

# 4-H RANCH TRAIL JUDGES CARD



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**EXTENSION**

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_  
CLASS \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Scoring Scale:** The judge will score each maneuver based on the performance of the horse. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 along with penalties.

+1½ Excellent      +1 Very good      +½ Good      0 Correct      -½ Poor      -1 Very poor      -1½ Extremely poor

When throwing the rope, exhibitor will get one attempt to catch the roping dummy or steer head, and will be judged on the quality of the swing and throw against the maneuver.

**Penalties:** Penalties are assessed at the judge's discretion, for deviations from the standard maneuver for each obstacle.

**1 POINT PEALTIES**

- A. Each major hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or an element of anobstacle  
(**Note:** Light ticks on logs/obstacles are counted toward maneuver score).
- B. Incorrect gait at walk or jog for two strides or less
- C. Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space
- D. Skipping over or failing to step into a required space
- E. Splitting the pole in a lope-over
- F. Failure to meet the correct strides on trot over and lope over obstacles, if specified
- G. Horse moves 2 or less steps on ground tie

**3 POINT PENALTIES**

- A. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- B. Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- C. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel or plant obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- D. Stepping outside the confines, falling or jumping off or out of obstacle with 1 foot
- E. Missing or evading a pole in a series of obstacles with one foot
- F. Horse moves more than 2 steps on ground tie

**DISQUALIFICATIONS (Should not be placed):**

- A. Loss of control of the horse
- B. Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins
- C. Fall by horse or exhibitor (pg. 7 rule 401 and 41)
- D. Abuse of horse

**5 POINT PENALTIES**

- A. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course
- B. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise
- C. Stepping outside of the confines of, falling, or jumping off of or out of an obstacle with more than one foot
- D. Holding saddle with either hand
- E. Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)
- F. Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle in a series with more than one foot
- G. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative up to a total of 15 penalty points - includes balking, evading, shying, running past or backing more than 2 strides; complete loss of gate (note, in the case of a rope gate, if the rope is dropped, the rider must continue on and will be assessed a 15 point penalty); unwillingness to approach, negotiate or complete an obstacle.

**0 SCORE – Should not be placed above any horse which receives a score**

- A. Use of more than one finger between split reins
- B. Use of two hands (exception, junior horses ridden in a snaffle or hackamore or when changing hands to work an obstacle)
- C. Use of romal other than as outlined.
- D. Skipping or no attempt to perform an obstacle or three (3) refusals. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle.
- E. Performing an obstacle incorrectly, or other than in the specified order
- F. Failure to enter, exit or work an obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns more than ¼ turn
- G. Failure to work an obstacle in any manner, other than how posted
- H. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
- I. Excessive schooling
- J. Failure to ever demonstrate the correct lead and/or gait as designated

ENTRY #	Obstacle Description	Obstacle										TOTAL	PLACE	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Penalty													
	Maneuver													

Comments:

	Penalty													
	Maneuver													

Comments:

	Penalty													
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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
	Penalty													
	Maneuver													

Comments:

	Penalty													
	Maneuver													

Comments:

	Penalty													
	Maneuver													

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