**

**Foundations I:** An in-hand class for equine that are not being shown in any class other than Buckaroo. This class is designed to use the obstacles from the Obstacles Class but be modified for an in-hand competitor.

**Foundations II:** An in-hand class for equine that are being shown in another class other than Buckaroo. This class is designed to use the obstacles from the Obstacles Class but be modified for an in-hand competitor.

## **Competitive Classes**

### **Trail**

#### **About**

- Trail course is to include a minimum of 3 miles of actual natural terrain trail.
- Trail competition will consist of 6-10 natural terrain maneuvers.
- As an example, the trail competition may include maneuvers such as backing, side passing, halting, inclines, declines, gait changes, log crossing, water crossing and traveling through natural trail. There is not a complete list due to trails having unique features.
- All Youth competitors must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Key Points**

- No jumps will be higher than 22 inches.
- No equine will be required to swim.
- If necessary, a mounting block will be present if an obstacle requires mounting or dismounting. Note: host is reserved the right to have you mount or dismount on natural features i.e. stump, rock, log.
- If the competitor chooses to pony a second entry, they will have 1 minute to dismount and mount second steed. Second equine must have their own tack to ensure time efficiency. It is not the host's responsibility to have a mounting block for riders that are choosing to compete with a second equine. Youth and Wrangler competitors are not allowed to compete with a second equine in the Trail division.

### **Obstacles**

#### **About**

- The obstacles are to be practical and "a return to the cowboy". The obstacles should be something you would see in a real-life situation or a simulation that mimics real life.

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- It is important that as time passes, the obstacle difficulty does not increase each year. This creates unrealistic expectations for future competitors.

### **Prohibited Obstacles**

- Plastic swimming pools, unless used as a drag.
- Air Waves
- Jumps that are on fire
- PVC pipes on the ground
- Traveling through loose tires; side wall is acceptable
- No tarps on the ground
- Shooting, unless using a cap gun or water gun

### **Obstacle Competition Guidelines**

- Possible obstacles: backing, rope gates, gait transitions, roping, dragging, bridges, pick up feet, put on a raincoat, mount with mounting block, mailbox
- New obstacles may be added at any time, if they follow the CT2V guidelines.
- If a competitor has an unscheduled dismount and can continue, they may. If they are not able to continue, the competitor will get credit for what they were able to complete. Rider has 1 minute to regain control and continue.
- No jumps will be higher than 22”.
- No equine will be required to swim.
- If necessary, a mounting block will be present if an obstacle requires mounting or dismounting. Note: host is reserved the right to have you mount or dismount on natural features i.e. stump, rock, log.
- Drop-offs or banks will be a maximum height of 30”.
- No combinations are allowed in Wrangler. A combination is when more than one maneuver is required at a single obstacle.
- No points for time will be awarded. Maximum amount of time is 7 minutes.
- The competitor will be notified at 3 ½ minutes.

### **Ranch Horsemanship**

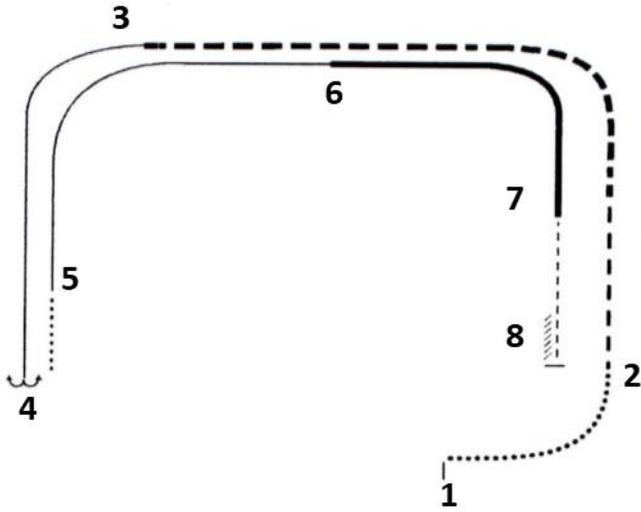
CT2V has the honor of incorporating patterns with permission and encouragement from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). It is the competitor's responsibility to know each pattern assigned to their division prior to the competition. It is up to the host when they would like to announce which pattern is being used ranging from when the competition is developed to the morning of the event.

All Ranch Riding patterns have adapted terms for gaited horses with the interchangeability of trot for slow gait and extended trot for extended gait.

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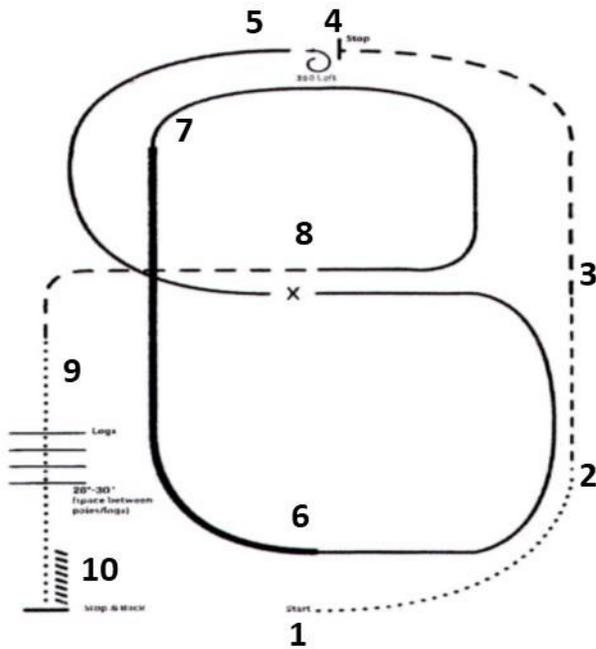
<b>Division</b>	<b>AQHA</b>
Futurity	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Schooling	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Youth	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Green Horn	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Wrangler	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Maverick	Modified: RH1, RH2, RH3
Bronc Buster	RH1, RH2, RH3
Trail Boss	RH1, RH2, RH3

### Modified Ranch Horsemanship 1



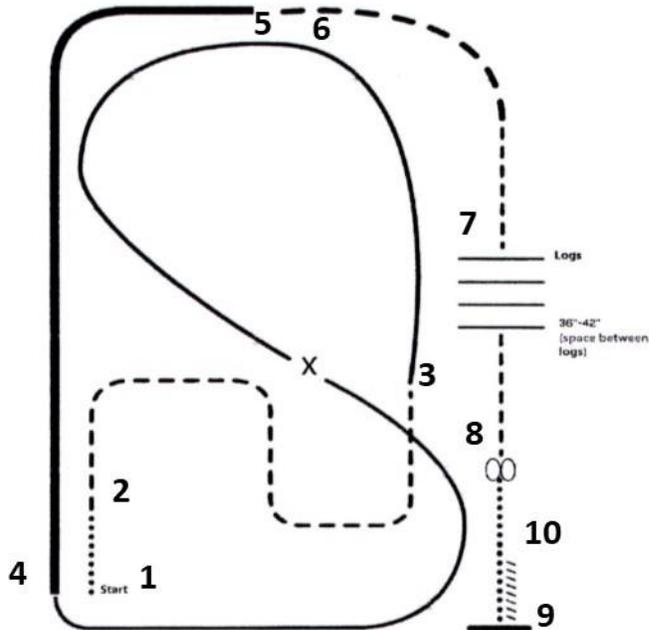
1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
4. Halt/Stop, Reverse either direction, Walk
5. Trot/Slow Gait
6. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
7. Walk
8. Halt/Stop, Back 6 Steps

## Modified Ranch Horsemanship 2



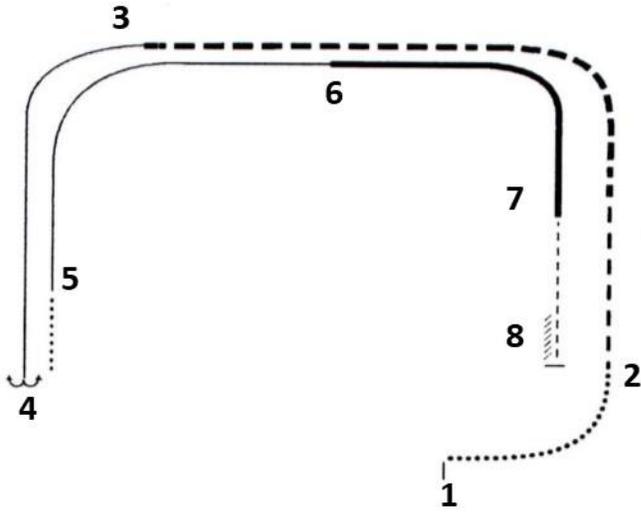
1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait, to top of arena.
4. Halt/Stop, 360 degree turn to the left
5. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
6. Trot/Slow Gait
7. Walk
8. Trot/Slow Gait
9. Walk Over Logs
10. Halt/Stop, Back 6 Steps

### Modified Ranch Horsemanship 3



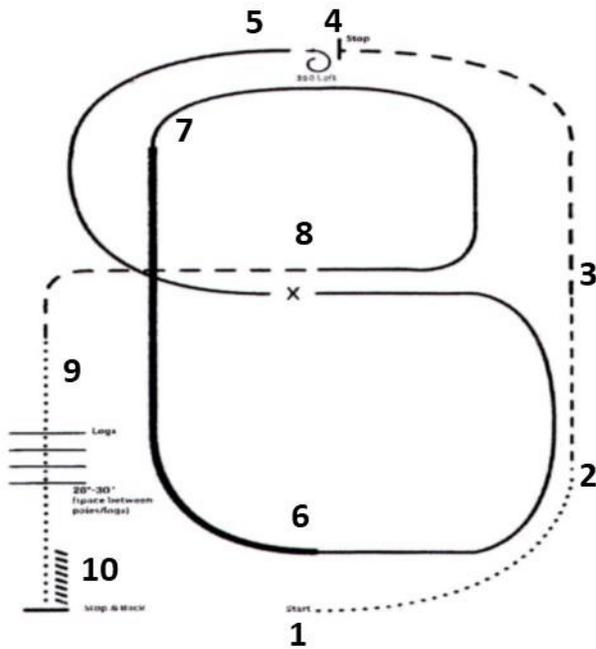
1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait Serpentine
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
4. Trot/Slow Gait Around Corner of the Arena
5. Halt/Stop 5 Seconds
6. Trot/Slow Gait
7. Trot/Slow Gait Over Logs
8. Halt/Stop, Do 360 degree each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
9. Walk to Cone
10. Back 6 Steps, Halt/Stop

### Ranch Horsemanship 1



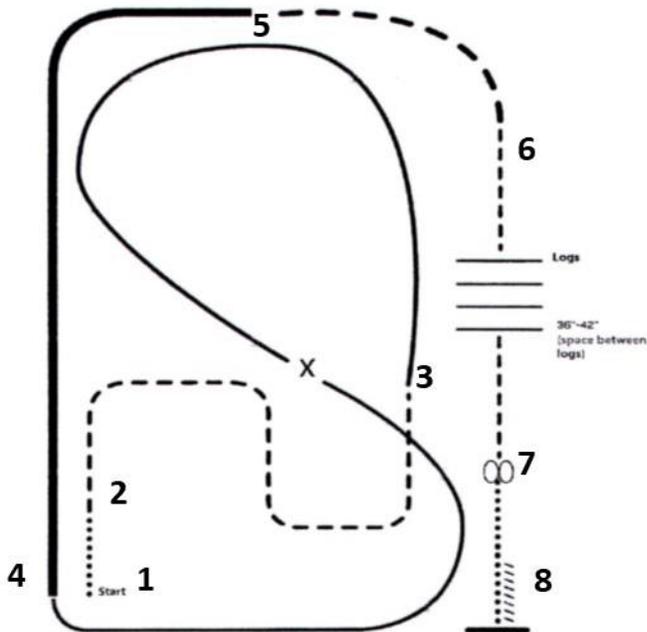
1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
4. Halt/Stop, Reverse either direction, Walk
5. Lope
6. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
7. Walk
8. Halt/Stop, Back 6 Steps

## Ranch Horsemanship 2



1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait, to top of arena.
4. Halt/Stop, 360 degree turn to the left
5. Lope, Lead Change at X
6. Extended Lope
7. Collect back into a Lope
8. Trot/Slow Gait
9. Walk Over Logs
10. Halt/Stop, Back 6 Steps

### Ranch Horsemanship 3



1. Walk
2. Trot/Slow Gait Serpentine
3. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
4. Lope Right Lead Around Corner of the Arena
5. Extended Trot/Extended Gait
6. Trot/Slow Gait Over Logs
7. Halt/Stop, Do 360 degree each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
8. Walk to Cone, Halt/Stop, Back 6 Steps