



2019 QUALIFYING HANDBOOK

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective Date and Repeal

These rules become effective January 1, 2019, for the conduct of the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals of 2018 and each subsequent year, presuming proper and adequate financing arrangements can be made and committed prior to January 1 of each year.

The AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the AQHA Official Handbook and the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals Handbook. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations.

Exhibitors, owners and those in attendance with them, accept and agree to abide by AQHA's Official Handbook and any decisions made by show management will be final.

The 2019 AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals shall be in Guthrie, Oklahoma, on June 21 - 23, 2019.

To qualify for the Zoetis/AQHA Ranching Heritage Finals, you must attend and show in one Ranching Heritage Challenge during the qualifying period (for the 2019 Finals, January 1 – December 31, 2018).

2019 AQHA RANCHING HERITAGE CHALLENGE RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. The Ranching Heritage Challenge shows may consist of five 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
 - 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 (SHXT). 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.
 - **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.

RHC WORKING RANCH HORSE CLASS (FENCE CLASS) RULES:

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
 - **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

- Each contestant will perform individually, first in the reining pattern and then releasing one cow into the arena.
- The class will be judged in two parts: reining followed by cow work. **Rules for each portion are listed below.** At the end of the performance, the scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score. Rules for scoring the reining portion are defined in SHW562 of the *AQHA Official Handbook*.

SHW562.VRH RANCH REINING. The 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. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.

SHW562.1 CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.

SHW 562.2 To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting a pleasing to watch.

SHW562.3 PENALTIES:

- One-half (1/2) Penalties: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.
- 1 Point Penalties: Out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slip-ping rein.
- 2 Point Penalties: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or roll-backs; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.
- 5 Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein).
- Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the rein hand is considered use of two hands and a penalty score of – 5 will be applied.
- Off-Pattern (OP): breaking pattern; inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); leaving arena before pattern is complete; repeated blatant disobedience; Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern

correctly.

- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

- 10 point: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)

SHW563. VRH RANCH COW WORK. The ideal Ranch horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. In addition the ideal ranch cow horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Holding the saddle horn is permitted. There is a time limit per horse/rider team to perform the work depending on the division and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons. Judges will give credit for what they have seen. Only the judge may award a new cow to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately. When multiple judges are scoring, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.

SHW563.1 CONTENT. Exhibitors in the open, cowboy, amateur and youth divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At three minutes, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the class: boxing, fence work and roping or circling.

- Part One – Boxing the Cow: 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 a sufficient amount of time 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.

- Part Two – Fence Work: After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down either side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the half-way mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end fence.

- Part Three – Roping or Circling: The amateur and youth exhibitor has the option of circling the cow in the middle of the arena in both directions in lieu of roping. An amateur or youth exhibitor may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the run. Open and cowboy exhibitors must rope the cow.

To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is legal as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied on or dallied. If the exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for rating and tracking and will be assessed a 2 point penalty. For shows conducted in international countries, the exhibitor has the option of circling the cow each direction instead of roping

or breakaway roping and wearing traditional attire of the country.

To circle the cow, the exhibitor will maneuver the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted. Once an exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls no new cow will be awarded. The exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. In the circling portion of the judging, one whistle will terminate the work and two whistles will award a new cow.

SHW563.2 CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During "Boxing", credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit will be given during "Fence Work" for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow. If "Roping," credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow rider the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of roping range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points. If "Circling," credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2 points for each direction. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- **1 Point Penalties:** Loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.

- **2 Point Penalties:** Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.

- **3 Point Penalties:** Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in open/ cowboy class.

- **5 Point Penalties:** Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver; failure to catch when roping, in open/cowboy class.

- **10 point:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently

- **Off-Pattern (OP):** Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; leaving arena before run is complete; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows, if new cow is awarded, or complete loss of rope in open/cowboy class, cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

- **Disqualification (DQ):** lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider

If the open or cowboy rider runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a 2 point penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/rating/control/position and speed/ degree of difficulty.

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

- **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

Each contestant will perform individually, first in the reining pattern and then releasing one cow into the arena.

SHW564. LIMITED RANCH COW WORK AMATEUR/YOUTH

- 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.
 - Part One – Boxing the Cow – 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 a sufficient amount of time 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.
 - Part Two - Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of Arena – After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse shall be close enough to cow to demonstrate control with cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. Rider will then stop and release the cow and move horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing.
 - Part Three – Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena – The exhibitor will again control or “hold” the cow for the remainder of time at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse’s ability to “hold” the cow.
 - Part Four – Drive the Cow back down the fence past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion.

SHW564.2 Credits and Penalties. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During “Boxing,” credit will be given for the horse’s expression and its ‘cow sense’ (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work. Credit

will be given during “Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence” for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- **1 Point Penalties:** Loss of working advantage; working out of position; slipping rein; in limited cow work, failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired.

- **3 Point Penalties:** Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; losing a cow while boxing.

- **5 Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver.

- **10 Point:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse’s tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver).

- **Off-Pattern (OP):** Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; leaving arena before run is complete; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows (if new cow is awarded); cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

- **Disqualification (DQ):** lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

RANCH RIDING CLASS RULES:

Ranch Riding will offer the following classes with descriptions to follow:

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

SHW560. RANCH RIDING. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal VRH ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

SHW560.1 No horse may cross enter western pleasure and ranch riding at the same show regardless of the division. Show management may run AQHA ranch riding and full versatility ranch horse ranch riding concurrently if held within a versatility ranch horse show. If held concurrently, AQHA ranch riding rules (SHW416- 419.7) will apply.

SHW560.2 Horses shall be shown individually and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The optional ranch riding pattern may be used or another pattern may be used as long as all elements of the class are fulfilled as follows:

- Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena
- Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back
- The judge must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring.

SHW560.3 CREDITS AND PENALTIES. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- **1 Point:** Over-bridled, out of frame, too slow, gapping mouth, break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less.
- **3 Point:** Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins, break of gait at lope, break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides.
- **5 Point:** Spurring in front of cinch, blatant disobedience, use of either hand to instill fear/praise, use of two hands per maneuver, 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal, more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between reins (except two rein) per maneuver. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.
- **10 Point:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver).
- (OP) **Off-Pattern:** Breaking pattern, leaving working area before pattern is complete, repeated disobedience. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.
- Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

TEAM ROPING – Timed/Judged (following Rope Horse Futurity of America format)

- **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 – Timed event.

- **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

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.

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.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- A horse is eligible to compete in the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals so long as that horse has attended and shown in one AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge event during the qualifying year – January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2018. Only AQHA records will be used as the basis to determine eligibility. No challenges will be counted or considered beginning January 2, 2019.
- No official AQHA points will be earned by participation in the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals; however, any placings in the top 10, Reserve Challenge Finals Champion and Challenge Finals Champion will be recognized on the permanent record of the respective horse.
- The eligibility requirements will be determined and adjusted annually.

ENTERING

- Entry fees will vary and can be seen on each entry form:
- Stalls: \$200 each for the duration of the show – if you come in prior to noon on June 11 or leave after noon on June 18, stalls are \$25 per night. Extra stalls are available upon request.

- Deadline for entry will be **May 10, 2019**, and entries must be received in the AQHA office by that date. Telephone entries will not 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.
- All entries must be on official invitational forms furnished by the AQHA. Please print or type all requested information. Entries will not be accepted if appropriate fees are not remitted.
- Please return entry forms and fees to the address listed below, and we strongly encourage you to use an overnight delivery system.

AQHA

Attn: Heidi Lane

1600 Quarter Horse Drive

Amarillo, Texas 79104

- A current AQHA membership is required of all exhibitors in open classes. A current AQHA Amateur or Youth membership is required in all Amateur or Youth competition.
- Awards will be given for each individual class.

Any exhibitor or owner receiving disciplinary action by the AQHA Executive Committee for show rule violations at this year's AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals will be prohibited from participating in the next year AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals. This rule excludes anyone receiving a first time administration penalty for an overage of therapeutic medication.

No horse may be shown under an AQHA judge if that judge has been the owner, trainer, agent in any capacity or conditioner of that horse within the previous three months; and a judge may not judge a horse which is owned or exhibited by anyone from whom he has received a salary, commission or any kind of remuneration for selling or buying a horse for that individual; or whether or not a horse is concerned in the transaction, has been in the employ or has represented such individual in any capacity for remuneration within three months from the date of the show.

Open competitors may exhibit up to four horses in the Open Division – Amateur, Youth and Cowboy exhibitors may show up to three horses in their respective divisions.

Amateur and/or Youth exhibitors that qualify in any class in their respective divisions may substitute a deceased horse with another Ranching Heritage bred horse if the horse dies prior to the entry deadline and all other ownership requirements and nomination fees are met by **May 10, 2019**.

Use of Official Records

Show results not received by AQHA by **January 10, 2019**, will not be used to determine eligibility for the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals.

CANCELLATIONS/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.

ARRIVAL

- **The Lazy E Ranch will receive horses entered in the show beginning at noon on June 16, and horses must be out by noon on June 24, or if you come in earlier or stay later, stalls are \$25 per night.**
- Should an exhibitor/owner fail to bring the horse's Registration Certificate to the Show, the show secretary will download a copy of the horse's markings from the AQHA office, the horse will then be inspected against the copy of the markings.

All entries are subject to examination or drug testing under the provisions of Rule VIO400 of the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook.

Every horse entered for competition shall be under the control of the Show Management, but AQHA, Zoetis, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, their agents, servants or employees, will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

Upon entry, every exhibitor and owner and all other participants accept the facility and grounds, including, but not limited to, the arena, stalls and alleyways, where the show is being conducted on an as is basis, agreeing to be solely responsible for property damage or personal injury caused by third parties to the exhibitor, participant or owner, his property or staff, or caused by himself, his participant horses, exhibitors, representatives, agents and employees occurring in conjunction with this show; and further agree to indemnify and hold American Quarter Horse Association harmless from any and all such liability, whenever or however, arising, not caused by AQHA's own negligence or that of AQHA's representatives, agents or employees.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All horses must have a current, original health certificate dated within **7 days**.
- A negative Coggins paper 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 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.

JUDGING OF THE SHOW

A minimum of three (3) judges will judge all classes. Judges will score each class independently and will place through fifteen (15) places. Their individual score or placing cards will be given to the World Show management for tabulation. Final placings will be determined by combining the three (3) scores or placings earned in each segment of competition. **ALL JUDGING RULES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE 2019 AQHA RULEBOOK.**

Judge number 1 is the first tie breaker. If judge number 1 scored the tied horses alike, then judge number 2 becomes the tie breaker. If judge number 2 scored the tied horses alike, then judge number 3 becomes the tie breaker.

Monitoring Procedures

A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented in the classes specified below. The monitoring system is implemented not only as an aid to assist the judges, but also in an effort to provide the exhibitors with a fair and accurate score or placing. The monitor system will automatically be used (1) to review any lack of concurrence in scores or placings when major penalties, disqualifications, zero scores or “re-rides”, are involved (hereafter “Major Penalties; see below) or (2) when a judge requests a review. Lack of concurrence concerning lameness or non Major Penalties will not be reviewed. A penalty review will not have any impact on the run content except to add or subtract the penalty value to the score. All penalty reviews will take place during the next drag, break, cattle change or at the end of the class. It is possible that a public announcement may not be made that an exhibitor’s performance is being reviewed. Regardless of whether a public announcement is made, no scores are official until penalty reviews are completed.

No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a video replay. Each judge’s decision is an individual call and based on the individual decision from a video replay.

Class Routine

Exhibitors must have their horses in place 15 minutes before the class in which they are entered is called. Announcement regarding the progress of the preceding class will be given over the PA system.

Show management shall exclude horses from competition should there be any unnecessary delay on the part of the exhibitor in bringing the horse into the ring. In the event a horse is excluded from competition, all entry fees and charges will be forfeited without liability to the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals. Working orders will be posted for all classes, and all exhibitors must enter the arena at the direction of show officials in the drawn order.

No one, other than contestants in the class and show officials, will be allowed in the arena or in alleyway during the judging except turnback help and herdholders in cutting.

Movement of horses in any class will be at the discretion of the judge; however, horses will not be pulled out or lined up in placing order by any judge at any time.

All judges are to inspect each horse for possible lameness at all times while being judged. Any time a judge calls a horse lame, he is to tell his ring steward the entry number of the horse. The ring steward will in turn communicate to show management that his or her judge has called an entry lame. If the majority of the judges (two or more) call the horse lame as outlined in Rule SHW325 of the AQHA Official Handbook, it will be excused from that segment of the competition. No announcement will be made over the public address system that a horse is being excused. Judges rulings regarding lameness are official and are not subject to review.

When an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by the management or by officials of the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals, the decision is final.

The American Quarter Horse Association and the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals Management reserve the right to change the order and/or published time of classes before or during the show. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be aware of changes and check the show office or announcer’s stand for the most current information.

Special Rules and Regulations

Each exhibitor will be assigned two numbers. During the classes, one number should be placed on each side of the saddle or saddle pad. If the numbers are not worn properly, or the wrong numbers is worn, show management may fine that contestant.

Unless otherwise noted in this booklet, the rules printed in the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook shall govern. Any rules and regulations not covered by the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook or by rules and regulations of the 2019 AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals will be handled by Show Management, and their decision will be final without recourse of any nature.

Any exhibitor or rider who refuses to obey the requests of the judge, ringmaster or an AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals official is automatically barred from further competition and forfeits all previous winnings, together with entry fees and other charges. At the discretion of the show management, the offending individual and his entire exhibit may be removed from the grounds.

All horses are subject to drug and tail testing under the provisions of Rule VIO330 and VIO400 which state, "For the purpose of this rule, normal tail functions defined as "being able to raise the tail to or above the horizontal plane." A horse's inability to raise its tail to or above the horizontal plane in response to a tail test conducted on site by an AQHA-approved veterinarian shall be considered a violation of this rule."

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.

General Information and Services

No Liability

Every possible protection and courtesy will be extended to exhibitors at the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals, but AQHA, Zoetis, the Lazy E Ranch, their respective officers, directors, employees and representatives, do not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this Show in regard to participants or for other third parties or for the horses or property thereof. As an express condition of the privilege to participate, each owner of an American Quarter Horse, exhibitor, trainer and their employees or representatives, and all other participants, by participating in the Show, assume risk of participation and do hereby release and discharge the above parties from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, as to personal injury or property damage occurring as a result of participation in an event conducted at the Show, or on Show grounds.

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

Attire/Logos

- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class; however, this is a world class event that will receive worldwide publicity. Therefore, exhibitors are urged to be neat and clean at all times.
- With the exception of Amateurs, contestants and anyone assisting the contestants in the arena, are allowed to display up to four sponsor logos (any company) on their equipment and apparel, etc., provided they meet the following size restrictions;
 - 1) logos on any attire or equipment – maximum size of 2”X3”, or 6 square inches
 - 2) pocket emblems and apparel manufacturer logos on clothing for sale “off the rack” may not exceed 1”X2”, or 2 square inches
 - 3) contestant endorsements by current AQHA Corporate Partners will be exempt from the size requirements
 - 4) contestants violating these guidelines may be disqualified from the competition and/or fined to a maximum of \$500.
- If the logo is of a company that is not an AQHA corporate partner, and is larger than the specs listed above, the exhibitor simply cannot wear that item of clothing during the show.

Awards and Prize Money

Please be advised that if you earn money premiums, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations require we have a current W9 form on file in the name of the horse's owner. 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.

Payout checks will be mailed by the American Quarter Horse Association following the report of all drug and tail test results. Premiums will be paid by check by AQHA and mailed to the address of the owner or lessee at the time of entry.

Zoetis AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals Payout Chart Cowhorse & Ranch Riding classes

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%

RHC Team Roping & Barrel Racing Payout Scale

# of Horses	1-6	7-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45+
# of Places	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	100%	60%	50%	40%	40%	40%
2		40%	30%	30%	25%	23%
3			20%	20%	15%	15%
4				10%	12%	10%
5					8%	7%
6						5%