



## 2020 COLLEGIATE NATIONAL SHOW HANDBOOK

### NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW RULES

- The NRSHA National Championship Show will be conducted under AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse class rules for Cow Work, Ranch Reining, Ranch Trail & Ranch Riding, with a few exceptions:
  - All equipment and attire rules will follow AQHA VRH, unless otherwise noted (see Novice division equipment rules). Any questions related to specific rules, refer to the AQHA Rule Book if the rule is not addressed in the NRSHA Show Rules.
  - Riders will compete in cow work, ranch reining, ranch trail and ranch riding.
  - Novice division rules differ slightly and are outlined below.
  - Horse ownership is not required.
  - Non Pro eligibility is defined per AQHA's definition of an Amateur (not withstanding age; there is no age requirement to be a Non Pro).

### ENTRY

- Deadline for entry will be March 16, 2020, meaning entries must be in the office by that date. Entries are accepted via the online entry system, fax or email. Late entries accepted until March 27, 2020 with a late fee.

### CHANGES & REFUNDS

- Changes of riders and horses are accepted until 7am the day of the show. After that time, no changes can be made. Scratches must be received in the show office by 7:30am each morning to receive their class fee back. Cattle fees and secretary fees are not refundable. No shows and scratches will be billed the office fee and cattle fee.

### COLLEGIATE ELIGIBILITY

- A college or university may enter ONE team and an unlimited number of individuals.
- A college student may compete individually regardless if their school has a team or not.
- Riders must be a) undergraduate students enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours or graduate students in a minimum of 9 hours. Graduating students may enroll in fewer hours during the semester of graduation; b) students must be in good academic standing with their school, defined as at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Proof of eligibility should be presented as an unofficial transcript or other document verifying full time enrollment, including the minimum GPA.

### TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP – DIVISION I & DIVISION II

- The size of a school does not designate the Division. The size of the team does. Collegiate teams will either be Division I or Division II.
- Division I will field a team of 4 to 6 riders spread across three divisions: 2-Open/Non Pro, 2-Limited Non Pro and 2-Novice. Points for up to 6 riders will count, thus a team of 4 is at a significant disadvantage, but does fulfill the minimum requirements for a Division I team.
- Division II will field a team of 3 to 4 riders across two divisions: Limited Non Pro and Novice. It is not required that a team have two members in each division. (ie. a school could have 4 Novice riders). Points for up to 4 riders will count, thus a team of 3 is at a disadvantage, but does fulfill the minimum requirements for a Division II team.
- The title Division I and Division II team champions will be determined by the following point system:
  - Points in each class in each division are calculated on the total number of collegiate teams represented, not on the

number of collegiate individual entries. Division I Team Example: With six teams represented, there may be twelve point riders in each class. The highest points a team rider can earn in each class is 12. The points would be 12 for first, 1 point for 12th. If a team has less than six members, there will still be 12 points earned in each class in each division. The highest placing rider in the division will still receive 12 points. Incomplete D1 teams with at least four members shall be eligible for team awards if their team totals exceed those of teams having complete teams. In the event of a tie between teams, the tie will be broken on the basis of most first place class wins and then on points won in the cow work class, reining class, trail class and then pleasure class, respectively.

- Coaches must turn in a team designation sheet with point riders specified no later than 30 minutes before the start of the show each morning. In a two go-round format, coaches can make changes to the point riders for the second go-round, provided those changes have been made no later than 30 minutes before the start of the show.
- Point rider substitutions are not allowed after that time.
- Each rider must ride a separate horse. Sharing of horses is not allowed. A rider can only be a point rider on a team once, ie. a rider can not ride multiple horses to fulfill two positions as point riders.

## **INDIVIDUAL ALL-AROUND AWARDS**

- All-Around individuals will be named in the Open/Non Pro, Limited Non Pro and Novice. To be eligible for points for the all-around title, one horse/one rider must enter and show in all four classes.
- In order to compile all-around points, all horses must be placed in each class.
- If there are ties in the final placing for the all-around, they will be broken by the highest placing horse in the ranch cow work class for that division.
- If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding.

## **EQUIPMENT/APPEARANCE OF HORSE**

- No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.
- No hoof polish.
- No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions. However, an inadvertent braid will not result in a DQ.
- Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
- Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
- Equipment with excessive silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any class.
- Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
- Romal reins are allowed in all classes. When riding with a romal, a get down rope may be used. A get down rope is defined as a small rope tied around the neck of the horse with a bowline or other non-slip knot and run back to the rider or tied to the saddle. The get down will be used to lead, ground tie, or tie the horse. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped, romal reins may be loosely draped over the horse when used with or without a get-down rope. Hobbles are allowed. The use of two-rein equipment is allowed in all NRSHA classes for one year only. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

## **SCORING SYSTEM**

- The scoring system is designed to be positive, straightforward, and always encourage growth and improvement in both horse and rider. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done.
- Each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points.
- The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 Good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent). Plusses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers.
- Penalties may be accrued for incorrect maneuver execution.
- In each class, the entire class will be scored and placed. All exhibitors in each class will be ranked according to scores, placed from the highest to the lowest scores.
  - In the case of a horse/rider team being off-pattern (OP), repeated blatant disobedience, etc, the horse/rider team cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly.
- No horse/rider team shall be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, leaving the working area before the pattern is complete, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire and or fall of horse/rider.

- Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class, but will not receive points.
- In the case of a fall by a horse or rider, the run shall end when the rider or horse fall to the ground.
  - A horse is considered to have fallen when all four feet are extended in the same direction.
  - A rider is considered to have fallen when the rider is no longer astride.
- In the case of equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped and the horse/rider team will be given credit for what they have accomplished prior to that point but cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly and will be considered off-pattern (OP).
- In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judge to be tiebreakers.
  - The tie-breaker maneuvers will be made prior to the start of the class and so noted on score sheets.
  - These maneuvers will be ranked as first tie-breaker, second, third and so forth. Specific maneuvers will be selected by the judge prior to the class as tie-breaking maneuvers. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tie-breaker, second, third etc.

**Rules will follow AQHA VRH Rules, with a few exceptions outlined below.**

## **NRHSA NOVICE DIVISION-SPECIFIC RULES**

**NOVICE DIVISION ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS:** The Novice Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience.

- The rider does not have more than 10 points in any breed association (AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around, etc.); or \$500 in a national organization (NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA, etc.) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.)
- The rider must meet other Non Pro eligibility requirements for their respective division per AQHA's definition of an Amateur (not withstanding age; there is no age requirement to be a Non Pro).
- **NOVICE EQUIPMENT RULES:** Riders may ride two handed in a snaffle bit on any age horse in the Novice division. This is only allowed in Novice divisions. All other AQHA equipment rules apply.

## **RANCH RIDING, RANCH TRAIL, RANCH REINING**

- Exhibitors in the Novice will follow the same class rules and class procedures as all other divisions in Ranch Riding, Ranch Reining and Ranch Trail *with the exception that Novice riders DO NOT drag a log in the Ranch Trail class.*

## **NOVICE COW WORK**

- Exhibitors in the Novice Division are allotted fifty (50) seconds to complete the work.
  - The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena.
  - The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for 50 seconds to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" the cow.
  - If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the entry fence.

*Additional rules regarding credits/penalties are available in the Ranch Cow Work section of the AQHA VRH rules.*

## **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

- All horses must have current Coggins/EIA within 12 months. Out of state horses must have a current, original health certificate dated within 30 days of check-in.