



2019 QUALIFYING HANDBOOK

NATIONAL RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ALLIANCE 2019 GUIDELINES

These rules become effective January 1, 2019, for the conduct of the National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance National Championship Show. The NRSHA Show will be held at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma on June 18 - 22, 2019.

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 the horse.

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.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW RULES

- 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.

ENTRY

- Deadline for entry will be May 10, 2019, meaning entries must be in the office by that date. No postmarks or telephone entries will be accepted.
- Late entries will be accepted until May 31 with an additional fee of twice the entry fee, along with other normal applicable fees. All late fees will be added to class purses.
- 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.

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.

ALL-AROUND

- 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.

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. except in any class where roping is involved, the horse's mane may be braided for a distance of 12-16" in front of the saddle pad. No ribbons or other ornamentation will be allowed.
- 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, including Ranch Cutting. 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). Pluses 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, 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.
- At the option of show management, when using two judges to determine one set of winners, the classes will first be placed under each judge and class placing points awarded and posted.

- 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.

Rules will follow the NRSHA Rules posted on www.ranchhorse.net. These rules are largely the same as AQHA VRH rules, with a few exceptions, including Novice-specific rules and changes to the Limited Amateur and Limited Youth Cow Work.

NRHSA Limited Amateur & Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work

- Will follow 2020 AQHA VRH Limited Cow Work rules:
 - SHW564.1 Content. Exhibitors in the limited ranch cow work cannot compete in both the ranch cow work and limited cow work class, at the same show with the same horse. Limited ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted one minute and **forty-five** seconds to complete the work. When there are **50** seconds left, the announcer will announce, **50** seconds remaining. At one minute and **forty-five** seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time, but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving 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.

NRHSA NOVICE AMATEUR & NOVICE YOUTH 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 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 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 NRHSA Championship Show rules.

NOVICE AMATEUR & NOVICE YOUTH RANCH CUTTING

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

Additional rules regarding credits/penalties are available in the Ranch Cutting section of the NRHSA Championship Show rules.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All horses entered and/or help horses must have a current, original health certificate dated within **7 days of check-in**.
- 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 contains 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.
- All horses must have AQHA Horse Health Check-In sheet to present to **stall office**.
- All horses not officially entered in the show used as helping horses must be registered American Quarter Horses.

No one, including exhibitors, may sell products from their stall area.

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.

PAYOUT

Please be advised that if you earn money premiums, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations require a W9 form on file before payment is issued. The W9 must be completed using the OWNER's name and social security or tax number. Please utilize the form contained in your qualifiers' packet or awards envelope and turn in to AQHA personnel at the show, or to Heidi Lane at hlane@aqha.org or fax to (806) 349-6412 by June 26, 2019.

No. Paid	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
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%