

Classes & Descriptions

Beginner A

- o Open to any eligible Beginner Horse/Rider combo as defined in sections B1 & D2.
- o Modified Beginner A Pattern as follows:
 - 1) Begin in the center of the arena facing the judge.
 - 2) Complete one spin left.
 - 3) Complete one spin right.
 - 4) Beginning on the left lead, complete two large circles then one small circle to the left.
 - 5) Do a simple or flying lead change in the center of the arena.
 - 6) Complete two large circles then one small circle to the right
 - 7) Stop at the center of the arena.
 - 8) Back at least 5 feet.

- o Beginner scoring methods will be used (see section D7).

Junior Reiner 10 & Under (Runs concurrent with Beginner A)

- o Open to riders aged 10 and under. No earnings/winnings restriction on horse or rider.
- o Modified Beginner A Pattern will be used. (See above class rules for Beginner A pattern).
- o Beginner scoring methods will be used (see section D7).

Beginner B

- o Open to any eligible Beginner Horse/Rider combo as defined in sections B1 & D2.
- o Regular NRHA pattern with following modifications: Complete only 2-spins each direction, correctly executed simple lead changes will not be penalized.
- o Beginner scoring methods will be used (see section D7).

Beginner B 18 & Under (Runs concurrent with Beginner B)

- o Open to any eligible Beginner Horse/youth rider (18 and under) combo as defined in sections B1 & D2.
- o Regular NRHA pattern with following modifications: Complete only 2-spins each direction, correctly executed simple lead changes will not be penalized.
- o Beginner scoring methods will be used (see section D7).

Beginner C

- o Open to any eligible Beginner Horse/Rider combo as defined in sections B1 & D2.
- o Exceptions to Beginner Rules for Beginner C:
 - o Beginner C riders may have won not more than three first place ribbons in full pattern reining classes but must comply with the NRHA earnings rule for Beginner classes.
 - o Riders who have won the NWRRA year-end high point champion in Beginner C are still eligible to ride in Beginner C, provided that they are riding a different horse than their high point Beginner C winning horse, and that the horse and rider meet all other requirements for Beginner C.
- o Regular NRHA pattern, and correctly executed simple lead changes will be penalized 1-point.
- o Beginner scoring methods will be used (see section D7).

Beginner Horse – Non-Pro Rider

- o Open to any eligible Beginner Horse as defined in sections B1 & D2, and Non-Pro riders. Please Note: Non-Pro horse ownership rules apply in this class.
- o Regular pattern modified as follows: Complete only 2 spins each way (2¼ where applicable), lead changes may be simple with a 1-point penalty.

Maiden Horse Open Rider

- o Open to any horse that has not won a first place in reining as defined in section D2.
- o Regular pattern modified as follows: Complete only 2 spins each way (2¼ where applicable), lead changes may be simple with a 1-point penalty.

Youth 13 & Under / Youth 14 & Over

- o Open to Non-Pro Youth riders as defined in section B2. No stallions permitted.

1st/2nd Year Rider

- o Open to any rider in their first or second year of reining competition as defined in sections B4 & D2.

1st/2nd Year Horse

- o Open to any horse in their first or second year of reining competition as defined in sections B4 & D2.

Novice Horse & Rider (Randy Barr Memorial)

- o Open to Non-Pro riders and horses that have not won more than three (3) first places in reining as defined in section D2.
- o After the rider has won the year-end first place award for this class, they are no longer eligible to compete in the class.

Novice Horse Open Rider

- o Open to horses that have not won more than \$250 in reining as defined in section D2.

Novice Horse Non-Pro Rider (Runs concurrently with Novice Horse Open Rider)

- o Open to horses that have not won more than \$250 in reining as defined in section D2. Rider must be a Non-Pro rider as defined in section B5. Please note: Non-Pro horse ownership rules apply in this class.

Novice Rider - Open Horse

- o Open to Non-Pro riders that have not won more than \$250 in reining as defined in section D2.
- o Regular NRHA patterns will be run.

Limited & Intermediate Non-Pro

- o Open to Non-Pro riders with limited earnings of:
 - o LIMITED: Less than \$1000 in lifetime earnings in reining.
 - o INTERMEDIATE: Less than \$5000 in lifetime earnings in reining.
- o Class must be ridden one-handed.

Limited Open

- o Open to riders with limited earnings of less than \$5000 lifetime earnings.
- o Class must be ridden one-handed.

Non-Pro

- o Open to Non-Pro riders as defined in section B5.
- o Class must be ridden one-handed.

Open

- o Class must be ridden one-handed.

Ranch Rail

- o NWRA Non-pro and beginner rules apply, except cross entries between beginner, non pro, and open are allowed, if the rider is eligible for each class entered.
- o Ranch rail class is judged as a rail class but individuals working off the rail received equal reward.
- o Passing is permissible if the horse maintains proper cadence and rhythm.
- o Class is also judged on the horse's performance, athletic ability and correct movement.
- o Overall manners and responsiveness of the horse in a smooth and correct way will be rewarded.

- Horses shall be asked to show at a walk, trot and lope in both directions on the rail; extended walk, extended trot and extended lope are required in at least one direction. Horses will be required to back. Horses may be reversed at a walk or trot upon the request of the judges and specifically as directed by the ring stewards.
- Rules of the class called for natural turnout of horse (no hoof black, braided/banded manes or tails, artificial tails); cowboy-like turnout of exhibitor; working equipment; and natural appearance of the horse from head to tail.

Ranch Riding (Ranch Pleasure) – Interpreted from the AQHA rules.

- NWRA Non-pro and beginner rules apply, except cross entries between beginner, non pro, and open are allowed, if the rider is eligible for each class entered.
- Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
- The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions; and the extended jog and lope at least one direction; as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back.
- Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
- The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- Pattern numbers listed on the class reference sheet refer to current AQHA Ranch Riding patterns. These can be found online at the AQHA's website.
- The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- No time limit.
- One of the suggested 15 AQHA patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern, if all required maneuvers are included plus 3 or more optional maneuvers are included.
- Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.

Ranch Reining

- NWRA Non-pro and beginner rules apply, except cross entries between beginner, non pro, and open are allowed, if the rider is eligible for each class entered.
- Ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward-looking manner. The ideal VRH ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

- o Patterns are from AQHA website, Versatility Ranch Horse and Ranching Heritage Challenge ranch reining seven set patterns. The horse is judged on spins, circles, lead changes, rollbacks, sliding stops and backing.

Ranch Walk/Trot

- -These classes are walk and trot only.
- -There are two divisions - 18 and under and non-pro 19 and over.
- -Rider may not cross enter any other classes, but the horse may.
- -If rider enters a walk, trot, lope class during the calendar year, he/she may return to walk trot classes, but lose his/her eligibility for walk trot year end awards.

Green Horse:

- -These classes are walk, trot, lope, with exception of ranch reining being a lope only class.
- -Eligible horses must be in their first or second year of showing in any discipline in walk/trot/lope.
- -This class is open to any level rider.
- -The horse, or rider, may cross enter into any other walk, trot, lope class but not Walk Trot Ranch Classes.

All Beginner/Non Pro Reining and Ranch classes may be ridden one or two handed at any time EXCEPT where one hand only is noted.

In any class restricted to Non-Pro riders, horse must be owned by the non pro rider, his/her immediate family, or a business owned by the rider or immediate family. If using a leased horse, NWRA lease form must be on file before the horse shows at its first show of the year.