



Animal Welfare	6
Assumption of Risk	6
Awards	4
Cancelations /Refunds	5
Eligibility	3
Entering Information	3
General Information	2
Health Requirements / Arrival	2
Payout	5
Photography/Videography Policy	7
Scoring System	5

2020 QUALIFYING HANDBOOK

NATIONAL RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ALLIANCE 2020 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective Date and Repeal

These rules become effective January 1, 2020, for the conduct of the National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance of 2020 and each subsequent year, presuming proper and adequate financing arrangements can be made and committed prior to January 1 of each year. The National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance National Championship Show shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the [2020 AQHA Official Handbook](#) and National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance National Championship Show Qualifying Handbook. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations, and all decisions made by show management will be final.

The 2020 NRSHA Show will be held at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma on June 23-27, 2020 (Move in June 21st).

Rules will follow the NRSHA Rules posted on www.ranchhorse.net.

Qualification requirements determined by the Alliance was participation in 3 Alliance-hosted shows. Alliance members include – AQHA, Western States VRH Association, Stock Horse of Texas, Oklahoma Stock Horse Association, National Versatility Ranch Horse Association and the East Coast Stock Horse Association.

Classes will be held concurrently with AQHA VRH World Show classes, except for conformation.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All horses entered and/or help horses must have a current, original health certificate dated within 30 days.
- A negative Coggins/EIA report that contains the horse's markings issued within the last 12 months is required on those horses with the health certificate; however, if instead of a health certificate, you have an equine passport, a negative Coggins paper containing the horse's markings issued within the last six months is required.
- All health papers and Coggins/EIA results should indicate the horse's registered name.

GENERAL SHOW RULES

- No official AQHA/NRSHA points will be earned by participation in the NRSHA Show; however, any placings in the top five will be recognized on the permanent record of any AQHA registered horse.
- The NRSHA National Championship Show will be conducted under AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse rules, with a few exceptions:
 - All Around calculation and eligibility
 - Addition of the Novice division (Novice eligibility and class rules have some modifications which are listed below)
 - Ranch Conformation is not an NRSHA class
 - In all divisions in the Cow Work, including the Open, riders have the option to rope or circle. Those with concurrent runs with AQHA VRH must follow AQHA rules (concurrent runs in the Open must rope).
 - 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.
- When entering the Open classes, you must choose Junior or Senior of each class. These classes are placed as all age classes, even though they are run based on age of horse.
- No one, including exhibitors, may sell products from their stall area.

NRSAH 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 (Including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around); or \$500 in a national organization (Including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA) in any western performance discipline (including but not limited to western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail)
- The rider must meet other Amateur or Youth eligibility requirements for their respective division per AQHA's definition of an Amateur and a Youth.
- 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 Amateur and Novice Youth 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 AMATEUR & NOVICE YOUTH COW WORK

- Exhibitors in the Novice Amateur and Novice Youth Divisions 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 prescribed 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 the horse's ability to drive and block the cow on the prescribed end.

NOVICE AMATEUR & NOVICE YOUTH RANCH CUTTING

- For Novice Amateur and Novice Youth competition, there will be a two-minute time limit. Each exhibitor must work two cows and has the option of ending their run before the two-minute time limit or working the full two minutes.

ENTERING

- Entries must be received by June 1, 2020 to avoid late fees.
- Entry fees will be as follows:
 - Open, Amateur, and Limited Amateur
 - Entry/Office Charge—\$110 per class
 - Open, Amateur, and Limited Amateur exhibitors showing concurrently in corresponding AQHA VRH class will not be charged an additional cattle charge or trail obstacle fee.
 - Open, Amateur, and Limited Amateur exhibitors showing NRSHA-only will be charged as follows:
 - Cattle Charge-Cutting—\$110 per class
 - Cattle Charge-Cow Work—\$75 per class
 - Trail Obstacle Charge— \$30
 - Novice Am / Youth / Ltd Youth / Novice Youth - \$70

Youth and Limited Youth exhibitors showing concurrently in corresponding AQHA VRH class will not be charged an additional cattle charge or trail obstacle fee.

Youth and Limited Youth exhibitors showing NRSHA-only and Novice Youth and Novice Amateur will be charged as follows:

- Cattle Charge-Cutting—\$85 per class
- Cattle Charge-Cow Work—\$75 per class
- Trail Obstacle Charge—\$30
- No drug fees for this division

LATE FEE

- Entries received after deadline date (June 1, 2020) and up to June 15, 2020 must pay a late fee of \$150 per horse/rider combination
- Entries received after June 1, 2020 may not receive fresh cattle
- EVERY entry must fill out a W-9 to be considered a valid entry. If you DO NOT include a signed, completed W-9 your **entry will not be processed** until we receive one. Remember the W-9 needs to match the **OWNER** of the horse EXACTLY. (business name, personal name, ranch name, etc.)

STALLING

- \$200 each for the duration of the show – extra stalls may be requested
 - Early arrival or late departure stalls are \$25 per night
- **New for 2020: if you are staying 1 or 2 nights maximum, you may purchase a “day stall” for \$100.00
- Return entry forms, signed release forms and fees via guaranteed delivery service to: AQHA, Attn: Heidi Lane, 1600 Quarter Horse Drive, Amarillo, TX 79104. Or, you can e-mail to worldshow@aqha.org.

CANCELATION/REFUNDS

- A full refund will only be given if requested prior to the entry deadline.
- A partial refund may be considered if a horse becomes severely injured, disabled or deceased, but only if requested a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of competition. Documentation from an AAEP-approved veterinarian stating the severity of the debilitating injury or illness is required. Stall, drug, obstacle and entry fees will be refunded; however, office fees and cattle charges will be not be refunded.
- Illness, accidents or other incidents concerning people will not be eligible for refund.

AWARDS

- The title of All-Around will be named in the Open, Amateur, Limited Amateur, Novice Amateur, Youth, Limited Youth, and Novice Youth divisions.
- To be eligible for points for the all-around title, one horse/one rider must enter and show in ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch reining and at least one cattle class (ranch cow work and/or ranch cutting). If they enter both cattle classes, points earned from both will count toward the all around.
- 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, limited or novice ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division.
- If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding.

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). Pluses and minuses reflect 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, 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 tiebreaker, 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 tiebreaker, second, third etc.
- One judge shall be designated as the “tie–breaker judge” before judging begins. The composite results (combined results used to determine an overall winner) shall be determined as follows: All class placing points will be added for each judge to determine an all-around winner. If there is a tie, the tie-breaker judge’s class placing will determine the winner. Ties for the all-around winner are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, or the limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division.

PAYOUT

- Remember the W-9 must match the owner of the horse EXACTLY. (business name, personal name, ranch name, etc.)
- Please be advised that if you earn money premiums, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations require a W-9 form on file before payment is issued.

No. Paid	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
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1 place	100%									
2 places	60%	40%								
3 places	50%	30%	20%							
4 places	40%	30%	20%	10%						
5 places	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
6 places	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
7 places	28%	23%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
8 places	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
9 places	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
10 places	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%

➤ **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Please refer to the [2020 Official AQHA Rulebook](#) to familiarize yourself with these rules. Rule VIO100 through VIO240. Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any horse will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.

- Prohibited devices may be not be used anywhere on the grounds.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / INDEMNITY

Participants (and, if 17 years old or younger, participants’ parents and/or legal guardians) agree that they understand the nature of NRSHA Show participation and attendance activities (“Activities”) and that the Activities include, but are not limited to, “inherent risks of equine activities” that may result in property damage and bodily injury, including, but not limited to, permanent disability, paralysis, and death (collectively “risks”); that such risks may be caused by participant’s own action or inaction, the action or inaction of others participating in the activities, the condition of the premises at which the activities take place, and/or the negligence of the “releasees” named below.

Participants understand that “inherent risk of equine activities” means dangers or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (a) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury or loss to persons on or around the equine; (b) the unpredictability of an equine’s reaction to sounds, sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals; (c) hazards, including, but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions; (d) a collision with another equine, another animal, a person, or an object; and (e) the potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury or loss to the person of the participant or to other persons, including, but not limited to, failing to maintain control over an equine or failing to act within the ability of the participant.

A participant fully accepts and assumes all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages participant incurs as a result of participant’s participation in the activities. Participant hereby releases, discharges, and covenants not to sue AQHA, AQHA corporate partners or, the owner and lessors of premises on which the activities take place or their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, members, volunteers, and employees (each considered one of the “releasees” herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages whenever or however arising as to injury, death and/or property damage occurring as a result of participant’s participation in the activities or caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part

by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise.

A participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend releasees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, from all third party claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses of any nature arising out of (i) participant's negligent act(s) or omissions during or related in any way to the activities; and/or (ii) participant's willful act(s) or omission(s) during or related in any way to the activities.

AQHA PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY

- AQHA prohibits the use of any still photography and/or video cameras for commercial use or distribution through websites, social networking sites or any other media by competitors, spectators and visitors at the Association's championship shows. Any commercial or mass distribution of photography and/or video, or advertisement thereof, taken of subjects within the show ring without prior written consent from show management, is expressly forbidden.
- Professional photography equipment, cameras with lenses longer than 4 inches and camera support pods or video cameras of any size mounted on a tripod are NOT permitted under any circumstances except by credentialed media. **No photography or video footage will be allowed of subjects within the competition arena, unless prior written consent is given by show management.**
- The show's official photographer, videographer and *The American Quarter Horse Journal* are the only parties permitted to provide others with competition photos or videos. **Anyone, other than official sources, who provides or intends to provide photos or video from the competition arena to a third party, whether for free or for purchase, can be ejected from the event or banned from these events (including showing at AQHA-approved shows) indefinitely.**
- As reciprocal assistance to AQHA for privilege of membership, participation in approved events and ownership of an American Quarter Horse, AQHA may use, without payment of any fee whatsoever, any photograph or other forms of likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner, their horses and registered equine names, to promote AQHA's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from AQHA.
- Media representatives are issued credentials prior to the show upon the completion of an application process. To view the AQHA Photography and Videography Policy and credential request application, visit the show's media resources section on AQHA's website.