



2019 *Early Californios Skills of the Rancho*

General Rules

One of the main goals of this competition is to preserve and pass on the values and skills of the early Californio stockmen and bridlemen. All competitors should, at all times, try their best to uphold these values throughout the entire competition, whether in the arena or not. Respect should be shown to horses, cattle, and other competitors at all times. We are here because we believe in this manner of working, and want to see it continued. We are all on the same team in a way.

Divisions: Note, at Judges' discretion a participant may be bumped into a higher division.

- Youth Division: Open to participants from 6 to 11 years of age as of the first day of the event. This class is for the young rider with a bit more experience. Riders are allowed to have a parent trot the pattern alongside them.
- Junior Division: Open to participants from 12 to 17 years of age as of the first day of the event. This division is for young riders with a bit more experience.
- Green Youth / Junior Division (Ranch Horse only): Open to participants from 6 to 17 years of age. This class is for the younger riders just getting started. Participants in this class are not eligible to enter other classes.
- Green Novice Division (Ranch Horse only): This class is for the very inexperienced beginner rider /roper who just wants to get their feet wet and try this style of competition. Participants in this class are not eligible to enter other classes.
- Novice Division: This class is for those with the most basic riding or roping skills.
- Intermediate 1 Division: Intermediate division is for those who are more experienced and refined riders or ropers than those with the basic skills of a novice.
- Intermediate 2 (Advanced) Division: For competitors who are at the higher end of Intermediate, but perhaps not quite ready to tackle the Open Division due to concerns about setting own ropes, etc.
- Mixed Division: Two person team consisting of one lady and one gentleman, accompanied by a helper of their choosing (we will assign if they don't have a helper). Open to all skill levels, youth and junior are encouraged to participate as well.
- Ladies Division: Two person team consisting of two ladies, accompanied by a helper of their choosing (we will assign if they don't have a helper). Open to all skill levels, youth and junior are encouraged to participate as well.
- Open Division: Open to any participant who desires to compete at the highest level of horsemanship, roping and cattle work. All professional horsemen/women and stockmen/women should compete in this class.

Equipment

Horses must only be ridden in hackamores, two-reins, or straight up in the bridle. If the same horse is ridden in multiple classes, they must compete in the same or a lower gear level in any roping class as they are shown in the Ranch Horse class. (i.e., cannot ride in a Hackamore in Ranch Horse but in the Bridle in a roping class; if the horse is a Hackamore horse they should be shown in the Hackamore in all classes).



2019 Early Californios Skills of the Rancho

General Rules - Continued

Hackamore

- Hackamores must have rawhide or rope cores with no metal or cable used in its construction.
- Horses may be shown in the hackamore as 4 year-olds and over without penalty in roping and stockmanship events.

Two-rein

- Two-reins may be only be used on horses over 5 years old that have a fully set mouth (all permanent teeth are in).
- Leather curb straps only.
- The rider may use two hands on under-bridle rein only, if needed.
- Two hands on bridle reins will result in major penalties or disqualification at the judge's discretion.

Straight up in the Bridle

- Bridlehorses must be ridden in Californio-style bridles with no broken or hinged mouthpieces allowed.
- Romal reins with chains are required, as are neck or get-down ropes.
- Any leading of horses by the bridle reins at any time during the competition will result in major penalties or disqualification at the judge's discretion.
- The use of the spade bit is encouraged as this is a cornerstone of the Californio bridle horse.
- No tie-downs, running rings, or gimmicks of any kind are allowed.

Attire

- Dressing with respect to the style we want to preserve is greatly appreciated.
- Cowboy hats, heeled boots, full-length pants, and long sleeve shirts are required while competing.
- Open competitors are required to wear leggings of some sort (armitas, chinks, or chaps).

Ropes

- Ropes must be at least 45 feet long
- Open divisions will use the rawhide reata only

Horn wraps

- Horn wraps must be of mule hide or leather. No rubber or other grabby horn wraps are allowed.
- Amateur & Junior ropers may use cotton horn wraps.

Details

- Once an animal is roped, the roper of that animal must not hand off the rope to any other team member. They must dally and handle the animal themselves. The only exception to this rule is in the Amateur and Junior classes, where safety of competitors or livestock is an issue.
- Equipment failure may result in disqualification at the judge's discretion.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, roughing of cattle or horses, or working in an unsafe or out of control manner can result in disqualification.



2019 Early Californios Skills of the Rancho

- Generally, bad stockmanship will result in point deductions by the judges. An example would be loping into the herd and scattering them. All riders are expected to consider good stockmanship as a critical component of the event and one that will be closely watched by the judges.

Judging Guide

- All classes and divisions will be judged on the same principle; we will judge from the ranch owner's or cow-boss's perspective. This means we will judge as if we owned the livestock you are working and riding, and we are paying your workman's compensation if you get yourself or someone else hurt.
- The idea is that we want to see work done in a manner that would benefit any ranch.
- All work should be performed as if we are on the ranch surrounded by bad fences and rough ground.
- Focus will be on productivity, efficiency, sustainability, safety, and workmanship. These are important factors to any agricultural endeavor.
- Although, these are timed events, judges are absolutely not looking for any high-speed action. We are looking for smooth, efficient work with the least amount of wasted movement.
- Judges will be looking for the job to be done with skill and timing, where competitors are using finesse and superior thought and planning, instead of reckless speed to succeed at the task at hand.
- Certain things such as taking too long to set up a certain shot, or taking too long to get a handle on an animal once it is roped will lead to point deductions, as will anything that decreases the overall efficiency and productivity of a run.
- All judges' decisions are to be respected and considered as final.
- Judges may alter certain rules of a class at the time of the event, as long as prior notice is given, and each contestant of that class is notified.
- Judges will hold a meeting before each event and explain what they are looking for in that particular event, and what is not allowed. At the time of the meeting, anyone who is unclear as to what is expected in that class should seek clarification.

Judges' Score Card

Each class will have a +10 to -10 point section, with 0 being an average run without mistakes.

- Horsemanship
- Stockmanship
- Teamwork

Roping

- Roping shots will be scored on a point system.
- Legal head shots are clean round the neck, neck and front foot, or figure-eight with one or both front feet.
- One front foot shot may be thrown per animal. It must come up with both front feet, and the rope must not come tight until the animal is in a safe position.
- Remember, any undue stress at any point during a run on an animal will lead to point deductions.



2019 *Early Californios Skills of the Rancho*

Judging Guide – Continued

Points accrued in the roping:

- Turnover shots will be worth 6 points on either head or heels.
- Scoop shots will be worth 5 points on either head or heels.
- Backhand and houlihan shots will be worth 4 points on either head or heels.
- Overhand shots will be worth 3 points on head or heels.
- 1 to 5 points may be awarded each shot, for distance, style, and using the most efficient shot for the situation.
- All horses working comfortably in the spade bit will be awarded a 2 point bonus at the judges' discretion.

Point deductions in the roping:

- One point deductions for missed shots.
- Roping the incorrect cow must be stripped before the correct animal is roped.
- Belly roping a cow must be stripped.
- Single leg in a heel loop will be a 2 point deduction.
- Rope coming tight on a single high hock will be a 5 point deduction.
- Cattle backed into the loop will only be worth 5 points, no matter the shot thrown and the single leg rule will still apply.
- A lost rope will be a 10 point penalty.

Time

Time and speed are not what this event is about. It is about smooth, efficient handling of horses and livestock, as well as teamwork and safety. However, because we do have a schedule to keep, time is kept for all events. Below are general rules regarding time. In all events, riders will be given a one minute warning when time is about to expire.

Open Doctoring: 8 minute time limit overall. Time stops when first head is stretched between two ropers and starts again when animal is released. Final time stops when third team member is remounted after setting ropes on second head.

Amateur Doctoring (Novice, Intermediate 2 (Advanced), Intermediate 1, Mixed, Ladies, Youth, Junior): 6 minute time limit overall. Animal must be headed within 4 minutes for run to proceed. Time stops when animal is stretched between two riders facing each other.

Ranch Horse: 5 minute time limit overall except for Open classes, which have a 7 minute limit due to additional time holding cattle out after cutting from rodear. Time stops when rider acknowledges judges after dry work, then begins again when judges assign cattle number for that portion of the run.



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General Information

Camping: Dry camping is available onsite. A limited number of pens will be available as well. A link will be provided with entry forms to contact Tejon Ranch for reservations.

Food: Meal tickets will be available. A link will be provided with the entry forms for reservations.

Dogs: Dogs must be leashed and under control at all times.