

## 2021 AQHA RANCHING HERITAGE CHALLENGE RULES

### GENERAL RULES

1. The Ranching Heritage Challenge shows may consist of six different classes:
  - ❑ Working Ranch Horse – reining and cow work
  - ❑ Limited Working Ranch Horse – reining and cow work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive; amateur and youth only)
  - ❑ Ranch Riding
  - ❑ Ranch Cutting (offered at discretion of show management)
  - ❑ Team Roping (offered at discretion of show management)
  - ❑ Barrel Racing (offered at discretion of show management)
2. Equipment, tack, and exhibitor attire should reflect the ranching traditions of the working ranch horse classes.
3. These classes should exemplify the reining ability, cow sense and roping ability of the ranch horse.
4. These classes are available exclusively to horses bred by AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeders.
5. All exhibitors must be AQHA (or AQHYA for youth) members in good standing.
6. Ranching Heritage Challenge shows will offer certain divisions for specific levels of riders. The following criteria are used to determine in which division the rider would qualify:
  - ❑ **Open** - For any exhibitor with any horse regardless of ownership. Both the owner and the exhibitor must be members of AQHA in good standing.
  - ❑ **Limited Open** – For any exhibitor with less than 25 AQHA or American Paint Horse Association (APHA) Open Points in Reining, Cutting or Working Cow Horse within the previous 10 years. For exhibitors with less than \$15,000 lifetime earnings in any of the following: National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRHCA), National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), American Cutting Horse Association (ACHA), Ranch Horse Association of America (RHAA), American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) or Stock Horse of Texas earnings (SHTX). No exhibitor can have earned more than \$15,000 in any individual association.
  - ❑ **Amateur** – For any exhibitor meeting AQHA Amateur eligibility and ownership requirements as described in the *AQHA Handbook of Rules and Regulations* and possess or purchase an AQHA amateur card.
  - ❑ **Level 1 Amateur** – For any amateur member meeting AQHA Level 1 eligibility requirements as described in Rule SHW245 of the *AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations*. A Level 1 amateur must annually file a Level 1 application, available at [aqha.com/level1](http://aqha.com/level1).
  - ❑ **Cowboy** - For working ranch cowboys who are full-time employees of a working ranch. The horse must be a Ranching Heritage-bred horse and must be owned by a family member or the full time employee of the ranch. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the Ranching Heritage Challenge. The rider must have less than \$15,000 lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRCHA, NCHA, NRHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA or SHXT or less than 25 AQHA or American Paint Horse Association Open Points in Reining, Cutting, Working Cow Horse or Versatility Ranch Horse within the previous 10 years. No exhibitor can have earned more than \$15,000 in any individual association.

- ⚡ **Youth** – For any AQHYA member in good standing.
- ⚡ **Level 1 Youth** – For any youth member meeting AQHA Level 1 eligibility requirements as described in Rule SHW245 of the *AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations*. A Level 1 youth must annually file a Level 1 application, available at [aqha.com/level1](http://aqha.com/level1).

### **RHC WORKING RANCH HORSE CLASS (FENCE CLASS):**

**Working Ranch Horse** will offer the following classes:

- **Open** – RHC 4-Year-Old Working Ranch Horse
  - **Limited Open** - RHC Limited 4-Year-Old Working Ranch Horse
- **Open** – RHC 5 & 6-Year-Old Working Ranch Horse
  - **Limited Open** – RHC Limited 5 & 6-Year-Old Working Ranch Horse
- **Open** – RHC 7-Year Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
- **Cowboy** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Cowboy Working Ranch Horse
- **Amateur** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
  - **Level 1 Amateur** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
- **Youth** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
  - **Level 1 Youth** – RHC Level 1 – 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse

### **RHC LIMITED WORKING RANCH HORSE CLASS (BOX-DRIVE-BOX-DRIVE):**

**Limited Working Ranch Horse** (Box-Drive-Box-Drive; amateur and youth only) will offer the following classes:

- **Amateur** – RHC Limited 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
- **Level 1 Amateur** – RHC Level 1 Limited 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
- **Youth** – RHC Limited 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse
- **Level 1 Youth** – RHC Level 1 – Limited 4-Year-Old & Up Working Ranch Horse

1. Each contestant will perform individually, first in the reining pattern and then with one cow released into the arena.
2. Each contestant will perform individually, first in the reining pattern and then releasing one cow into the arena. Show management can choose to hold class in cowhorse format (reined work and call for cow) or run the classes separately.
3. The class will be judged in two parts: reining followed by cow work. Rules can be found in AQHA Rulebook. At the end of the performance, the scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score.

**Ranch Riding** will offer the following classes with descriptions to follow. All rules to be found in AQHA Rulebook SHW416.

- **Open** – RHC 3-Year-Old & Up Ranch Riding
- **Amateur** – RHC 3-Year-Old & Up Ranch Riding
- **Youth** – RHC 3-Year-Old & Up Ranch Riding

**Ranch Cutting** will offer the following classes at the discretion of show management. All rules to be found in AQHA Rulebook SHW565.

- **Open** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Ranch Cutting
- **Amateur** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Ranch Cutting
- **Youth** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Ranch Cutting

**Team Roping** will offer the following classes at the discretion of show management. Preferably an electric eye would be used instead of a rope barrier.

- Judged/Timed Format:
  - The time on the run as well as the judge's score combine to create a single score
    - $80 - \text{time of run} = (\text{score}) + \text{Judge's score} = \text{overall score}$ 
      - Ex.:  $80 - 7 \text{ sec. run} = 73 + \text{judge score of } 74 = 147$
      - Ex.:  $80 - 15 \text{ sec. run} = 65 + \text{judge score of } 68 = 133$
- **Open** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Team Roping
- **Amateur** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Team Roping
- **Youth** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Team Roping

**Barrel Racing** will offer the following classes at the discretion of show management. All rules to be found in AQHA Rulebook SHW700.

- **Open** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Barrel Racing
- **Amateur** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Barrel Racing
- **Youth** – RHC 4-Year-Old & Up Barrel Racing

## **AGE OF HORSES**

### **Open for 4-Year-Old Horses**

- a) For 4-year-old horses as of January 1 of the competition year.
- b) Will follow AQHA equipment rules for junior horses.

### **Limited Open for 4-Year-Old Horses**

- a) Runs within the open class and will require separate entry fee.
- b) No horse may be exhibited in both the open and limited open classes by different riders.

### **Open for 5 & 6-Year-Old Horses**

- a) For 5 & 6-year old horses as of January 1 of the competition year
- b) 5-year old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior horses and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.

### **Limited Open for 5 & 6-Year-Old Horses**

- a) Runs within the open 5 & 6 and will require separate entry fee.
- b) No horse may be exhibited in both the open and limited open classes by different riders.

### **Open for 7-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) For 7-year-old horses and up as of January 1 of the competition year
- b) 7-year-old and older horses are considered senior horses and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.

### **Cowboy Class for 4-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) Will run as a separate class and requires its own entry fee
- b) 4-and 5-year old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior horses and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.

### **Amateur Class for 4-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) 4-and-5-year-old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.
- b) Will follow the Working Ranch Horse Heritage Challenge rules with the option of circling rather than roping the cow.

### **Level 1 Amateur Class for 4-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) 4 and 5-year-old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior horses and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.
- b) Will follow the Working Ranch Horse Heritage Challenge rules with the option of circling rather than roping the cow.
- c) Runs within the Amateur Class and requires a separate entry fee.

### **Limited Amateur Class for 4-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) 4-and-5-year-old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.
- b) Will follow the Limited Working Ranch Horse Heritage Challenge rules with the cow work portion being the Box-Drive-Box-Drive, see AQHA Rulebook SHW564.

### **Level 1 Limited Amateur Class for 4-Year-Old & Up Horses**

- a) 4 and 5-year-old horses are considered junior horses and may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules. Six-year-old and older horses are considered senior horses and must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules.
- b) Will follow the Limited Working Ranch Horse Heritage Challenge rules with the cow work portion being the Box-Drive-Box-Drive, see AQHA Rulebook SHW564.
- c) Runs within the Limited Amateur Class and requires a separate entry fee.