

**THE REINING HORSE
ASSOCIATION OF THE
NORTHWEST**

2008 SHOW REGULATIONS

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SECTION 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. All riders and owners of horses participating in year-end awards sponsored by the RHANW must be members in good standing before points are to count. Membership must be paid prior to showing in order for points to accrue.
- B. Any misrepresentation or false statements on entry forms or Non-Pro Declarations will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and exhibitor and or owner will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth by the RHANW By-Laws.
- C. All breeds of horses may compete in RHANW events provided owner and/or exhibitor are members in good standing as provided by Section 1.A through 1.C of these rules and the By-Laws of any and all organizations involved. Non members of RHANW may show and place in classes, but are not eligible for year-end awards.
- D. Horses must be entered using their registered name and owners are required to show proof of ownership in the form of registration papers or NRHA Competition License. If the horse is not registered and does not have a competition license, owners must show verification of ownership acceptable to the show secretary.
- E. A rider may not show more than three (3) horses in an NRHA/RHANW class. A horse may not be shown by more than one rider per class.
- F. To qualify for RHANW year-end points, the horse and/or rider, as appropriate for specific class, must show in a simple majority of the RHANW qualifying shows in the specific class that they are earning points for year-end awards. {i.e. 3 out of 5 shows: 4 out of 6 show}. For year-end awards, **ALL** shows will count.

Points for year end awards for Open Classes (Green Reiner Horse Open, $\frac{3}{4}$ Year Old Open, Open, Limited Open, and Novice Horse Open) accrue to the horse. A horse can be shown by different riders during the year, but rider and owner must both be RHANW members at the time the horse is shown for the points to count. Year end points in all other classes, including Freestyle, are to be calculated on a one horse/one rider format.
- G. It is the competitor's responsibility to know the show rules for RHANW shows.
- H. Payback will be calculated using current year NRHA percentages, and payback checks will be mailed within 45 days of competition. Payback for all classes including jackpot classes will include 50% of entry fees, except youth classes. 100% of the entry fee will be paid back in youth classes. **Scratches will not be calculated in the year end points or class paybacks.**
- I. A score of zero {0} is not eligible to place in a class for year-end awards calculations or for payback of monies for the class. A no score is not eligible for placing or payback.
- J. All horses shown in youth classes shall be owned by the contestant or his/her immediate family or a corporation, which is solely owned by the family. The horse and rider shall be considered a team. Any change in horses must be approved by the Board of Directors. That combination shall be allowed to show in all classes which they are eligible to enter.
- K. The DRAW for a class will begin ~~two~~ **three** classes prior or **no later than 8:00pm the night before ~~½ hour~~ prior to the scheduled start time** for the first class of the day.

- L. A class shall be considered closed to additional entries when the DRAW begins. Post entries will be allowed at the Show Secretary's discretion. Post entries will be placed at the start of the class.
- M. If a competitor must scratch a class and does so **BEFORE** the first rider enters the arena for that class, they may receive their entry fee back, (not including the office and judges fees).
- N. If a competitor must scratch a class, and does so **AFTER** first rider enters the arena for that class, **NO FEES** will be refunded (entry, office, or judges) for that class.
- O. There will be **NO REFUNDS** of office or judges fees.

SECTION 2. CLASS CATEGORIES AND CONDITIONS

All of the following classes may or may not be offered at RHANW sponsored shows. The Board of Directors shall decide which classes shall be offered at shows and for year-end awards for that calendar year.

A. Classes for RHANW shows and Year-End Awards for the calendar year:

1. **Youth classes:** Youth 13 & Under and Youth 14-18 (As of January 1 of current year). Youth, immediate family, or family owned corporation as defined by the NRHA must own the horse. 2 handed any legal bit. (For RHANW youth classes). 1 handed any legal bit (for NRHA youth classes.)
2. **Lil Boots Reiners:** Youth 11 & Under as of January 1 of current year. Youth does not have to own horse. Rider may show 1 or 2 handed in any legal bit and with standard reins or any type of closed rein. There will be no penalty for holding saddle with either hand.
3. **Green as Grass Rider:** 1st year reining for Non-Pro rider. Rider may show 1 or 2 handed with any legal bit. Rider does not have to own the horse they are riding.
4. **Beginner Rider:** Non-Pro rider has not won more than \$100 in Reining competition as of the start of the year. Rider to show 2 handed in any legal bit. Rider does not have to own horse.
5. **Rookie Rider:** Non-Pro rider has not won more than \$500 and/or in excess of \$200 NRHA lifetime earnings, all categories, OR has not earned more than 50 youth points in NRHA sanctioned competition at the start of the NRHA year. 1 handed any legal bit. Rider does not have to own the horse they are riding.
6. **Green Reiner Horse Open:** 1st year reining for horse. Rider may show 1 or 2 handed, any approved bit.
7. **Junior Horse:** Horses 5 years old and younger. 1 handed any legal bit or 2 handed in snaffle or bosal.
8. **Freestyle:** NRHA rules will apply. 3 ½ minute time limit including any introductions.
9. **Open:** NRHA rules apply. 1 handed any legal bit.
10. **Limited Open:** NRHA rules apply. Rider has not won more than \$10,000 in all NRHA categories except 3, 7 & 9 at the start of the NRHA year. 1 handed any legal bit.
11. **Novice Horse Non-Pro:** Horse has not won more than \$5000 in NRHA Category 1 earnings at the start of the NRHA year. 1 handed any legal bit. NRHA ownership rules apply.
12. **Novice Horse Open:** Horse has not won more than \$5000 in NRHA Category 1 earnings at the start of the year. 1 handed any legal bit.
13. **Non Pro:** NRHA ownership rules apply. 1 handed any legal bit.
14. **Limited Non Pro:** Rider has not won more than \$2500 in all NRHA categories except 3, 7 & 9 over the three previous calendar years. NRHA ownership rules apply. 1 handed any legal bit.
15. **Intermediate Non Pro:** Rider who has earned less than \$10,000 in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 & 9 over the previous three calendar years. NRHA ownership rules apply. 1 handed any legal bit.
16. **Over the Hill Non Pro:** Non-Pro rider 45 years or older as of January 1 of the current year. NRHA ownership rules apply. 1 handed any legal bit.

17. **Dun Its Lucky Charm Derby:** NRHA rules apply. Open to horses 4, 5, 6 years old. 1 handed any legal bit. In Non Pro, NRHA ownership rules apply. Derby will be at June show only.

18. **Professor Smart Futurity:** NRHA rule apply. 1 handed or may show 2 handed in a snaffle bit or hackamore. In Non Pro, NRHA ownership rules apply. Futurity will be at September show only.

Owner and Rider must both be members of the RHANW (before horse and rider enter the arena for their class) and must show in class in a majority of shows (3 out of 4) to be eligible for Year End Awards. All 4 shows count towards year end points. Refer to RHANW Rules and Regulations.

All four shows count for the NRHA North American Regional Affiliate Finals. Refer to NRHA US Affiliate Conditions for qualifying rules.

SECTION 3. EQUIPMENT

- A. Any type of bit free of mechanical devices may be used. Rope or leather bosals no larger than 3/4" diameter on the cheek and free of wire, iron or mechanical devices may be used. The mouthpiece bar space shall be constructed only of round material with a minimum diameter of no less than 5/16" measured 1" from the cheek. The port shall not extend or protrude below the bars and shall not exceed 3 1/2" in height. Nothing may protrude more than 1/8" below the mouthpiece (bar).
- B. Snaffle bit mouthpiece size must be at least **5/16"** diameter, 1 inch in from the cheek or rings with rings no smaller than 2" or larger than 4" in diameter.
- C. Curb chains are permissible provided that:
 - They are at least one half inch in width
 - They are free of barbs, wire and/or twists
 - They lay flat against the horse's jaw
- D. Splint boots, skid boots, combination skids, polo wraps, or any other properly applied protective boots may be used.
- E. It is mandatory for all riders to use appropriate western tack and western attire while showing; this would include a long sleeve shirt, western hat or safety helmet, boots, western saddle, and western bridle. (Freestyle reining being exempt based on conditions.) Failure to use appropriate tack and western attire will result in a score of 0.
- F. Equipment should be applied correctly and safely to the horse. Show management will reserve the right to ask an exhibitor to correct equipment that they see to be a hazard to the horse and/or rider.
- G. Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins and mecates on snaffle bits and bosals in classes where the use of two hands is allowed. Lil Boot Reiner class is an exception to this rule.

SECTION 4. JUDGING AND SCORING

- A. The NRHA system of plus and minus will be used for judging all RHANW events. The scoring will be on a basis of 0 - infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Scores will be announced after each horse works.
- B. All ties for 1st place will be worked off if the tied exhibitors agree to participate in a run-off. Tied exhibitors have the alternate option of agreeing not to run-off and be named co-champions. If they do not agree, the exhibitor who does not want to run-off will forfeit first place to the other. The runoff will use the same pattern/order of go as was used during the event; however, there will not be more than one run-off. If a tie occurs after the run-off, the entrants will be named co-champions; will evenly split 1st and 2nd prize money, but must determine the winner of the awards by a flip of a coin. No runoff will be required in Freestyle, Snaffle Bit or Hackamore classes.

C. The following will result in no score:

- Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care, and custody of horses within the state or county where an NRHA or RHANW reining is being held;
- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition;
- Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals, or curb chains;
- Use of illegal bits, bosals, or curb chains;
- Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;
- Use of whips or bats;
- Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;
- Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;
- Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor;
- The judge(s) may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition pertaining to both the horse and/or rider.

D. A rider may untangle excess rein, where excess rein may prevent the rider from continuing the pattern, where said excess can be straightened without affecting the performance of the horse and at an appropriate time in the pattern. When using a romal, no finger between the reins is allowed. The free hand may be used to hold the romal, provided it is at least 16" from the reining hand and in a relaxed position. Use of the free hand while holding the romal, to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand, is considered to be the use of two hands, and a score of zero (0) will be applied with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern.

E. The following will result in a score of zero (0):

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins,
- Use of two hands or changing hands (Except where noted in Section 2),
- Use of romal other than as outlined in Section 4.D,
- Failure to complete pattern as written,
- Performing the maneuvers not specified,
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to: backing more than two (2) strides or turning more than 90 degrees, (Exception: a complete stop in the 1st quarter of a circle after a canter departure is not to be considered an inclusion of maneuver; a 2 point break of gait penalty will apply.)
- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion;
- Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed,
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern,
- Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena while starting a circle, circling or exiting a rollback,
- Over spins of more than 1/4 turn,
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider
- Failure to have correct exhibitor number displayed.

Note: A "no score" is not eligible to place, a score of zero (0) is not eligible to place.

F. The following will result in a reduction of five (5) points:

- Spurring in front of the cinch,
- Use of free hand to instill fear or praise,
- Holding saddle with free hand,
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking.

G. The following will result in a two (2) point penalty:

- Break of gait,
- Freezing up in spins or rollbacks,
- On walk in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure,
- On run in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to reaching the first marker,
- On center of arena canter departures, failure to depart from a walk or stopped position,
- If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.

- H.** Starting circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows: Each time a horse is out of lead or has a delayed change of lead, a judge is required to penalize by 1 point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will add 1 penalty point for each ¼ of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A delayed change of lead is a one (1) point penalty from one stride to ¼ of circumference of a circle and is also cumulative beyond that point. A judge is required to penalize a horse ½ of a point for a delayed change of lead by 1 stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
- I.** Deduct ½ a point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two (2) strides. Jogging beyond two (2) strides but less than ½ a circle or ½ of the length of the arena, deduct two (2) points.
- J.** Deduct ½ a point for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn. Deduct one point for over or under spinning up to 1/4 of a turn.
- K.** In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows: for ½ the turn or less, 1 point; for more than ½ turn, 2 points.
- L.** There will be a ½ point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet from wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
- N.** The judge shall have the authority to remove any contestant from a show he/she is judging, should said contestant show any disrespect or misconduct as to render himself or the show in an unprofessional manner.
- O.** All riders must dismount and drop the bridle immediately after the performance. The bridle must be checked by the designated judge in the arena or in a close proximity to the arena. Failure to comply will result in a no score.
- P.** No "Pattern Spotters" will be used in an NRHA event.
- Q.** The judge has the option of awarding a re-ride to any contestant, who in the judge's opinion would be unable to complete a pattern for reasons that are out of the rider's control.
- R.** A "no score" is not eligible to place; a score of "0" is not eligible to place.
- S.** If a show has NRHA approval all rules for judging and scoring as published in the NRHA Handbook for the current year shall be followed.
- T.** A horse may not be shown under a judge if that judge has been owner, trainer or agent of that horse within the last 45 days, or if said horse is ridden by a member of his/her immediate family, or by an employee of said judge. If such a horse is entered in a show, its entry fee shall be refunded and it is not to be exhibited. A judge may not show to another judge whom he/she had judge or judged with, within five days; nor may a judge judge another judge to whom he/she has shown or judged with, within five days.
- T.** A judge may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition caused by the horse and/or rider.

SECTION 5. PAYBACK PERCENTAGES

Payback percentages will be as printed in the NRHA Handbook for the current calendar year and will be posted at the show.

SECTION 6. YOUTH PROGRAM

- A.** Any youth 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st, of the current calendar year may become a youth member of RHANW.
- B.** Membership is required to show in Youth and Non-Youth classes, if youth are participating in RHANW year-end award program.
- C.** All horses shown in youth classes shall be owned by the contestant or his/her immediate family or a corporation in which his/her immediate family or member of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owners of that business entity.

- D. No stallions, monorchid or cryptorchid horses, regardless of age, will be permitted in any youth class.
- E. Youth must use legal equipment as stipulated in Section 3. of these show rules.
- F. Year-end Awards. Points will be given to riders to determine year-end awards. Point scale used will be the same as printed in the NRHA Handbook for the current calendar year.
- G. All NRHA patterns will be used in youth reinings. The number of spins required in NRHA patterns will not be modified for RHANW shows.

SECTION 7.

Any National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) approved show and/or classes sponsored by the RHANW will be governed by the National Reining Horse Association By-Laws, Show Rules, Judging Rules, and Youth Program Rules and By-Laws as stated in the NRHA Handbook.