

2021 Official Handbook

AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse
World Championships

AQHA Cattle Level 1
Championships

AQHA Ranching Heritage
Challenge Finals

NRSHA National
Championship Show

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL

- The rules for the 2021 AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships, AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships, AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals, and NRSHA National Championship Show (known in this handbook collectively as the Championship Show) shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the [2021 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations](#) and this Championship Show handbook.
- All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations, and all decisions made by show management will be final.
- The Championship Show will be held June 22-27, 2021 at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma.
- The [tentative schedule](#) is available online and may be changed at show management's discretion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships: worldshow@aqha.org
- AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships: worldshow@aqha.org
- AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals: ranching@aqha.org
- NRSHA National Championship Show: ranching@aqha.org

ARRIVAL / HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- Horses may **NOT** arrive on the Lazy E grounds **before noon on Sunday, June 20.**
- The stall office will be open:
 - Sunday, June 20, noon to midnight
 - Monday, June 21, 6 a.m. to midnight
 - Tuesday, June 22 – Saturday, June 26, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 - Please plan your arrival as the stall office **WILL NOT** be available outside of these times.
- All horses must depart **prior to noon on Sunday, June 27.**
- All horses entering the grounds must be accompanied by:
 - A current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) issued within 30 days.
 - A negative EIA test (Coggins) issued within 12 months.
- Health documents, including EIA test (Coggins), must include the registered name and markings of each horse.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All exhibitors and owners must be current AQHA members in good standing from the time of entry through the end of the show; except for exhibitors entered **ONLY** in NRSHA classes. NRSHA exhibitors must have a current membership with their alliance association.
- A horse may be shown only once in any specific class.
- Horses used as help horses must be registered American Quarter Horses, even if not officially entered in the show, except for horses used to help **ONLY** in NRSHA Ranch Cutting.
- All horses entered in the Championship Show, except those entered **ONLY** in NRSHA classes, are subject to medications testing and tail testing per the [2021 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations](#).
- No horse may be shown under a judge if that judge has been the owner, trainer, conditioner, or agent in any capacity of that horse within the previous three months.
- Further, a judge may not judge a horse that is owned or exhibited by anyone from whom the judge has received a salary, has been in the employ or has represented such individual in any capacity for remuneration within three months from the date of the show, whether or not the horse being judged was concerned in the transaction.

- Each horse will be assigned an entry number by the show secretary.
 - Exhibitors will be provided two copies of each horse's entry number.
 - The correct number must be clearly visible on both sides of the saddle pad when the exhibitor enters the arena, except in ranch conformation classes where the correct number must be worn on the exhibitor's back.
 - Exhibitors not in compliance with proper number placement will be disqualified.
- Work orders will be posted for all classes; all exhibitors must enter the arena at the direction of show officials in the order drawn.
- Exhibitors must be checked in with the paddock manager and ready to enter the arena at least 15 minutes prior to showing.
- Management will make every effort to announce the progress of the classes throughout the day.
- Show management may exclude horses from competition should there be any unnecessary delay on the part of the exhibitor in bringing their horse to the class. In the event a horse is excluded from competition, all entry fees and related charges will be forfeited without liability to AQHA.
- In conformation classes, movement of horses in any class will be at the discretion of the judges; however, horses will not be pulled out or lined up in placing order by any judge at any time.
- Any exhibitor or rider who refuses to obey the requests of the judge, ring steward or a Championship Show 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 their entire exhibit may be removed from the grounds.
- Any exhibitor or owner receiving disciplinary action by the AQHA Executive Committee for show rule violations at this year's AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships, AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships, AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals and NRSHA National Championship Show, will be prohibited from participating in the next year's Championships. This rule excludes anyone receiving a first-time administration penalty for an overage of therapeutic medication.
- Every horse entered in the Championship Show shall be under the control of show management, but AQHA, the Lazy E Ranch, their agents, or employees, will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

STALLING

- There are three stalling options, all stalls must be reserved through the online entry form.
 - Stall for the entire show - \$200
 - Stall ONLY for one or two nights (must provide arrival and departure dates) - \$120
 - Haul-in (grounds) fee to be charged one time only - \$50
- No one, including exhibitors, may sell products from their stall area.

RV/CAMPING AND GOLF CARTS

- All RV and camping spots will be handled by the Lazy E Arena, 405-282-3004.
- The official golf cart vendor is [Fore Wheeler Golf Cars](#), 405-682-8444.
- AQHA does not manage RV spots, camping spots, or golf carts.
- The list of host hotels is available on the VRH World Show [resource page](#).

ENTRY AND LATE FEE POLICY

- Entry deadlines are calculated using Central Daylight Time.
- **Entries are due by midnight on May 1, 2021.**
 - Any entry submitted between 12:01 am on May 2, 2021 and midnight on May 15, 2021 will be charged a late fee of \$500 per horse.
 - Any entry submitted between 12:01 am May 16, 2021 and midnight June 1, 2021 will be charged a late fee of \$1000 per horse.
- **No entries will be taken after June 1.**
- Entries received after May 15 are not guaranteed fresh cattle.

- **EVERY** entry must fill out the W-9 section(s) of the online entry form to be considered a valid entry.
 - **The online entry form cannot be completed without the appropriate tax information.**
 - Remember the W-9 needs to match the owner of the horse EXACTLY for open classes (business name, personal name, ranch name, etc.) and match the individual exhibitor's name EXACTLY for individuals showing in amateur and youth classes.
- Entry verification and eligibility validation will be completed by AQHA prior to the show. Should discrepancy in eligibility or class placings arise, the protest period ends 24 hours following the award presentation for the class. No changes will be made to the placings or payouts after the 24-hour protest window has closed.
- **No payments of cash or checks will be accepted at the show. Please be prepared to pay with a credit card for any miscellaneous charges.**

NEW FOR 2021 – BUSINESS OFFICE

- There will be a business office on the show grounds during the event, hours during the show will be 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- The business office will payout winnings on site.
 - Open division payout checks, including cowboy classes, will be made to the owner.
 - Amateur and youth division payout checks will be made to the exhibitor.
 - Payouts will be available upon expiration of the 24-hour protest period.
 - Payouts earned on the final day of competition and payout checks not picked up during the show will be mailed within 5 business days.
- To receive a payout check from the business office during the show:
 - Valid government-issued ID and signed check confirmation form will be required.
 - ID must exactly match the name of payee or an authorized party on file with the AQHA office.
 - If valid government-issued ID cannot be provided, the payout check will be mailed.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

- Full refund will only be given if requested prior to the entry deadline of May 1, 2021.
- Partial refund may be considered if a horse becomes severely injured, disabled, or deceased, but only if requested at least two weeks prior to the first day of the Championship Show. 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, the office fee portion of the entry fee and cattle charges will not be refunded after entry deadline of May 1, 2021.
- Illness, accidents, or other incidents concerning people are NOT eligible for refund, except COVID-19-related cancellations are eligible for a refund of class fees, excluding the office fee portion of the entry fee(s) and cattle fee(s).
 - A formal request for this refund must be made to worldshow@aqha.org prior to 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 20, 2021.
 - The current health protocols may be found at www.aqha.com/versatility.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- In the event of the death of a horse entered in the Championship Show, a substitution will be allowed provided the substituted horse meets applicable eligibility and ownership rules. The death must be reported in writing to the show secretary by noon the day prior to the class entered. The original registration certificate must be surrendered, except in the case of horses entered only in NRSHA classes.
- In the event a horse becomes severely injured or disabled, a substitution will be allowed provided the substituted horse meets applicable eligibility and ownership rules. A written statement from an AAEP-approved veterinarian explaining the severity of the debilitating injury or illness and lack of the probability of short-term recovery is provided by noon the day prior to the class entered.

JUDGING / MONITORING PROCEDURES

- All AQHA events will be judged according to the rules listed in the [2021 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations](#), and no other publication will supersede these rules.
- There will be three judges for all classes, and their placings will be combined.
- Judges will score each class independently and will place all entrants in the class.
- Judges shall examine and check all horses in each class for lameness as per SHW325 of the 2021 AQHA Official Handbook.
 - In all classes, a horse shall automatically be disqualified if two or more judges call the horse lame during the class.
 - Lameness is evaluated on a class-by-class basis. A horse determined to be lame in a specific class will be disqualified in that class but remains eligible to be shown in remaining class(es) entered.
 - Should a horse not compete in the remaining class(es), it will receive all credits earned to that point from previous class(es) to be used toward calculating all-around awards and prize money. However, horse must compete in the minimum required classes to remain eligible for all-around awards and prize money.
- If an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by show management or by officials of the Championship Show, the decision is final.
- The score sheets and/or placing cards for all classes will be given to show management for tabulation.
- A monitoring system to review major penalties will be in effect for all classes, except those classes held on the outdoor courses.
 - The monitoring system enhances the ability of judges to assess major penalties fairly and accurately.
 - The monitoring system will automatically be used to review any lack of concurrence in major penalties, disqualifications, or zero scores.
 - Judges cannot review for lameness, non-major penalties, maneuver evaluation, or lack of concurrence in score or placing.
 - Reviews will have no impact on run content except to add or subtract the penalty value to the score. Under no circumstances will the run content or one-point penalties be adjusted.
- All 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 for all pending reviews. Regardless of whether a public announcement is made, scores are not official until reviews are complete and scoresheets are mathematically verified.
- No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a video replay. Each judge's decision is made independently after reviewing the video replay.
- Any clear evidence of blood on the horse, including but not limited to the nose, chin, mouth, tongue, or gums, regardless of cause, shall be cause for disqualification.

ATTIRE / LOGOS

- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class, however this is a world class event that will receive worldwide publicity, so exhibitors are urged to be neat and clean at all times.
- Except for amateur members, anyone competing or assisting contestants in the arena may display sponsor logos on equipment and apparel, provided the following size restrictions are met:
 1. Logos on attire or equipment may not exceed a maximum of 2 in. x 3 in. or 6 square inches.
 2. Pocket emblems and apparel manufacturer logos on clothing for sale "off the rack" may not exceed 1 in. x 2 in. or 2 square inches.
 3. Non-AQHA corporate partner or event sponsor logos, larger than the specs listed above, may NOT be worn in the arena during competition.
 4. No logo may be covered with any sort of tape, cloth, etc., to circumvent these rules for any reason.
 5. Current AQHA Corporate Partner and Event Sponsor logos are exempt from the size requirements.

- Amateur members may not wear endorsement logos or signage on equipment or apparel in the show arena for the purpose of advertising said product. This applies to endorsement logos. Logos on award apparel and logos for personally owned entities are allowed.
- Anyone violating these guidelines will be disqualified from the competition and/or fined a maximum of \$500.

ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES

- Please refer to the [2021 Official AQHA Handbook](#) to familiarize yourself with the following rules: VIO100 through VIO406.
- 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 equipment and/or devices may not be used anywhere on the grounds.

LIABILITY / RISK

- Participants (and, if 17 years old or younger, participants' parents and/or legal guardians) agree that they understand the nature of the AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships, the AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships, the AQHA Ranching Heritage Challenge Finals, and the NRSHA National Championship 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.
- A participant 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

- To learn more about the AQHA Photography and Videography Policy or to apply for media credentials, visit www.aqha.com/vrh-world-resources/media-resources.

PAYOUT CHARTS

VRH, NRSHA, Cattle Level 1 Jackpots

RHC Working Ranch Horse, RHC Ranch Riding, RHC Ranch Cutting

# in class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
1-4	100%									
5-8	60%	40%								
9-13	50%	30%	20%							
14-19	40%	30%	20%	10%						
20-26	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
27-31	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
32-37	28%	23%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
38-43	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
44-50	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
50+	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%

RHC Team Roping, RHC Barrel Racing

# in class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
1-6	100%					
7-14	60%	40%				
15-24	50%	30%	20%			
25-34	40%	30%	20%	10%		
35-44	40%	25%	15%	12%	8%	
45+	40%	23%	15%	10%	7%	5%

VRH INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP / ELIGIBILITY

- Horses may NOT cross-enter the youth, limited youth, and rookie youth divisions.
- Horses may NOT cross-enter the amateur, limited amateur, and rookie amateur divisions.
- Riders may ride two handed in a snaffle bit, hackamore, or bosal on any age horse in the rookie division.
- An exhibitor is NOT required to own the horse to show in the rookie division; however, the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse.
- Eligibility for the **rookie divisions** is explained in SHW552.4: for an exhibitor to be eligible in the amateur or youth rookie division, the exhibitor must have earned no more than ten (10) lifetime 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, NRSBA, NSBA) in any western performance discipline (including but not limited to western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail.) Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
 - Rookie division eligibility is based on the exhibitor's 2020 Leveling Eligibility.
- Eligibility for the **cowboy division** is explained in SHW552.3. The cowboy division is for working ranch cowboys. The rider of the horse must either be an owner, family member or full-time employee of the ranch that owns the horse. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the ranch horse competition. The rider must have less than \$15,000 per association lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRHA, NCHA, NRCHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA, NRSBA or SHTX or less than 25 AQHA or APHA open points in reining, cutting, ranch cow horse or versatility ranch horse within the previous 10 years, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources. No exhibitor can have earned more than \$15,000 in any individual association, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources.
- Horses marked *Excessive White* on registration papers are not eligible to compete in ranch conformation classes.
- To enter VRH ranch conformation classes, the horse must also be entered in at least one VRH riding class in the same division.
- Horses eligible for junior classes are those foaled in **2015, 2016, 2017, & 2018**.
- Horses eligible for senior classes are those foaled in **2014** or earlier.
- A horse/rider team is eligible for the all-around if it competes in at least one cattle class, at least one non-cattle riding class, and ranch conformation in the same division.
- In each class, the entire class will be placed. In scored classes, all exhibitors in each class will be ranked according to score, placed from the highest to the lowest score.
- Cowboy, amateur, and youth exhibitors may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible. An exhibitor with multiple horses may have a different eligible exhibitor show their horse(s) in the ranch conformation class.
- Open exhibitors may show up to three junior horses and three senior horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible. An exhibitor with multiple horses may have a different eligible exhibitor show their horse(s) in the ranch conformation class.

CLASS OFFERING / FEES

- VRH will have 9 divisions – junior, senior, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, rookie amateur, youth, limited youth, and rookie youth.
- There will be six classes offered in each division – ranch conformation, ranch cow work, ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch riding, and ranch trail.
- Entry Fees will be as follows:
 - *All entrants:*
 - Drug testing fee (charged per division) - \$55
 - Divisions are defined as follows:
 - VRH open / VRH cowboy
 - VRH amateur / limited amateur / rookie amateur

- VRH youth / limited youth / rookie youth
- *Open, cowboy, amateur, and limited amateur.*
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$115
 - Cow Work Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$120
 - Ranch Trail Obstacle Fee - \$30
- *Youth, limited youth, rookie youth, rookie amateur.*
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$85
 - Cow Work Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$95
 - Ranch Trail Obstacle fee - \$30
- *Optional Jackpot* (charged in each of the 9 divisions – junior, senior, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, rookie amateur, youth, limited youth, rookie youth) - \$250

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

- No horse/rider team shall be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, leaving the working area before the pattern is complete, disrespect, misconduct, improper western attire, and or fall of horse/rider.
- Ranch Cow Work
 - Two (2) point, three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualifications (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- Rookie/limited Ranch Cow Work
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- Ranch Conformation
 - In all ranch conformation classes, horses will walk one at a time to the three judges. Judges will inspect the teeth of any mare or stallion and testicles of any stallion at this time. After inspection, the judges will step to their right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall of the arena. After trotting, the horses will line up per the ring steward's instructions.
 - Judges will disqualify and excuse from the ring prior to the final placing any horse that fails to complete the prescribed pattern correctly in three (3) attempts (SHW362.4.8).
- Ranch Cutting
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- Ranch Reining
 - Two (2) point, with the exception of marker penalties, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- Ranch Riding
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.

TIES

- In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judges as tiebreakers prior to the start of the class as so noted on the score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second tiebreaker, and so on.
- Exhibitors competing for the all-around Versatility Ranch Horse title will receive class placings credits which will be entered into the all-around tabulation. Ties for the all-around versatility ranch horse are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, limited ranch cow work, or rookie ranch cow work, whichever is applicable. If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding, and ranch conformation.

AWARDS / PAYOUT

- Awards will be given for each individual class, as well as for the all-around Versatility Ranch Horse in each division.
- 50% of the payout will be paid in the individual class placings and the remaining 50% will be paid into the all-around payout.
 - **In the youth, limited youth, rookie youth, and rookie amateur divisions; \$16.25 of each entry fee will be paid in the individual class placings and \$16.25 will be paid into the all-around.**
 - **In the open, cowboy, amateur, and limited amateur divisions; \$26.00 of each entry fee will be paid in the individual class placings and \$26.00 will be paid into the all-around.**
- In 2021, there is an optional jackpot opportunity, with a 90% payback. Each exhibitor who pays into the jackpot option will be eligible for payback according to the overall placings in the all-around.

JOHN DEERE DOUBLE-QUALIFYING INCENTIVE

- John Deere Double-Qualifying Incentive offers a total side pot of \$20,000 in cash and prizes to the highest-placing 2020 and 2021 qualifiers in each division who compete at the 2021 AQHA VRH World.
 - All-around entries in each division, who qualified in both 2020 and 2021, are eligible to receive:
 - Junior Division - \$3,000 (1st will receive \$2,000 and 2nd will receive \$1,000)
 - Senior - \$3,000 (1st will receive \$2,000 and 2nd will receive \$1,000)
 - Cowboy - \$2,500 (1st will receive \$1,700 and 2nd will receive \$800)
 - Amateur - \$3,000 (1st will receive \$2,000 and 2nd will receive \$1000)
 - Limited Amateur - \$3000 (1st will receive \$2,000 and 2nd will receive \$1000)
 - Youth - \$1,500 (1st will receive \$1,000 and 2nd will receive \$500)
 - Limited youth - \$1,500 (1st will receive \$1,000 and 2nd will receive \$500)
 - The highest placing 2020 all-around youth or limited youth qualifier (exhibitors born in 2001) will receive \$500 and a prize.
 - The highest placing 2020 junior horse all-around qualifier (horses foaled in 2014) will receive \$500 and a prize.
-

NRSA INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

- The novice division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience.
- To be eligible for the novice division a rider may 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, NRSNA) 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.
- Riders may ride two-handed in a snaffle bit, hackamore, or bosal on any age horse in the novice division. This is only allowed in novice divisions. All other AQHA equipment rules apply.
- A horse/rider team is eligible for the all-around if it competes in at least one cattle class and all other non-cattle riding classes in the same division.

CLASS OFFERING / FEES

- NRSNA will have 7 divisions – open, amateur, limited amateur, novice Amateur, youth, limited youth, and novice youth.
- There will be five classes offered in each division – ranch reining, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch cow work, and ranch cutting.
- NRSNA open classes will run concurrently with VRH junior and senior classes.
 - These classes will be placed as all age classes, even though they are run based on age of horse.
 - Horses foaled from 2015 through 2018 will show in the junior classes.
 - Horses foaled in 2014 and before will show in the senior classes.
- Entry fees will be as follows:
 - *Open Division:*
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$115 (\$5 of each entry fee will go to NRSNA)
 - Cow Work Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$120
 - Ranch Trail Obstacle Fee - \$30
 - *Amateur/limited amateur Division:*
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$115 (\$5 of each entry fee will go to NRSNA)
 - Cow Work Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$120
 - Ranch Trail Obstacle Fee - \$30
 - *Youth/limited youth/novice youth/novice amateur:*
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$85 (\$5 of each entry fee will go to NRSNA)
 - Cow Work / Boxing Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$95
 - Ranch Trail Obstacle Fee - \$30
 - *Optional Jackpot* (charged in each of the 7 divisions – open, amateur, limited amateur, novice amateur, youth, limited youth, novice youth) - \$250

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

- All classes will be monitored for lack of concurrence on major penalties as outlined in the Versatility Ranch section of the handbook.
- Ranch Cow Work
 - In all NRSNA cow work the exhibitor has the option to rope the cow or circle the cow. However, any open entries showing concurrently in VRH junior or senior ranch cow work class must rope to meet VRH rules.
- Ranch Cutting

- There will be a 2-minute time limit. Each exhibitor must work two cows and has the option of ending their run before the 2-minute time limit or working the full 2 minutes.
- Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining
 - Exhibitors in 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).

TIES

- In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judges as tiebreakers prior to the start of the class as so noted on the score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second tiebreaker, and so on.
- Exhibitors competing for NRSHA all-around will receive class placings credits which will be entered into the all-around tabulation. Ties for the all-around versatility ranch horse are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, limited ranch cow work, or novice ranch cow, whichever is applicable. If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding, and ranch conformation.

AWARDS / PAYOUT

- 50% of the payout will be paid in the individual class placings and the remaining 50% will be paid into the all-around payout.
 - **In the youth, limited youth, novice youth, and novice amateur Divisions; \$27.63 of each entry fee will be paid in the individual class placings and \$27.63 will be paid into the All-around.**
 - **In the open, amateur, and limited amateur Divisions; \$37.38 of each entry fee will be paid in the individual class placings and \$37.38 will be paid into the All-around.**
 - In 2021, there is an optional jackpot opportunity, with a 90% payback. Each exhibitor that pays into the jackpot option will be eligible for payback according to the overall placings in the All-around.
 - Payouts in the amateur and youth classes will be paid to the individual exhibitor, so an individual social security number will be required.
 - Payouts in the open classes will be paid to the owner of the horse.
 - For specific payout percentages please refer to the payout chart on page 6.
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CATTLE LEVEL 1 INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP / ELIGIBILITY

- Level 1 eligibility is based on the exhibitor's 2020 AQHA leveling eligibility.
- To be eligible for Level 1 competition, an individual may **NOT**:
 - Have exceeded the point cap for that class.
 - Have earned a superior award in the past 10 years for that particular class in any equine organization with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, ApHC).
 - Have placed in the top three at any AQHA world show in that particular class.
 - Have won a world, reserve world, national or reserve national championship title in that particular class (excluding Level 1 classes) in any equine organization with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including AQHA).
 - Have won a total of \$5,000 in cash and/or prizes with any equine organization or association by class including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources.
 - Have been an accredited horse show judge or trained professionally.
- If a competitor won a class at any Level 1 Championship, he/she cannot show in **that same class** at future Level 1 Championships (Rule SHW 245.3). However, that exhibitor can continue to show in that class at AQHA shows until he/she meets the point level.
- A horse/rider combination may only show in the Level 1 ranch riding at one AQHA Championship Show per year. For example, if a horse/rider combination competes in the Level 1 youth Ranch Riding at the Cattle Level 1 Championships they are not eligible to compete in Level 1 Ranch Riding at the Built Ford Tough AQHYA youth World Championship Show in the same year.
- Anyone with a current AQHA membership riding a registered American Quarter Horse may assist in cutting, heading and/or heeling.
- Any age horse may be shown in a snaffle or hackamore in a Level 1 class.

CLASS OFFERING / FEES

- Cattle Level 1 will have two divisions – Level 1 amateur and Level 1 youth.
- There will be eight classes offered in each division – tie-down roping, breakaway roping, cutting, heading, heeling, working cow horse, boxing, and ranch riding.
 - *All entrants:*
 - Drug testing fee (charged per division) - \$55
 - Entry / Office Charge - \$100
 - Cow Work / Boxing Cattle Fee - \$85
 - Roping Cattle Fee - \$65
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$135
 - *Optional Jackpot* (charged per class) - \$50

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

- Level 1 Cutting
 - National Cutting Horse Association rules will be used for judging the Level 1 Cutting. AQHA equipment rules apply to all Level 1 Cutting entries.
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point penalties and zero (0) scores may be monitored.
- Level 1 Ranch Riding
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- Level 1 Tie-Down / Level 1 Heading / Level 1 Heeling
 - Two (2) point, three (3) point, five (5) point penalties, and zero (0) scores may be monitored.
 - In tie-down roping, the roper may throw only two loops and must complete the run within a one-minute time limit.
 - The one-minute time limit is from the time the calf leaves the chute until the roper signals the time is complete. Although the time limit stops when the roper signals the tie

is complete, the horse will continue to be judged until the rider has mounted the horse and ridden forward.

- In heading/heeling, each roper may throw two loops and must complete the run within a one-minute time limit.
- In heading/heeling, the rope must be wrapped around the saddle horn at least one complete turn.
- In the heeling class, any head catch made by the header must be a legal catch. Legal catches are both horns, half-head and around the neck.
- Level 1 Breakaway Roping - will be placed by the fastest time.
 - Any attempt by a contestant to position his horse behind the barrier, enabling the contestant to rope the animal without attempting to leave the box will result in a no time.
 - The loop must pass over the head of the calf.
 - A contestant who breaks the rope from the horn by hand or touches the rope or string after the catch is made will receive a no time.
- Level 1 Working Cow Horse / Boxing
 - Two (2) point penalties, except marker penalties, three (3) point five, five (5) point, and zero (0) scores may be monitored.
 - All exhibitors will complete their reined work and will immediately work their cow.
 - The judges may, at their discretion, award new cattle to enable the contestant to show his or her horse's ability on the cow.
 - In the boxing, there is a 50 second time limit.
 - In the working cow horse, horses should keep working until the judge blows the whistle. If exhibitor quits working before the judge blows the whistle, a score of 0 will be given.
 - All horses must be shown in the same bit, snaffle, hackamore, and reins in the cow work that were used in the reined work.
 - One score will be tabulated from the reined work and one score will be tabulated from the cow work. A total score will then be tabulated from both work scores.

TIES

- In working cow horse and boxing classes, the cow work is the first tie breaker.
- In all classes, except working cow horse and boxing, 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.

AWARDS / PAYOUT

- There is no payout for individual class placings, only in the jackpot.
 - In 2021, there is an optional jackpot opportunity, with a 90% payback. Each exhibitor that pays into the jackpot option will be eligible for payback according to the overall class placings.
 - Payouts in the Level 1 amateur and Level 1 youth classes will be paid to the individual exhibitor, so an individual social security number will be required.
 - For specific payout percentages please refer to the payout chart on page 6.
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RHC INFORMATION

OWNERSHIP / ELIGIBILITY

- The RHC classes are available exclusively to horses bred by AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeders.
- To be eligible to enter the RHC division, the horse must be fully enrolled in the Ranching Heritage program by entry deadline. For enrollment questions please contact ranching@aqha.org.
- It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse to show in the Level 1 classes; however, the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse and fully enrolled in the Ranching Heritage program by entry deadline of May 1, 2021.
- 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.
- Eligibility for the **cowboy division** is explained in SHW552.3 The cowboy division is for working ranch cowboys. The rider of the horse must either be an owner, family member or full-time employee of the ranch that owns the horse. Employees must have been employed for a minimum of 90 days prior to competing in the ranch horse competition. The rider must have less than \$15,000 per association lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRHA, NCHA, NRCHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA, NRSHA or SHTX and 25 or fewer AQHA or APHA open points in reining, cutting, ranch cow horse or versatility ranch horse within the previous 10 years, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources. No exhibitor can have earned more than \$15,000 in any individual association, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources.
- Open Exhibitors may show up to four horses in the open Division.
- Cowboy, amateur, and youth exhibitors may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible.

CLASS OFFERING / FEES

- RHC will have 11 divisions – open, limited open, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, Level 1 amateur, Level 1 limited amateur, youth, limited youth, Level 1 youth, and Level 1 limited youth.
- Six classes will be offered - working ranch horse, limited working ranch horse, ranch riding, ranch cutting, team roping, and barrel racing.
- Equipment, tack, and exhibitor attire should reflect the ranching traditions of the working ranch horse classes and meet all AQHA rules.
- The following criteria are used to determine in which division the rider would qualify:
 - **Open** – Any exhibitor, both the owner and the exhibitor must be members of AQHA in good standing.
 - **Limited open** – Any exhibitor with 25 or fewer AQHA or APHA open Points in Reining, Cutting or Working Cow Horse within the previous 10 years and less than \$15,000 lifetime earnings in any of the following: NRCHA, NCHA, NRHA, ACHA, RHAA, ASHA, or SHTX. No exhibitor can have earned more than \$15,000 in any individual association.
 - **Amateur** – Any exhibitor meeting AQHA amateur eligibility and ownership requirements as described in the 2021 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations. Must possess a current amateur card at time of entry.
 - **Level 1 amateur** – Any amateur member meeting AQHA Level 1 eligibility requirements as described in SHW245 of the 2021 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations. A Level 1 amateur must annually file a Level 1 application, available at aqha.com/level1. Level 1 class eligibility is based on the exhibitor's 2020 Leveling Eligibility. [Check your Level 1 eligibility here.](#)
 - **Cowboy** - Working ranch cowboys who are full-time employees of a working ranch. The horse 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 and 25 or fewer AQHA or APHA 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** – Any AQHYA member in good standing.
- **Level 1 youth** – Any AQHYA member meeting AQHA Level 1 eligibility requirements as described in Rule SHW245 of the [2021 AQHA Official Handbook](#) of Rules and Regulations. A Level 1 youth must annually file a Level 1 application, available at aqha.com/level1. Level 1 class eligibility is based on the exhibitor's 2020 Leveling Eligibility. [Check your Level 1 eligibility here.](#)
- Entry Fees will be as follows:
 - Drug testing fee (charged per horse) - \$55
 - *Open & limited open Working Ranch Horses classes* - \$405
 - *Amateur 4 & Up & Level 1 amateur Working Ranch Horse* - \$305
 - *Amateur limited 4 & Up Working Ranch Horse* - \$205
 - *Amateur limited 4 & Up Level 1* - \$155
 - *Open & amateur Ranch Cutting* - \$205
 - *Open & amateur Ranch Riding / Team Roping* - \$205
 - *Open, amateur Barrel Race* - \$155
 - *Youth classes (all)* - \$115
 - Working Ranch Cattle Fee (All classes) - \$85
 - Team Roping Cattle Fee - \$65
 - Open & amateur Cutting Cattle Fee - \$120
 - Youth Cutting Cattle Fee - \$95
- For any class with added money there must be 3 entries in the class to payout any of the added money.

ADDED MONEY

- Open 7-&-up Working Ranch Horse: \$2500
- Open 5- & 6-Yr-Old Working Ranch Horse: \$3000
- Limited open 5- & 6-Yr-Old Working Ranch Horse: \$2000
- Open 4-Yr-Old Working Ranch Horse: \$6000
- Limited open 4-Yr-Old Working Ranch Horse: \$2500
- Cowboy 4 & Up Working Ranch Horse: \$3000
- Amateur 4 & Up Working Ranch Horse: \$5000
- Amateur limited 4 & Up Working Ranch Horse: \$2000
- Open 4 & Up Ranch Cutting: \$1000
- Amateur 4 & Up Ranch Cutting: \$1000
- Open 3 & Up Ranch Riding: \$2000
- Amateur 3 & Up Ranch Riding: \$2000
- Open 4 & Up Team Roping: \$2000
- Amateur 4 & Up Team Roping: \$2000
- Open 4 & Up Barrel Race: \$1000
- Amateur 4 & Up Barrel Race: \$1000

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

For more specific rules please refer to the [2021 AQHA Official Handbook](#) (starting at SHW559).

- RHC Working Ranch Horse – this class will be judged in two parts: reined work and cow work. The scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score.
 - The judges may, at their discretion, award new cattle to enable the contestant to show his/her horse's ability on the cow.
 - Horses should keep working until the judge blows the whistle. If exhibitor quits working before the judge blows the whistle, a score of 0 will be given.
- RHC limited Working Ranch Horse – this class will be judged in two parts: reined work and cow work. The scores for the two portions will be added together for the final score.
 - Limited Cow Work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) will be offered only in amateur and youth.

- RHC Ranch Riding
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- RHC Ranch Cutting
 - There will be a 2-minute time limit. Each exhibitor must work two cows and has the option of ending their run before the 2-minutes time limit or working the full 2 minutes.
 - Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point, disqualification (DQ), and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- RHC Team Roping
 - Judged/Timed format (following American Rope Horse Futurity Association format):
 - The time is subtracted from 80 to determine the 'score'.
 - Example: 7 second run = $80 - 7 = 73$
 - Example: 13.5 second run = $80 - 13.5 = 66.5$
 - The time 'score' is added to the judges' scores to determine the final total score.
- RHC Barrel Racing
 - The following disqualifications may be monitored:
 - Failure to follow the pattern.
 - Excessive use of whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
 - In the case of electric timer malfunction, re-runs may be required as directed by show management and their decision will be final.

AGE OF HORSE

- Horse's age will be determined by the age of the horse as of December 31, 2020.
- 3 & Up: Horses must be foaled in 2017 or prior.
- 4 & Up: Horses must be foaled in 2016 or prior.
- 4-year-old: Horses must be foaled in 2016
- 5- & 6-year-old: Horses must be foaled in 2014 or 2015
- 7 & Up: Horses must be foaled in 2013 or prior.
- Horses foaled in **2015**, **2016**, or **2017** may be shown according to AQHA junior horse equipment rules.
- Horses foaled in **2014** or earlier must be shown according to senior horse equipment rules, except in Level 1 working ranch horse classes.

TIES

- In the RHC ranch horse classes, the cow work will be the first tie breaker.
- In the RHC non-ranch horse classes, 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.

AWARDS / PAYOUT

- Awards will be given for each individual class.
- 75% of the entry fee will be paid out in each class.
- Payouts in the open classes will be paid to the owner of record (at time of entry deadline) for the horse.
- Payouts in the amateur and youth classes will be paid to the individual exhibitor, an individual social security number will be required.
- For specific payout percentages please refer to the payout chart on page 6.

Lazy E Arena and Map

