



# RULEBOOK

## SHOW STAFF

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## OUR MISSION

TO INTRODUCE, EDUCATE, AND GROW THE RANCH RIDING/ VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE DISCIPLINE. BUILDING NEW AND LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH FELLOW EQUESTRIANS PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR SPORT. PROVIDING A FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

## REFERENCE

- AQHA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023  
[HTTPS:// WWW.AQHA.COM/AQHA -RULEBOOK](https://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook)  
PLEASE SEE AQHA RULES  
VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE PAGE 232 .



## DIVISIONS

### TRHSA

#### YOUTH WALK/ TROT

RIDERS 18 AND UNDER AS OF JANUARY 1ST. CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO ANY OTHER DIVISION(S)

#### ADULT WALK/ TROT

CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO ANY OTHER DIVISION(S)

### TRHSA

**OPEN** – TRAINERS AND PROFESSIONAL HORSEMEN, AMATEUR AND YOUTH MAY EXHIBIT.

**OPEN JUNIOR HORSE**- 5 YEARS OLD (AS OF JANUARY 1ST) AND YOUNGER.

**OPEN SENIOR HORSE** - 6 YEARS OLD (AS OF JANUARY 1ST) AND OLDER.

\*REGARDLESS OF HORSES DATE OF BIRTH ALL AGES ARE AS OF JANUARY 1ST. EXAMPLE: HORSE DATE OF BIRTH JUNE 8TH HE TURNS 6 HE WILL BE CONSIDERED A SENIOR HORSE AS OF JANUARY 1ST.

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### AMATEUR –

**(TRHSA)** ALL ADULTS NON PRO, THE EXHIBITOR CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO LIMITED AMATEUR, INTERMEDIATE AMATEUR, OR ROOKIE AMATEUR.

### LIMITED AMATEUR -

**(TRHSA)** ALL ADULTS NON PRO, THE EXHIBITOR CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO INTERMEDIATE AMATEUR OR ROOKIE AMATEUR

### INTERMEDIATE AMATEUR-

**(TRHSA)**ALL ADULTS NON PRO, THE EXHIBITOR CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO ROOKIE AMATEUR.

### ROOKIE AMATEUR -

**(TRHSA)** THE EXHIBITOR MUST NOT HAVE NO MORE THAN 2 YEARS SHOW EXPERIENCE. PAST DIVISION CHAMPIONS MUST MOVE UP TO LIMITED AMATEUR.



## **DIVISIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **YOUTH –**

**(TRHSA)** EXHIBITORS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER (AGE AS OF JANUARY 1). MAY NOT CROSS ENTER INTO LIMITED OR ROOKIE YOUTH.

### **LIMITED YOUTH-**

**(TRHSA)** EXHIBITOR CAN NOT CROSS ENTER INTO ROOKIE YOUTH.

### **ROOKIE YOUTH -**

**(TRHSA)** NO MORE THAN 2 YEARS SHOW EXPERIENCE. WALK/TROT DIVISION DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE 2 YEAR SHOW EXPERIENCE.

\* EXHIBITORS WILL BE JUDGED FROM THE TIME THEY ENTER THE ARENA UNTIL THEIR PERFORMANCE IS COMPLETED. \*AN EXHIBITOR MAY NOT BE ASSISTED BY ANY OTHER PERSON IN THE SHOW RING. NO EXHIBITOR MAY BE TIED, BUCKLED, OR FASTENED IN THE SADDLE IN ANY MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS. \* WHEN AN EXHIBITOR, EXHIBITOR' S PARENT, OR PERSON REPRESENTING AN EXHIBITOR EXHIBITS POOR SPORTSMANSHIP OR HORSEMANSHIP, RUDE, OR UNRULY BEHAVIOR, THE SHOW MANAGEMENT, JUDGE, OR CLASS SUPERINTENDENT MAY SUSPEND SUCH EXHIBITOR' S RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS, FUTURE CLASSES, AND/ OR SHOWS FOR SUCH A PERIOD AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.



# RULEBOOK

## CLASSES

### TRHSA

RANCH RIDING ( PATTERN)  
RANCH REINING ( PATTERN)  
RANCH TRAIL ( PATTERN)  
RANCH RAIL  
STOCK HORSE PLEASURE ( SIGNAGE)

## POLICY

INHUMANE OR ABUSIVE TREATMENT MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SHOW MANAGEMENT, MEMBERS OF THE HORSE SHOW MANAGEMENT TEAM, AND/ OR JUDGES. DECISIONS ARE NON- NEGOTIABLE AND FINAL.

- ♦ UNSOUNDNESS MAY BE PENALIZED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE. THIS DECISION IS NOT SUBJECT TO PROTEST.
- ♦ THE USE OF ANY STIMULANTS OR DEPRESSANTS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ANY SURGICAL PROCEDURE OR DRUG THAT COULD AFFECT A HORSE' S PERFORMANCE OR ALTER ITS NATURAL CONFORMATION IS PROHIBITED. ONLY NSAIDS PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN ARE ALLOWED (EX: PHENYL BUTAZONE IS LEGAL).
- ♦ ANY TIME A HORSE' S MOUTH IS TIED OR FASTENED IN A PERFORMANCE CLASS THE HORSE SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED.
- ♦ ANY OPEN, RAW SORES OR BLEEDING BODY PARTS THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH A HACKAMORE, BIT, SPUR, OR RELATED EQUIPMENT MAY BE PENALIZED AT THE JUDGE' S DISCRETION.



# RULEBOOK

## **AWARDS/ POINTS**

### **TRHSA**

#### **OVERALL YEAR END HIGH POINT**

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR YEAR END AWARDS, SAME HORSE/ RIDER TEAM MUST COMPETE IN 4 OUT OF 6 SHOWS AND MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SHOW.

ALL 11 DIVISIONS WILL RECEIVE AWARDS/ RECOGNITION FOR 1ST-5TH PLACE.

#### **ALL- AROUND/ OVERALL HIGH POINT**

RECOGNITION WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OVERALL HIGHEST SCORE IN THE OPEN, ADULT, AND YOUTH DIVISIONS. SAME HORSE/ RIDER TEAM MUST COMPETE IN ALL 5 CLASSES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALL- AROUND AWARD.

#### **RECOGNITION AWARDS**

MAY BE GIVEN AT ANY SHOW BY THE JUDGE AND/ OR SHOW MANAGEMENT FOR SPORTSMANSHIP AND/ OR HORSEMANSHIP.

#### **1ST-6TH PLACE RIBBONS**

WILL BE AWARDED TO EVERY CLASS. CHAMPION/ RESERVE CHAMPION PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO HIGH POINT RIDERS IN EACH DIVISION.

EXHIBITORS HAVE ONE WEEK FROM SHOW DATE TO CONTACT TRHSA FOR ANY POINT ERRORS.

#### **POINT SYSTEM:**

| <b>PLACING</b> | <b>POINTS</b> |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1ST .....      | 10            |
| 2ND .....      | 6             |
| 3RD .....      | 4             |
| 4TH .....      | 3             |
| 5TH .....      | 2             |
| 6TH .....      | 1             |



# RULEBOOK

## **ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT ATTIRE**

THE USE OF PROPERLY FITTED PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR BY EXHIBITORS IS OPTIONAL AND ENCOURAGED. RIDERS ARE ASKED TO WEAR A WESTERN HAT, LONG- SLEEVE SHIRTS, AND WESTERN BOOTS. WESTERN BOOTS SHALL INCLUDE TYPICAL COWBOY BOOTS. THE USE OF SPURS AND CHAPS IS OPTIONAL. CLOTHING SHOULD BE NEAT AND CLEAN. WE ARE A RANCH COMPETITION -NO BLING, SPARKLES, BRAIDS.

## **EQUIPMENT**

HORSES SHALL BE SHOWN IN A STOCK SADDLE. SILVER EQUIPMENT WILL NOT COUNT OVER GOOD, CLEAN, WORKING EQUIPMENT. HORSES MAY BE RIDDEN WITH A SNAFFLE, CURB, OR SPADE BIT. NO MORE THAN ONE FINGER IS ALLOWED BETWEEN THE REINS WHEN USING SPLIT REINS, EXCEPT WHEN RIDING IN A SNAFFLE. WHEN USING ROMAL REINS, NO FINGERS BETWEEN THE REINS ARE ALLOWED. DURING REINING, THE USE OF THE FREE HAND WHILE HOLDING THE ROMAL REINS 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 0 WILL BE APPLIED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ANY PLACE A HORSE IS ALLOWED TO BE COMPLETELY STOPPED DURING THE PATTERN. IN ALL OTHER CLASSES, RIDERS WILL BE CONSIDERED OFF PATTERN WHEN SWITCHING HANDS ONCE THEIR RUN HAS STARTED, INCLUDING SWITCHING FROM ONE TO TWO HANDS OR VICE VERSA.

CURB BITS MUST HAVE A CURB CHAIN OR STRAP, AND IT MUST BE AT LEAST 1/2 INCH IN WIDTH AND MUST LIE FLAT AGAINST THE HORSE'S CHIN. NO WIRE CURBS ARE PERMITTED, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT OF PADDING OR TAPE. MECHANICAL HACKAMORES ARE PROHIBITED. BOSALS OR NOSEBANDS ARE NOT PERMITTED WITH A BIT. TIE DOWNS, MARTINGALES, AND DRAW REINS ARE PROHIBITED.



## **SCORING/ PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS**

### **RANCH HORSE GAITS**

**PLEASE REFERENCE AQHA VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE FOR RANCH RIDING, RANCH TRAIL, VRH REINING, AND CONFORMATION.**

### **RANCH RAIL**

THE RANCH RAIL PLEASURE CLASS IS A FOUNDATION CLASS MEASURING 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, RELAXED, QUIET, SOFT, AND CADENCED AT ALL GAITS. THE HORSE SHOULD BE RIDDEN ON A RELATIVELY LOOSE REIN 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 SOFT IN THE BRIDLE AND YIELD TO CONTACT. THE IDEAL RANCH RAIL HORSE SHOULD HAVE A NATURAL HEAD CARRIAGE AT EACH GAIT. IN ALL GAITS, MOVEMENT 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. THE CLASS SHOULD SHOW THE HORSE'S ABILITY TO WORK AT A FORWARD, WORKING SPEED WHILE UNDER CONTROL BY THE RIDER. LIGHT CONTACT SHOULD BE REWARDED, AND HORSES SHALL NOT BE SHOWN ON A FULL DRAPE OF REINS. THE HORSE'S OVERALL MANNERS, RESPONSIVENESS, CORRECTNESS, AND QUALITY OF MOVEMENT ARE THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THIS CLASS.

### **CLASS PROCEDURE**

HORSES ARE SHOWN AT A WALK, JOG, AND LOPE WITH LIGHT CONTACT OR ON A RELATIVELY LOOSE REIN WITHOUT REQUIRING UNDUE RESTRAINT, BUT NOT SHOWN ON A FULL DRAPE OF REINS. HORSES MUST BE WORKED BOTH WAYS OF THE RING, AT ALL THREE GAITS (EXCLUDING WALK/TROT DIVISIONS), TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY WITH DIFFERENT LEADS AND TRANSITIONS. RIDERS MAY BE ASKED TO EXTEND THE JOG OR LOPE (ONLY IN LARGE ARENAS WITH ADEQUATE SPACE) AT THE JUDGE'S DISCRETION. PASSING IS PERMISSIBLE AND SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED AS LONG AS THE HORSE MAINTAINS A PROPER AND EVEN CADENCE AND RHYTHM. HORSES ARE TO BE REVERSED TO THE INSIDE (AWAY FROM THE RAIL). POSTING AT THE EXTENDED TROT IS ACCEPTABLE. HORSES SHOULD BACK EASILY AND STAND QUIETLY WHEN/ IF CALLED FOR. PART OF THE EVALUATION OF THIS CLASS IS ON THE SMOOTHNESS OF TRANSITIONS. A HORSE MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE EXTENDED TROT AS THE HORSE MOVES INTO THE LOPE. THE TRANSITION FROM THE EXTENDED LOPE DOWN TO THE TROT IS A TRANSITION TO THE SEATED TROT, NOT THE EXTENDED TROT. THEREFORE, AN EXTRA CUE TO ACHIEVE THIS GAIT IS EXPECTED. HORSES THAT COMPLETE THIS TOTAL TRANSITION WITHIN THREE STRIDES CALMLY AND OBEDIENTLY SHOULD BE REWARDED. HORSES THAT ATTEMPT TO STOP OR DO STOP PRIOR TO TROTTING WILL BE PENALIZED. JUDGES EXPECT TO SEE HORSES THAT HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO RESPOND TO CUES.





## **SCORING/ PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS (CONTINUED)**

TO SEE THESE CUES APPLIED DISCRETELY AND THE HORSE RESPONDING CORRECTLY COULD BE A CREDIT EARNING SITUATION. THE CLASS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE PERFORMANCE AND CONDITION OF THE HORSE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE.

### **ENTRIES SHALL BE PENALIZED (BUT NOT NECESSARILY DISQUALIFIED) EACH TIME THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:**

- TOO SLOW/ PER GAIT
- OVER- BRIDLED
- OUT OF FRAME
- BREAK OF GAIT AT ANY GAIT
- WRONG LEAD OR OUT OF LEAD
- DRAPED REINS
- TROTGING MORE THAN TWO STRIDES WHEN TAKING LEAD
- BLATANT DISOBEDIENCE (KICK, BITE, BUCK, REAR, ETC.)
- MAJOR DISOBEDIENCE OR SCHOOLING
- SPURRING IN FRONT OF CINCH
- USE OF EITHER HAND TO INSTILL FEAR/ PRAISE

### **THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION:**

- MAJOR DISOBEDIENCE OR SCHOOLING
- WILLFUL ABUSE
- SWITCHING/ CHANGING HANDS ONCE THEIR RUN HAS STARTED, INCLUDING SWITCHING FROM ONE TO TWO HANDS OR VICE VERSA.





## **SCORING/ PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **STOCK HORSE PLEASURE**

THE PURPOSE OF THE STOCK HORSE PLEASURE CLASS IS TO MEASURE THE ABILITY OF THE HORSE TO BE A PLEASURE TO RIDE WHILE BEING USED AS A MEANS OF CONVEYANCE FROM PERFORMING ONE RANCH TASK TO ANOTHER. THE HORSE SHOULD REFLECT THE VERSATILITY, ATTITUDE, AND MOVEMENT OF A WORKING RANCH HORSE RIDING OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF AN ARENA. THE HORSE SHOULD BE WELL- TRAINED, RELAXED, QUIET, SOFT, AND CADENCED AT ALL GAITS. THE IDEAL RANCH HORSE WILL TRAVEL WITH FORWARD MOVEMENT AND DEMONSTRATE AN OBVIOUS LENGTHENING OF STRIDE AT EXTENDED GAITS. THE HORSE CAN BE RIDDEN WITH LIGHT CONTACT OR ON A RELATIVELY LOOSE REIN WITHOUT REQUIRING UNDUE RESTRAINT, BUT NOT SHOWN ON A FULL DRAPE OF REINS. THE OVERALL MANNERS AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE RANCH RIDING HORSE TO MAKE TIMELY TRANSITIONS IN A SMOOTH AND CORRECT MANNER, AS WELL AS THE

QUALITY OF THE MOVEMENT ARE OF PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS. THE IDEAL STOCK HORSE PLEASURE HORSE SHOULD HAVE A NATURAL HEAD CARRIAGE AT EACH GAIT.

### **CLASS PROCEDURE**

HORSES SHALL BE SHOWN INDIVIDUALLY, AND THE CLASS MAY BE CONDUCTED INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF AN ARENA. THE PATTERN MAY BE STARTED EITHER TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT DIRECTION. MARKERS SHALL BE SET UP TO DESIGNATE GAIT CHANGES. ORDER OF MANEUVERS MAY BE VARIED PER JUDGE'S DISCRETION, BUT THE STOP SHOULD NOT FOLLOW THE EXTENDED LOPE. JUDGES ARE ENCOURAGED TO WALK THE COURSE PRIOR TO JUDGING.

### **STOCK HORSE PLEASURE PENALTIES AND CREDITS**

THE OVERALL CADENCE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE GAITS SHOULD BE AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN RANCH HORSE GAITS ABOVE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FORWARD MOVEMENT, FREE- FLOWING, AND GROUND COVERING FOR ALL GAITS. PART OF THE EVALUATION OF THIS CLASS IS ON SMOOTHNESS OF TRANSITIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE PERFORMED WHERE DESIGNATED, SMOOTH AND RESPONSIVE. A HORSE MAY BE COLLECTED FROM THE EXTENDED TROT OR WALK AS THE HORSE MOVES INTO THE LOPE. DURING THE TRANSITION FROM THE EXTENDED LOPE DOWN TO THE TROT, WALK OR EXTENDED WALK AN EXTRA CUE TO ACHIEVE THIS GAIT IS EXPECTED. HORSES THAT COMPLETE THIS TOTAL TRANSITION WITHIN THREE STRIDES CALMLY AND OBEDIENTLY SHOULD BE REWARDED. HORSES THAT ATTEMPT TO STOP OR DO STOP PRIOR TO THE SPECIFIED GAIT WILL BE PENALIZED. JUDGES EXPECT TO SEE HORSES THAT HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO RESPOND TO CUES. TO SEE THESE CUES APPLIED DISCREETLY AND THE HORSE RESPONDING CORRECTLY COULD BE A CREDIT- EARNING SITUATION. ALL RUNS BEGIN UPON ENTERING THE PEN; ANY INFRACTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO PENALTY AT THAT TIME.



## **SCORING/ PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **ONE (1) POINT**

- OVER- BRIDLED ( PER MANEUVER)
- OUT OF FRAME ( PER MANEUVER)
- TOO SLOW
- BREAK OF GAIT AT WALK OR TROT FOR TWO STRIDES OR LESS

#### **THREE (3) POINTS**

- WRONG LEAD
- DRAPED REINS
- BREAK OF GAIT AT LOPE
- BREAK OF GAIT AT WALK OR TROT FOR MORE THAN TWO STRIDES

#### **FIVE (5) POINTS**

- SPURRING IN FRONT OF CINCH
- BLATANT DISOBEDIENCE
- USE OF EITHER HAND TO INSTILL FEAR/PRAISE

#### **OFF PATTERN**

#### **(CANNOT PLACE ABOVE OTHERS WHO COMPLETE PATTERN CORRECTLY)**

- BREAKING PATTERN
- REPEATED DISOBEDIENCE
- SWITCHING/ CHANGING HANDS ONCE THEIR RUN HAS STARTED, INCLUDING SWITCHING FROM ONE TO TWO HANDS OR VICE VERSA.
- MORE THAN ONE FINGER BETWEEN SPLIT REINS OR ANY FINGERS BETWEEN ROMAL REINS. WHEN RIDING IN A SNAFFLE BIT TWO HANDS ARE ACCEPTABLE.
- THREE OR MORE REFUSALS TO COMPLETE A MANEUVER

#### **DISQUALIFICATION (DQ)**

- LAMENESS
- ABUSE
- ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT
- DISRESPECT OR MISCONDUCT
- LEAVING WORKING AREA BEFORE PATTERN IS COMPLETE
- FALL OF HORSE/ RIDER (RUN ENDS; SCORES WILL BE GIVEN FOR WORK DONE BUT THE HORSE/ RIDER TEAM WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND WILL NOT BE PLACED)