

MEMORANDUM

TO: Showing Members
FROM: Show Department
DATE: June 23, 2020
SUBJECT: New Class FAQ

Background

The American Quarter Horse Association has continued to diligently improve the AQHA exhibitor experience even during the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The AQHA Show, IT and Project Management departments focused on implementing classes that were member-driven initiatives voted on at past AQHA conventions, but were on hold pending computer programming. Specific class rules can be found as a supplement to the rulebook at www.aqha.com/rulebook.

New classes

- Working hunter under saddle
- Western dressage
- Ranch trail
- Ranching Heritage Challenge ranch cutting
- Ranching Heritage Challenge working ranch horse 7-&-Up
- Timed trail (only available in China)

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions have been gathered from members interested in the six new classes. If you have additional questions, please email them to show@aqha.org. The AQHA show team will answer your email and update this document accordingly. The new classes are now included on the [show approval application](#). Show management can also add them for previously approved events by emailing a request to showapproval@aqha.org.

Working Hunter Under Saddle

- Is it required to compete in the same over fence division as the working hunter under saddle class?
 - No, a horse must be shown in a minimum of one over fence class in *any* division within the same show number. For example, a horse may compete in an open over fence class and satisfy the requirement to then compete in amateur working hunter under saddle.
- Does hunter hack qualify as an over fence class?
 - Yes, hunter hack, equitation over fences, working hunter and/or jumping all qualify as over fence classes.
- Is it possible for a horse to compete in both working hunter under saddle and hunter under saddle at the same show?
 - No, cross-over is not permitted under the same show number regardless of division as defined in SHW605.2.
- Can one exhibitor show in the over fence class and a different exhibitor show in the working hunter under saddle class?
 - Yes, one exhibitor may show in the over fence class and a different exhibitor show in working hunter under saddle.

Western Dressage

- Is USEF membership required to participate?
 - No, for AQHA classes only AQHA membership rules apply in accordance with rules SHW215, SHW220, SHW225, SHW235 in the [AQHA handbook](#).
- What levels of competition will be recognized by AQHA?
 - Basic Level, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4
- How can a show offer western dressage?
 - Western dressage can be offered at an AQHA-approved show or as a special event and must be judged by a licensed USEF/WDAA judge, who is an active AQHA member. Show applications are located at www.aqha.com/management-forms, and you can search active judges at www.aqha.com/judges-lists.
- Is an AQHA Dressage Competition License required for western dressage?
 - No, that is not a requirement for western dressage.

Ranch Trail

- Is it possible to show in both AQHA ranch trail and VRH ranch trail?
 - Yes, similar to the option to compete in both AQHA ranch riding and VRH ranch riding.
- Is it possible to show in both AQHA trail and AQHA ranch trail?
 - No, cross-over is not permitted under the same show number, regardless of division.

Ranching Heritage Challenge Ranch Cutting

- What guidelines will the RHC ranch cutting class follow?
 - RHC ranch cutting will follow Versatility Ranch Horse cutting rules; only two cows worked with a two-minute time limit.
- Where will the RHC ranch cutting class be offered?
 - The RHC ranch cutting will be available to be offered at any RHC event.
 - The RHC ranch cutting will be paired with other RHC class offerings and at the AQHA RHC Finals.

Ranching Heritage Challenge Working Ranch Horse 7-&-Up

- Is this class only available to open RHC exhibitors?
 - Yes, amateur and youth exhibitors have all age classes. This class is offered to allow open exhibitors the opportunity to show their horses after the 4, and 5 and 6-year-old divisions.
- Where will the 7-&-Up class be offered?
 - The RHC working ranch horse 7-&-up will be available to be offered at any RHC event.
 - The RHC working ranch horse 7-&-Up will be paired with other RHC class offerings and at the AQHA RHC Finals.

Time Trail (China)

- Is an AQHA-approved judge required to officiate the class?
 - No, the AQHA-recognized affiliate can select an appropriate judge.