



ALBERTA REINED COW HORSE ASSOCIATION

Rules and Regulations

Updated 2025 Valid Nov 1, 2024 – Oct 31, 2025

Revised May 8, 2025

ARCHA MISSION STATEMENT

We Aim to be the best of what we are in Alberta, a friendly supportive organization dedicated to introducing the Western Reined Cow Horse competitor to the show arena.

We Aim to provide professionally run shows balanced between camaraderie and competitiveness.

We Aim to encourage skill development in cutting, stock horse and judging, through a variety of expertly guided training experiences.

We Aim to inspire an atmosphere where individuals can compete, have fun, develop relationships and encourage each other to new successes.

Alberta Reined Cow Horse Association

www.cowhorse.ca

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1. FORWARD

As an affiliate of the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA), the ARCHA rules are primarily based on the 2025 NRCHA Rulebook. Unless stated in this document, NRCHA rules will apply.

This Rulebook is in accordance with the Alberta Reined Cow Horse Association (ARCHA) Bylaws. To view the Bylaws, please contact the office, or view online at www.cowhorse.ca. Any discrepancy between the Rulebook and Bylaws will revert to the Bylaws.

NOTE: Text which is underlined has been added/updated from the previous year.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL RIDERS

Prior to start of each discipline, a judge may choose to give riders instruction and/or answer any relevant questions. A rider shall make an honest effort to comply with the judge's instructions. Please note: This is the only time when a competitor may approach the judge as per Section 9.1 of the ARCHA rule book. As a competitor in any of the ARCHA disciplines, please adhere to the rules outlined in this book with emphasis on the following guidelines:

1. Read and know the rules
2. Ensure you have a current membership and have signed a waiver for the year before competing. Non-pros must sign a separate declaration prior to competing.
3. Get to the show early, pay your entry fee before you ride, allow time to warm-up, check the draw, and be ready to go when called upon.
4. Use legal equipment and wear proper dress; after each work, exhibitors should watch for the ARCHA representative checking equipment.
5. Do not talk to the judge(s) beyond the exchange of normal greetings.
6. Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner is prohibited.
7. Control rude behavior of your horse.
8. Exhibitor conduct should be in keeping with good showmanship.
9. Rider's attire should be clean and neat.
10. All eligibilities and age restrictions are figured as of January 1
11. Practice courtesy in the loping pen and warm-up areas:
 - a. Stay inside to go slow, stay to the outside if you want to go fast.
 - b. Never stop in traffic. Apply boots and groom in areas with no traffic.
 - c. If you must tie your horse, tie it to something secure. Don't tie stallions, kicking or biting horses in the loping pen. Do not get upset if someone disciplines your horse for kicking or biting.

- d. Look before leaving or entering traffic. Yield to lopers.
 - e. Do not exercise horses or season young horses when there is limited space in the loping area.
 - f. Do not weave in and out of traffic. Maintain constant speed.
 - g. Change directions and maintain flow in one direction. Always ask when you wish to change directions.
 - h. Yield to tractor and be aware of people wishing to exit or enter.
12. If a competitor or owner does not settle up the showbill prior to the end of the show (weekend show or aged event), or the cheque or credit card payment is NSF the rider and owner are responsible for ensuring payment it received prior to the next show.
- a. If payment is not received the rider will not be permitted to enter and compete at the next show. Responsible parties are defined as; owner and/ or Rider. In a case where one of an open riders horses show bill has not been paid the Open rider will not be permitted to compete on any horse at future shows until the unpaid bill is reconciled, this also applied to the owner.
 - b. Late payments may be subject to a \$50 / day late charge after completion of the show.
 - c. There will be no special considerations (ie: such as discounting earnings from showbill)
 - d. Entries can be paid via e-transfer at any time through a show weekend to: entries@cowhorse.ca, Entries can also be paid via cheque, cash or credit cards with a 4% service charge added.

3. Membership

- 1. Membership applications will only be accepted through the ARCHA office & online, to show at an ARCHA approved show, and qualify for year end points, all riders and owners must be members in good standing before competing. Memberships are required to attend ARCHA hosted clinics
- 2. Determination of good standing in the Association rests solely in the discretion of the Board. In determining good standing the Board shall consider:
 - a. Payment of annual dues and show dues
 - b. The conduct of the person towards other members of the Society and the public; and
 - c. The conduct of the person with respect to the objects of the Society.
- 3. A member must sign the annual waiver prior to competing in an ARCHA event.
- 4. Competitors who neglect to pay their show fees following a show will be considered a member in good standings (See Section 2, number 12)
- 5. New members must be prepared to justify their rider status to any ARCHA board member upon entering. Any money won will be held by the ARCHA office pending status review and approval by the Board of Directors.

3.1 Non Pro Grievances Process

- Should a member wish to protest the eligibility of a Non Pro, or an action of the Governance Committee, he/she may file a written protest to the ARCHA board together with a cheque for \$100.00 made payable to the ARCHA within seven (7) days of the discovery of an apparent violation. Complaints filed by an ARCHA Director, Show

Representative, Show Management, or Judges do not have to be accompanied by such payment. Upon receipt all complaints will be forwarded to an appointed ARCHA Ethics Committee for investigation, consideration, and disposition.

- If no action is deemed warranted, the complainant will be notified ending the matter. If the complaint is upheld and disciplinary action deemed to be warranted a recommendation will be made to the ARCHA Board of Directors for their consideration and action. The decision of the Board shall be final and binding on all parties. \$100 will be refunded if the complaint/violation is upheld
- Anyone accused of a rule violation will be given not less than 15 days notice of a time and place for a hearing by the Ethics Committee at which time they shall have the opportunity, in person or through counsel, to be heard and to present evidence on their behalf and to refute evidence offered against them.
- No continuance shall be granted unless requested in writing at least seven(7) days prior to a scheduled hearing and providing good cause. A continuance may be granted or denied solely at the discretion of the ARCHA President or the Chair of the Ethics committee.
- When disciplinary action is taken against any member or non-member, the person's name, the rule violated, and the disciplinary action taken may ~~will~~ be published.
- Every notice required by these procedures will be served by delivering a copy of said notice to the person being served or their agent in person or by email (with a delivery receipt requested) or mail to the last known address as it appears on the Association's records. Such notice shall be deemed received when it is marked received (email) or when it is delivered by Canada Post.
- Any Non Pro in the \$2,000 Limit Working Cow Horse, the \$1,000 Ranch Cutting or Limited Non Pro Boxing, Ranch Hand Boxing does not need to own the horse they are showing in that class. A Non Pro does not lose his/her non pro status by entering a class within an equivalent Non Pro/ Amateur Division offered by another Breed and/or Performance Association which specifically makes provisions to allow an Non Pro/Amateur to exhibit a non-owned horse (example: NCHA 2K Limit Rider (any horse) class).

4. Definitions:

EARNINGS - Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (**not just ARCHA approved**) and entering only those classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1-817-737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. Reined cow horse is synonymous with working cow horse or stock horse classes.

Earnings in any association or any other show /competition count towards ARCHA rider limit status

LIFETIME EARNINGS (LTE) - Lifetime earnings are considered as all monies won at any/all reined cow horse (or stock horse) Shows excluding and Limited Age Events (eg. futurities and derbies), whether affiliated with the ARCHA or not.

Non Pro Ownership Rule: Non Pros must not exhibit in Non Pro classes (except in the ARCHA 2,000 Limit, Limited Non Pro Boxing, 1,000 limit Ranch Cutting and Ranch Hand Boxing) any horses owned by any third party, but shall only exhibit horses solely owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's family, which is the exhibitor's spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, grandchild, step-parent, sibling, half-sibling, spouse's parent, spouse's step-parent, spouse's sibling, spouse's half sibling, spouse's step sibling, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step-sibling's spouse, legal ward, or legal guardian. Separate legal entities such as family corporations, trusts or partnerships, are also authorized by this rule and must meet the family requirements as stated above. "Owned" means, in addition to other legitimate methods of acquiring ownership, the bona fide legal ownership obtained for adequate consideration in reasonable relationship with the actual market value of the horse.

Any transaction relating to the sale of a horse to a Non Pro other than by family members must be at fair market value. The Non Pro is responsible for documenting said transaction in a satisfactory manner in the event of a protest.

Horses owned in partnership or jointly with any person other than immediate family are not considered as fulfilling ownership requirements.

Proof of Ownership is up to the discretion of the show management at any ARCHA/ NRCHA approved event to ask competitors for proof of ownership. Proof of ownership is dependent on registration of horse: Registered Horses - Horses cannot be shown on transfers in Non Pro classes. Ownership must be current on horse's papers in order to show in Non Pro divisions. The Non Pro contestant must be able to prove ownership at the time of the show by presenting the official registration document / certificate as issued by a breed association, such as the AQHA, APHA or ApHC, legible photocopy with the correct owner or owners' name printed on the certificate or documentation from a respective breed organization via their online website.

Horses that have been sold and the papers sent to a respective breed association are NOT considered owned by an individual until that transfer has been fully completed at the breed organization.

Leased Horses – horses with valid lease agreements on file at a respective breed association (i.e. AQHA or APHA) do NOT meet the Non Pro ownership requirements outlined above

Unregistered Horses - A witnessed Bill of Sale or a written declaration of ownership will only be acceptable for establishing ownership when the horse is unable to be registered. Both buyer and seller must sign a bill of sale to be acceptable. Proof of ownership may be requested at any time.

OPEN RIDER Any rider may show in this class

(\$) LIMIT RIDER - Any rider that has lifetime earnings in any working cow horse class, (i.e. futurities, derbies, etc.), less than the dollar limit of the class. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. **Earnings in any Boxing or youth classes DO NOT count towards Lifetime earnings in any working cow horse classes.** Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest if they see fit.

Youth - Open to any rider who is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1 of the current show year. A Youth as defined herein is eligible to compete as a Non Pro in ARCHA classes provided they meet the criteria for Non Pro status. Dollars earned in youth competition do not count towards lifetime earnings.

Show management may bar youth from exhibiting a stallion in youth classes- the decision as to whether a youth rider is permitted to ride a stallion in competition is ultimately up to the current board of directors discretion

Non Pro - Open to approved Non Pro riders (see definition below). A Non Pro is anyone who has not won more than \$100,000 in Open competition, in any event that pertains to reined cow horse (cutting, reining, cow horse, or any fence work events), with the exception of Open NRCHA earnings won by a rider while having Non Pro status in the NRCHA prior to November 16, 2009.

Non Pro shall also be defined as any person, regardless of age, who is not currently receiving remuneration directly or indirectly for showing, training, giving lessons, clinics, or assisting in the training of a horse for remuneration.

Remuneration is defined as:

- To receive pay or financial gain for work completed.
- Reimburse, compensate, make fair return for an action, barter
- Payment of entry fees and/or expenses by anyone other than the Non Pro, his/her immediate family or his/her corporation is considered remuneration.
- Prize money is not considered remuneration.

Assisting in training shall be defined as follows:

- Any activity that is performed while astride a horse not belonging to the Non Pro that prepares the horse to be trained, i.e. working a flag, backing in circles, side passing, two tracking etc.
- Any activity that participates in the training of a horse not owned by the Non Pro while astride, i.e. working a cow out of the herd, running and stopping, boxing a cow on the end, taking a cow down the fence, circling a cow, etc.

Non Pro Activities that are Acceptable:

- A Non Pro may without payment or remuneration engage in walking, trotting, or loping for the purpose of warming up or cooling down, turning back, sitting astride a horse not owned by the Non Pro for the purpose of observing other horses perform, etc
- A Non Pro may with payment or remuneration engage in ranching, cowboying, ranch manager, pack trip guides, horseback tour guides, feedlot or sale ring operators, or activities on foot such as round pen, lungeing, ground work, teaching a horse manners etc.
- The above is not exhaustive in its description of the definition of “assisting in training” or “acceptable activities” but is meant to help interpret and guide the Committee and the Board in any decision with regards to Non Pro eligibility.
- A Non Pro and/or corporate entity for which a Non Pro has a majority interest may endorse a product by lending their personal image and/or testimonial as long as there is no remuneration or product received, and a disclaimer as to such is in print within the body of the advertisement.
- Collegiate entry fees paid by a college for a student shall not be considered remuneration. Students while enrolled in an equine program as part of an educational curriculum are eligible to be Non Pros provided the horses they train or accept remuneration for are part of the educational program. They can retain their Non Pro status provided they comply with all other Non Pro eligibility requirements.
- Individuals may accept remuneration as part of participation in the NRCHA internship program provided they comply with all the requirements of the program. At the end of the program, they may return to Non Pro status without a waiting period requirement. Program information is available from the NRCHA office.

Unacceptable:

- A Non Pro may not accept remuneration of any kind
- In addition, a Non Pro may not wear endorsement logos or signage on apparel or equipment in the show arena for the purpose of advertising said product. This applies to endorsement logos. Logos on award apparel or logos from/for personally owned entities are allowed.

Non Pro status must be applied for on an official ARCHA membership form. Non Pro declarations must be signed using the appropriate ARCHA forms and eligibility will be decided by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final.

5. Divisions and Approved Classes

5.1 Cow Horse Classes

A Working Cow Horse (WCH) class must consist of a reined work and a cow work. The required cow work is a “fence” work. Note: classes that are ARCHA classes **ONLY** are included below: **2025 NRCHA rule book for complete class listings and descriptions.**

\$15,000 Limit Rider Open Bridle – any rider with less than **\$15,000** lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year in any and all judged working or reined cow horse classes or events, **excluding limited aged events earnings**

(i.e. futurities, derbies, etc.), **Youth Bridle, and all Boxing classes.** Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (not just ARCHA approved) and entering only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1-817-737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Earnings in any Boxing classes DO NOT count towards Life Time Earnings in any working cow horse classes. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest; refer to Section 4.6.1. The Open and Limited Open shall have a common draw.

L1 Non Pro Bridle -open to Non Pro riders with less than **\$15,000** lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year in any and all judged working reined cow horse classes or events, **excluding limited aged events earnings, Youth Bridle, and all Boxing classes.** Riders must be an approved Non Pro (see definition above). If a rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. The Non Pro Bridle and Level 1 Non Pro Bridle will have a common draw. Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (not just ARCHA approved) and enter only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1 (817) 737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest; refer Section 4.6.1.

Youth Cow Horse- open to riders 18 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year.

\$2,000 Limit Rider Cow Horse - open to horses of any age. Horses can be shown in any legal, ARCHA, AQHA equipment (one hand or two hand is optional). Snaffle Bit, Hackamore, one handed Romal rein or 1 or 2 split reins. A horse can be shown one-handed in a full bridle or two-rein equipment, **or** can be shown two-handed in an ARCHA approved snaffle bit or hackamore, or AQHA legal bit. Open to open and Non Pro riders with less than **\$2,000** lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year in any and all judged working or reined cow horse classes or events, **excluding limited aged events earnings, Youth Bridle, and all Boxing classes.** Riders can ride a horse not owned by themselves or a close family member in this class. Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (not just ARCHA approved) and enter only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1(817) 737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest; refer to Section 4.6.1.

Snaffle Bit/ Open Hackamore (Open and Non Pro) - open to horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year that have never been shown in a bridle or two rein down the fence at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. The rider shall use either closed reins with approved hackamore equipment or split reins with approved snaffle bit equipment. Two hands must be used on the reins, except in the herd work. This is a two-handed class.

5.2 Boxing and Ranch Hand Classes

- Earnings are calculated as lifetime earnings. For earnings, contact Equistat at 1-817-737-6397 or equistat.com if unsure.
- When cross entering into NRCHA classes at approved NRCHA events, NRCHA rules will take precedence.
- The purpose of the Ranch Hand class is to introduce new members to the sport that would like to “try out” the sport, without having to purchase all of the normally-required equipment. Ranch Hand classes will be offered at every ARCHA event.
- In order to enter the Ranch Hand Class you cannot have any earnings in any Cow Horse or Boxing event prior to January 1 of the current year. Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (not just ARCHA approved) and enter only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1 (817) 737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the

limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest

- Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes or events. A rider will be ineligible at the end of the current show year in any combination of officially published ARCHA or NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. For example: if a rider earns 750\$ in a fence class (either ARCHA class or NRCHA) they are still eligible to show in the boxing for the remainder of that show year.
- Non Pro competitors may fall back into the Non Pro Boxing class for any reason ONLY ONE TIME, provided they submit notification to the NRCHA Non Pro committee, and the ARCHA board of directors. However, they may not go down the fence again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Non Pro Boxing Class

Non Pro Boxing: Open to any approved non pro rider who has not won more than 750\$ in any fence work class. A rider exceeding 750\$ in earnings in any fence class will still be eligible for the boxing classes for the remainder of that show year. Note: Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle. The Non pro ownership rule applies

Limited Non Pro Boxing - open to approved Non Pro riders who are ranked 176 or below in the boxing world standings are eligible for the Limited Non Pro Boxing with a hard cap limit of 5,000 LTE. Individuals with \$5,000 or more in LTE are permanently ineligible to revert to the Limited non pro boxing. Riders in this class do not have to own the horse that they are riding but they cannot be riding the horse for remuneration. Rider rankings can be found at nrcha.com. Horses can be shown in any ARCHA legal equipment, regardless of age, with the appropriate hand position. A horse can be shown one-handed in a full bridle or two- rein equipment or can be shown two-handed in an ARCHA approved snaffle bit or hackamore. This class may run concurrent with Non Pro Boxing

Ranch Hand Boxing This class will use a modified “Ranch Hand” reined work pattern, no lead changes and 1.5 spins. Pattern #13 is recommended. Open to any horse of any age. The rider must meet the Ranch Hand requirements mentioned in above. The Ranch Hand boxing class is open to both non pro & open riders, but ownership rule is not required to be met for non pros.

Equipment can be any legal, ARCHA, AQHA equipment (one hand or two hand is optional). Snaffle Bit, Hackamore, one handed Romal rein or 1 or 2 split reins. Either leather or chain curb straps can be used (a chin strap is required). Chaps are not mandatory

Buckaroo Ranch Hand Boxing (Under 12): This class is open to riders 12 years of age and younger who meet the ranch hand requirements. This class will use a modified pattern with no lead change and 1.5 spins

Youth Boxing (18 and under) open to riders 18 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year. Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two-rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle.

Youth Boxing (13 and under) - open to riders 13 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year. Show management may bar youth from exhibiting a stallion in youth classes. Youth Bridle and Youth Boxing classes may not run concurrently with any other classes. Any youth competing in a youth class does not need to own the horse they are showing. This class runs concurrently with the Youth Boxing (18 and Under) Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two-rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle.

Future Stars: Open to any rider 10 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current year. This class is a showcase for young riders wishing to gain the experience of older riders. No set pattern, or cow work is required.

Box Drive: To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must be horse show Non Pro Boxing eligible. Work to consist of reining pattern (reined pattern will not be modified) and single cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and 45 seconds to complete the cow work. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 seconds remaining. At one minute and 45 seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time but must ride until the judge ends the run with a whistle or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving / rating it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving / rating the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn,' rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

Open to approved Non Pro Boxing riders and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class **must meet the requirements of the ownership rule**. Earnings are calculated as lifetime boxing earnings. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. A rider will be ineligible upon reaching the earnings threshold in any combination of officially published NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.

Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle. Riders that have exercised their Non Pro Boxing fall back provision may compete in the Box Drive class. However, they may not go down the fence again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Box Drive class

5.3 Cutting/ Herd Work

OPEN CUTTING – open to any horse and any rider. Horses must be shown one-handed using any Alberta Cutting Horse Association (ACHA) or National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) approved equipment. Scoring system follows the rules of the ACHA.

RANCH CUTTING - open to any age of horse. Horses can be shown in any ARCHA legal equipment, regardless of age. A horse can be shown one- handed in a full bridle or two-rein equipment, or can be shown two-handed in an ARCHA approved snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses to be judged according to the herd work scoring method described in the NRCHA rulebook.

Open Ranch Cutting – open to any rider

Non Pro Ranch Cutting - open to approved Non Pro riders and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the ownership rule. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.)

\$7,500 Limit Rider Novice Non Pro Ranch Cutting - open to riders who have not earned more than \$7,500 lifetime cutting earnings as of January 1 of the current year and are approved Non Pro riders who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the ownership rule. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events (not just ARCHA approved) and enter only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1 (817) 737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest; refer to Section 4.6.1.

\$1,000 Limit Rider Ranch Cutting - open to riders who have not earned more than \$1,000 in lifetime cutting earnings as of January 1 of the current year. This class is open to Non pro and Open riders, and the ownership rule does not apply. Riders are responsible for being aware of their earnings in all judged cow horse events

(not just ARCHA approved) and enter only those limit classes for which they are eligible. Contact Equistat at 1 (817) 737-6397 or equistat.com, if unsure. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Persons believing a rider is not following the Limit Rider rules may file a formal protest; refer to Section 4.6.1. NOTE: this is a used cattle class.

Youth Ranch Cutting - open to any rider who is 18 years of age or younger, as of January 1 of the current year. A youth rider may compete in any other class he/she so chooses provided that his/her lifetime cutting earnings, excluding limited aged event earnings, do not exceed the limit of the class or meets Non Pro eligibility requirements. Dollars earned in youth competition count towards lifetime earnings. Will be run concurrent with the \$1,000 Limit Rider Ranch Cutting.

5.4 Limited Aged Events

Limited Aged events are run according to NRCHA rules (see 2023 NRCHA rule book for updated class eligibility).

6. Payout, Point System and Year End Awards

Payouts will be mailed to the responsible party within 30 days of the show.

Figure 1: Payout Chart for Weekend Shows

# of Places	Number of Horses Shown																		
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	80+
1	100%	60%	50%	40%	30%	30%	28%	25%	23%	20%	20%	20%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	19.5%	19.0%	19.0%
2		40%	30%	30%	25%	24%	22%	20%	18%	16%	16%	16%	16.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	14.0%
3			20%	20%	20%	18%	17%	15%	15%	14%	13%	13%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.0%	12.0%	11.5%
4				10%	15%	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
5					10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%
6						7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7.0%	6.5%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
7							5%	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6.0%	5.5%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
8								4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
9									4%	5%	5%	4%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%
10										4%	4%	4%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%
11											3%	3%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
12												3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
13													2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
14														2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
15															2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
16																1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
17																	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
18																		1.5%	1.5%
19																			1.5%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**(see NRCHA Rulebook for a suggested payout schedule for FUTURITIES).

Ties for first Place: In the Working Cow Horse classes the highest cow work score will be used to break the tie. In the event both cow work scores are the same, the tied contestants will have a work-off down the fence, or may flip a coin if mutually agreed. In the Cutting classes the tied contestants will evenly split first and second place prize money and points but must determine the awarding of prizes by the flip of a coin.

Awarding of points for ties (other than first place): If the scores of two or more entries are equal, the points awarded to both (or all) tied entries will be calculated by adding together all points which would have been awarded

to those places had the entrants not have had equal scores, and divided by the total number of tied entrants. For example, there are eleven (11) entries in a class and equal scores occur in the third and fourth and seventh and eighth places

Point System: During the show season, points will be awarded to horse and rider teams for based on placings in approved ARCHA show classes. Points will be awarded in accordance with the point system schedule (see examples below). The first placing horse receiving the highest number of points depending on the number of horses actually shown. In a class with 5 or more shown the 1st place horse will receive 5 points for the win plus one point for every horse defeated. Each succeeding place (2nd to 5th place) will receive the specified points (see examples below) and will receive 1 point less than the place before it. Any errors found in show results or standings will be corrected immediately on the ARCHA website. Members or show management must contact the ARCHA office within 30 days of the posting of these results for corrections to be made

Year-end Point Tabulation and Ties - A cumulative tabulation of all points earned by all entries during the show season shall be kept at the ARCHA office. Tabulation of points shall be published in the ARCHA publication or website. If there is a tie for a placing in the points for year-end standings, the entry with the highest earnings shall be declared the winner.

- For approved events where Spectacular classes are offered but the regular horse show classes are not offered, points as defined above will be awarded for the Spectacular classes. If both regular horse show and spectacular classes are offered in the same show they may run concurrently but only the regular horse show classes will be awarded points.

Year-End Awards. Everyone that competes in an ARCHA approved horse show class as defined above will automatically be in the running for the year-end awards. Said tabulation of earned points shall be published on the ARCHA website.

- To qualify for year end points, riders and owners must be members in good standing. Horses that have been leased do not require the owners to become members. A copy of the lease agreement must be filed with the ARCHA office prior to the showing of the horse. In the case of Non Pro competitors, leasing a horse does not constitute ownership as per Non Pro rules

PLACING	POINTS Awarded	*ADDITIONAL POINTS Awarded	TOTAL
1	5	12	17
2	4	11	15
3/4	2.5	9.5	12
3/4	2.5	9.5	12
5	1	8	9
6		7	7
7/8		5.5	5.5
7/8		5.5	5.5
9		4	4
10		3	3

11		2	2
12		1	1
13		0	0

Example of points for 13 entries

Example of points for 11 entries:

PLACING	POINTS Awarded	*ADDITIONAL POINTS Awarded	TOTAL
1	5	10	15
2	4	9	13
3/4	2.5	7.5	10
3/4	2.5	7.5	10
5	1	6	7
6		5	5
7/8		3.5	3.5
7/8		3.5	3.5
9		2	2
10		1	1
11		0	0

Example of points for 8 entries:

PLACING	POINTS Awarded	*ADDITIONAL POINTS Awarded	TOTAL
1	5	7	12
2	4	6	10
3/4	2.5	4.5	7
3/4	2.5	4.5	7
5	1	3	4
6	0	2	2
7	0	1	1
8	0	0	0

Example of points for 4 entries:

PLACING	POINTS Awarded	*ADDITIONAL POINTS Awarded	TOTAL
1	4	3	7
2	3	2	5
3	2	1	3
4	1	0	1

7. Rules for Competition

- For weekend shows, show entrants scratching, for any reason, after 6:00p.m. Wednesday the week of the show are responsible to pay cattle and office fees. Show entrants scratching, for any reason, after 6:00 p.m. Thursday the week of the show are responsible to pay all entry fees. Add-backs and points from entries scratched after 6:00 p.m. Thursday will be included in the payout and point calculations
- These fees must be paid prior to the next show date before the competitor will be allowed to show or they will not be considered a member in good standing. When a competitor fails to show, without notice to the show management, all fees will be charged and payable prior to the next show date. Refer to Section 2 Number 12.
- Missing Order of Go or Back-to-Back Draws Between Classes: The competitor may choose to request a change of order by contacting the ARCHA Director in Charge and the show office. Every attempt will be made to notify the competitors involved. If a change is agreed upon the competitor will be moved to the bottom of the draw.
- Lone or Single Entries in a Class - Where possible the competitor will be notified after the official entry close date. The competitor has the choice of staying in the classes as entered, or moving to an alternate class without penalty (however, fee differences are applicable). If the draw has been done in the alternate class, the office has the following draw options: in cutting moving the entry to the bottom of the herd; in working cow horse moving the entry to the bottom of the draw; or in any discipline, dropping the entry in as a sub-entry.
- If any entry changes ownership, the entry will retain eligibility by complying with the following: 1) notifying the Association of the change of ownership and the intention of the new owner to continue the entry, 2) payment of the remaining fees when due and 3) membership of the new owner in the ARCHA. The Executive Committee reserves the right to approve all transfers.
- Unofficial scores may be announced and/or exhibited on the scoreboard after each entry's work. Scores will then be verified from the judge's score sheets and any corrections will be made. Scores will not be official until all score sheets have been verified.
- In the event of a post-event disqualification, the payout will remain the same as far as number of places paid, as before the disqualification.
- The Show Committee will select the patterns to be used in the reined work. Any pattern change must be posted at least 1 hour before the go round to which it applies.
- Size and design of horse shoes will be at the exhibitors' discretion.
- ARCHA approved shows are not required to have bits checked (however, **any NRCHA-approved show will**

have bits checked).

- Rules printed herein are subject to amendments and annual updates

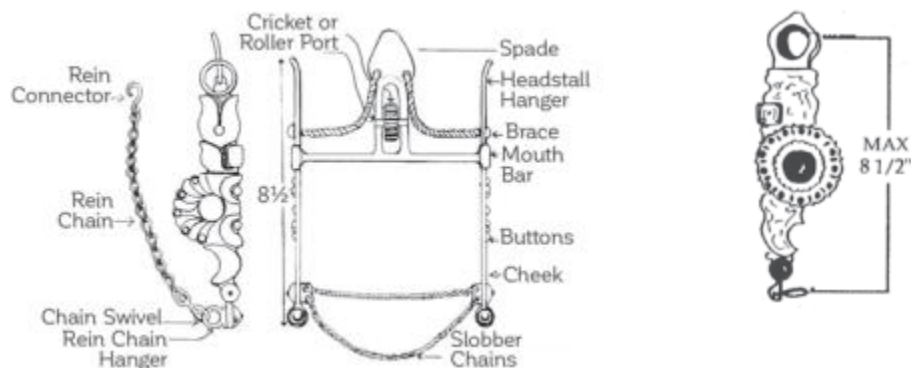
8. Legal Bits and Equipment

- Horses shall be shown astride with a western saddle.
- Riders must wear a western hat or helmet approved for riding by an equine organization.
- Appropriate western attire must be worn while showing. Western hat or approved safety helmet, long sleeved western shirt with collar (standup, button down, tuxedo etc.) and cuff. Vests, jackets and sweaters may be worn over proper attire.
- Chaps or chinks must be worn except for Steer Stopping. Failure to wear appropriate attire will result in a score of zero.
- Size and design of horse's shoes will be at the exhibitors' discretion.
- Communication devices are prohibited. For hearing impaired persons communication devices may be allowed provided a letter requesting waiver of this rule is submitted annually to the ARCHA

8.1 Equipment: Bridle Classes (Bit):

A spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics must be used in any of the bridle classes. Said characteristics shall be:

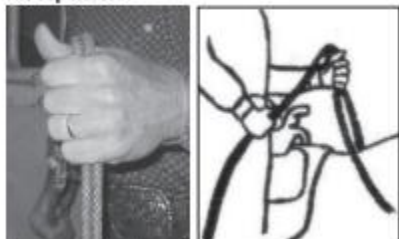
- Unbroken bar mouthpiece
- One inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port.
- There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single for multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit.
- It is legal to have a barrel made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece.
- The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece
- The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is 5/16 inch.
- Bars must be round, oval or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable.
- Nothing abnormal may protrude from either the bars or the port, such as extensions or prongs.
- The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. It is acceptable to use metal, chain, wire, leather or braided rawhide. It is not acceptable to use duct tape, braided tail hair or bailing twine.
- The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than 8½ inches measured from the inside bottom of the top of headstall ring to point of pull in the bottom ring.
- Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in width.
- Braces, copper port cover and/or having copper smoothly inlaid in the mouthpiece are optional.
- No wire, chain or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with the bit or part of leather chin strap.



8.2 Additional Equipment- Bridle Classes:

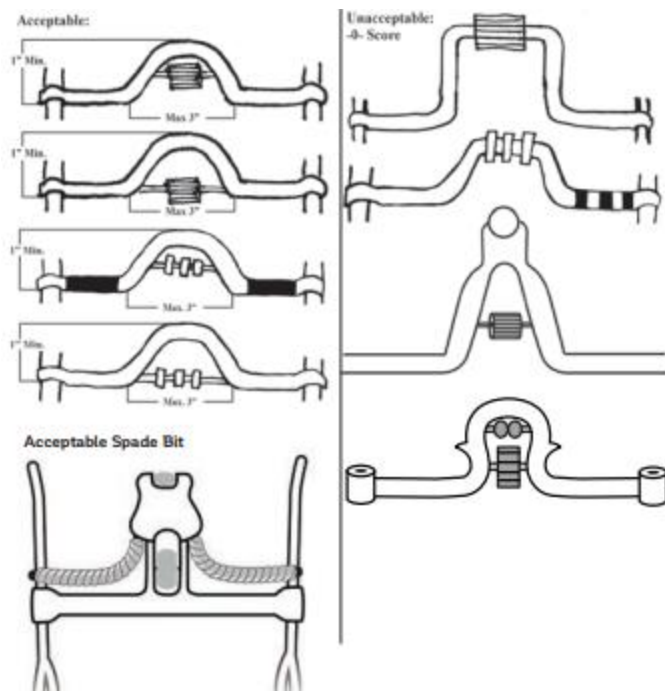
- Chin strap must be smooth leather. No wire, chain or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with a part of the leather chin strap. Leather chin strap must be flat, flexible and at least ½ inch wide. No metal rivets are allowed to come in contact with the chin, or chin groove of the horse. Metal keepers are not acceptable on the chin strap.
- Reins with romal required. The reins can be held in either hand, with hand around reins in a fist position with thumbs up. The non-rein hand must be on the romal. (The keeper, or hobble, that attaches the romal to the reins is considered to be a part of the romal.) The non-rein hand is not allowed, at any time, to touch the reins or a score of -0- will be applied. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner. No fingers are permitted between the reins in Bridle classes, except in the Two Rein class. In the herd work and boxing classes only, romal reins can be held in one hand. Roping reins are optional in the Steer Stopping
- The use of bosal, martingale or tie-down is prohibited (bosal permitted in Two Rein class only).

Acceptable:



Unacceptable:





8.3 Equipment: Two Rein Classes:

- In the Two Rein class bosals may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used
- The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted.
- Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand

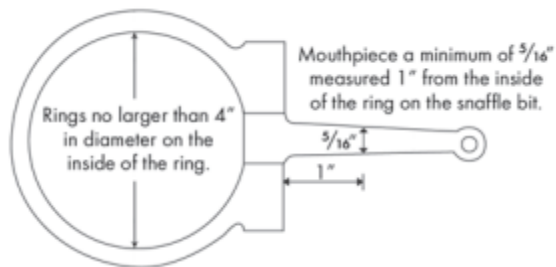
8.4 Equipment: Hackamore Classes:

- Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core
- The noseband of the hackamore must measure at least 5½ inches of smooth rawhide or leather before any braided buttons.
- No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal.
- No rigid material of any kind may be used, regardless of how padded or covered, in conjunction with the bosal.
- Horse hair bosals are prohibited.
- Tape is not allowed on the noseband of the hackamore.
- Smooth, flat, wrapped tape is allowed on the hackamore between the headstall and the mecate reins. Maximum amount of tape allowed is 2 inches on each side of the hackamore.

8.5 Equipment – Snaffle Bit Classes

- Snaffle Bit shall be either “D” or “O” Ring type
- Snaffle Bit should be no larger than 4 inches in diameter on the inside of the cheek piece ring.
- It must have a broken, 2 piece, mouth piece, being a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch in from the inside of the ring on the snaffle bit, with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle.
- The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal.

- It may be inlaid but must be smooth.
- Latex wrap is not acceptable
- These bits must be such that when the reins are pulled no undue leverage is applied, i.e. the inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or head stall attachments.
- A leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used. No iron, chain or other material may be used. Chin Strap is allowed to include metal buckles and/or keepers on snaffle bits only.
- Reins are to be attached above the chin strap.
- Split reins must be used; no closed reins.
- Two hands must be used on the reins, except in the herd work or to provide safety to rider or adjust equipment.
- Rider or representative will drop the bridle to the designated bridle checker. The bridle checker must have a magnet available to check the hackamores and chin straps for metal objects (inside) or cores. Designated bridle checker will not touch horse's mouth. Failure to drop bit for bit checker will result in a score of zero.



8.6 AQHA Legal Equipment

Hackamore

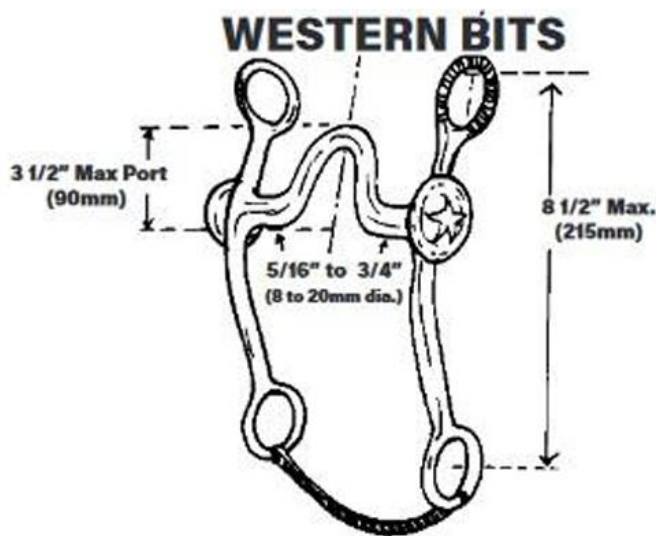
- The use of a flexible, braided rawhide, leather or rope bosal, the core of which must be flexible.
- Must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein.
- Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered.
- Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore.

Snaffle bits

- Conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 4" in diameter (100 mm).
- The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage.
- The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped.
- The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8 mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25 mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle.
- The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable.

Western Bit

- A curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage.
- All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.
- 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram below. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth or a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" (10 mm) diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks.
- The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard.
- Donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.
- Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins: index finger only between split reins is permitted.
- Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.
- Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the 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 0 will be applied.
- Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes and, all RHC classes, where a mecate is permitted.
- When using a snaffle bit in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes and all RHC classes, a leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used and should be attached to the bit below the reins. No iron, chain, or other material is allowed.
- When a curb bit is used, a curb strap and must at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.



Western Prohibited Equipment

- Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets.
- Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch.

8.7 Illegal Equipment:

The following equipment is considered illegal and should not be used at any time, in any location, at an approved ARCHA and NRCHA show including, but not limited to, barns, stalls, practice area and show arena:

- Tie-downs (bosal permitted in Two Rein Class Only)
- Saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack hackamores.
- Any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail.

9. Show Management

Show Approval: Any show committee or event seeking approval by this Association must comply with numerous criteria. A show package, outlining the mandatory requirements and helpful recommendations, is available to any interested parties at no cost or obligation from the ARCHA office.

- An event approved by the ARCHA is exclusive to the ARCHA and cannot also be approved or sanctioned by an unaffiliated horse entity or association unless specified prior approval is obtained from the ARCHA.
- Approved shows pay back contestants the total of the add back plus the total added purse. The contestants will be paid from this pool on a percentage basis depending on placement and number of entries.

10. Judges

- Exhibitors shall not contact or attempt to contact the designated judge pertaining to his/her judging of any horses at that show. Further, exhibitors shall not approach a judge for any reason prior to the completion of the judging unless the show official is present. Any request to speak to a judge must be made through the show official. When an exhibitor makes a request through the show official for the judge's opinion concerning the exhibitor's horse, it is urged that the judge will give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the show official; however, there will be no fraternization between the exhibitor and a judge during the show.

- A judge may order any person or horse from the competition for bad conduct or may disqualify any contestant for excessive abuse of the horse. A judge may refuse entry into the arena or remove an entry from a class for improper attire and/or equipment.
- To make a formal complaint against a judge, such complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant, and contain specific facts giving rise to complaint. The complaint must be received by the association within 7 days from the date of occurrence and accompanied by a \$100 non-refundable fee. The complainant may have to attend a hearing conducted by the Board of Directors.

10.1 Rules for Judging

Figure 2: Arena Marker Penalties

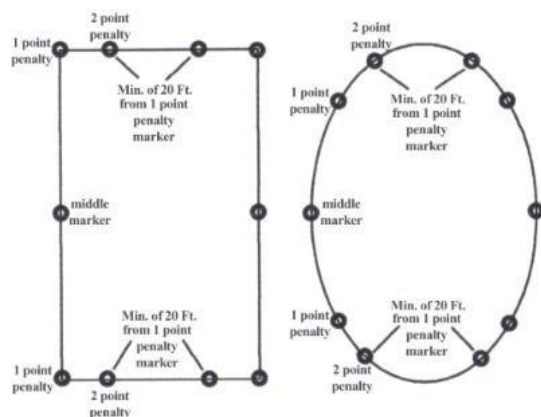


Figure 3: Trot Penalties

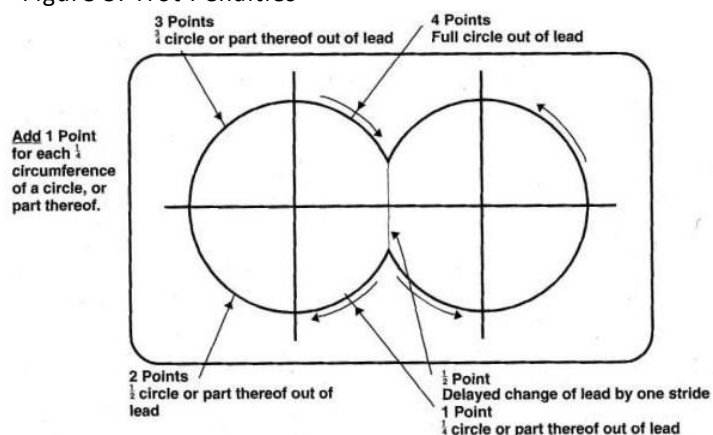


Figure 4: Over/Under Spin Penalties

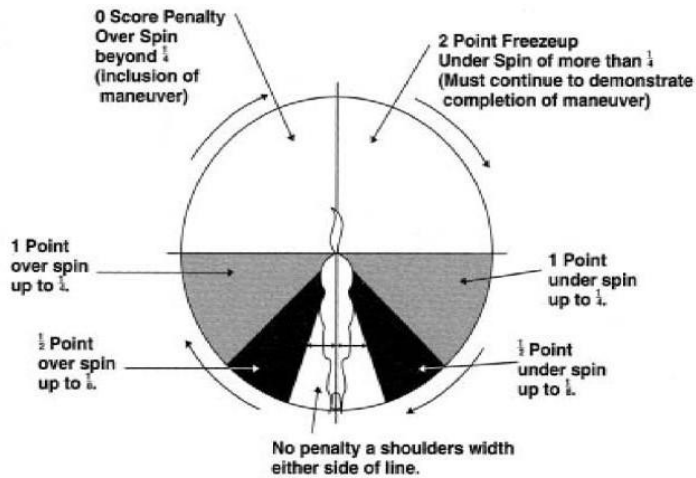


Figure 5: Lead Departure Penalties

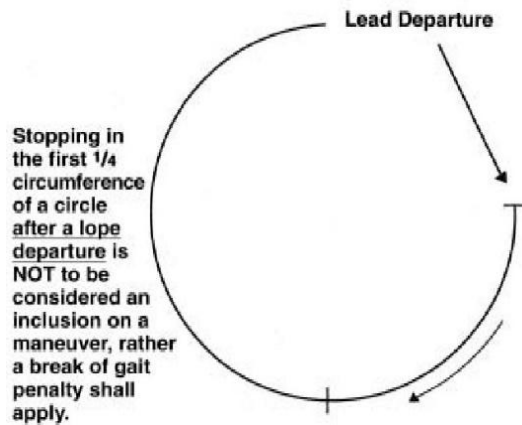


Figure 6: Out of Lead on Run-around Penalties

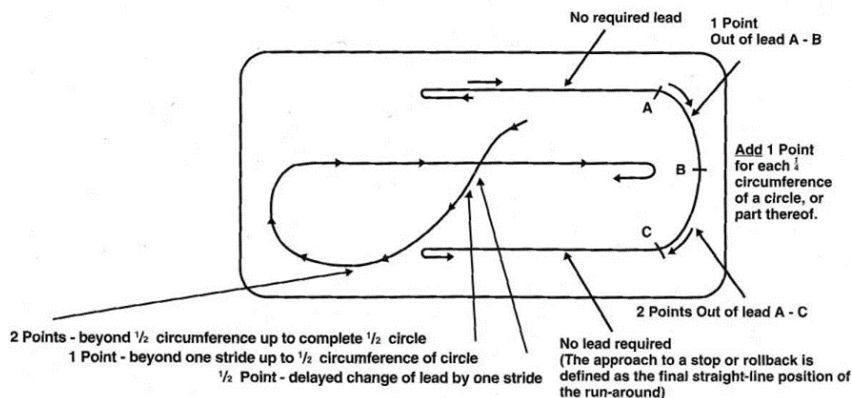
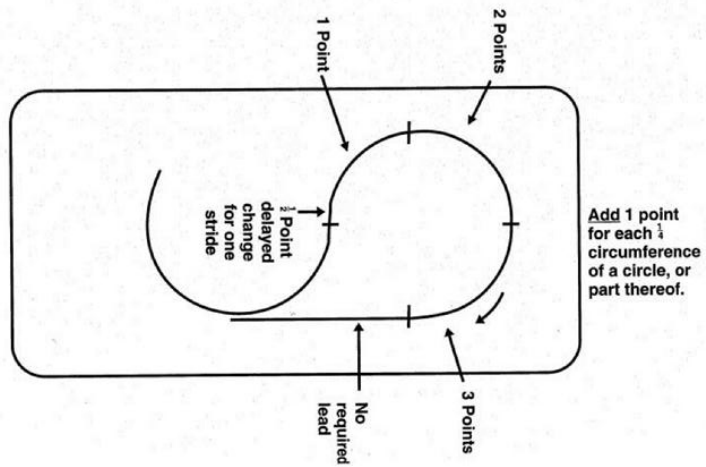


Figure 7: Out of Lead on Partial Circle Leading to Run-down



- Refer to nrcha.com for patterns and markers. ARCHA uses NRCHA patterns for all weekend shows and Aged Events, unless otherwise noted (ie: Ranch Hand Boxing class)