

Northeast Stock Horse Association Rules

Our Mission Statement: To develop the all around working stock horse and rider by providing a learning and competitive environment for all levels of horses and riders.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Revised April 10, 2007

For all classes: A horse may only be ridden once in a class. A rider may ride more than one horse per class.

Open: Open to all horses and riders. Each contestant will complete 2-4 trail obstacles as designated at beginning of show, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, box the cow, fence the cow, rope the cow, stop the cow gently, turn and pull the cow at least 10', unless instructed not to pull the cow.

Non-Pro Class: A non pro shall be defined as any person, regardless of age, who is not currently receiving remuneration directly or indirectly for showing, training, giving lessons, clinics or assisting in the training of a horse for remuneration. This does not include prize money. Payment of entry fees and/or expenses by anyone other than the Non Pro, his/her immediate family, or his/her corporation is considered remuneration. A Non Pro may not show, train or assist in the training of a horse for which their spouse is accepting any form of remuneration either directly or indirectly for training, or assisting in the training or showing of said horses. Remuneration shall be defined as: to pay, reward for work, trouble, etc.; reimburse, compensate; make fair return for an action; barter. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, box the cow, fence the cow, & rope the cow OR circle the cow both directions.

Green Rider II: This class is for any Non-Pro rider that has not had cumulative points of 50 or more in the NSHA, or had cumulative winnings of more than \$500 in the National Reining Cow Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association in Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse, or acquired 2 points or more in American Quarter Horse Association Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, box the cow, fence the cow and

signal the judge they are finished by raising their arm, or ceasing their run if the judge blows the whistle. Simple lead changes will be permitted but are not required. Regardless of reining pattern, rider will not do more than 2 ½ spins. Rider may use two hands if necessary but should try to go back to one hand.

Seniors Class: This class is for any rider age 50 and over. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, and will not have to dismount. Following trail, rider will do a reining pattern, signal for the cow, box the cow, fence the cow and signal the judge they are finished by raising their arm, or ceasing their run if the judge blows the whistle.

Green Rider I: This class is for any Non-Pro rider that has not had cumulative points of 50 or more in the NSHA, or had cumulative winnings of more than \$200 in the National Reining Cow Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association in Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse or acquired any points in American Quarter Horse Association Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, & box the cow. If arena permits rider will drive the cow out of the arena. Simple lead changes will be permitted but are not required. Regardless of reining pattern, rider will not do more than 2 ½ spins. Rider is allowed to use two hands with an approved bit.

Green Horse: For any horse 5 years or younger that has not had cumulative winnings of more than \$200 in National Reined Cow Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association in Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse, or acquired 2 points or more in American Quarter Horse Association Ranch Horse Versatility or Working Cow Horse. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, fence the cow, rope and stop the cow OR circle the cow both directions. Simple lead changes will be permitted but are not required. Regardless of pattern rider will do no more than 2 ½ spins. Two hands are allowed for snaffle or hackamore only, one hand with any other approved bit.

Youth Class I (up to 10 years old) & **Youth Class II** (11 - 15 years old). Youth must have a signed release from legal guardian prior to competition. For any rider within the ages specified. Rider will complete 2-4 trail obstacles, a reining pattern, signal for the cow, box the cow and if arena permits drive the cow out of the arena.

Please note: Trail patterns and reining patterns will not be available before the day of the show.

This is a timed event. Each riders time will begin at start of reining pattern. Rider will have 6 minutes to complete his task. A 2 minute warning will be given. If time runs out before rider completes all parts of his task, he will be judged on the portion completed. Judge may blow whistle at any time during the run to stop the run, or to signal rider to move on to next phase of run, to give a new cow, or at end of run to signal rider has completed pattern to judges satisfaction. If judge blows whistle to stop run for a new cow, timer should stop time also and begin it again when new cow is released.

Contestants run will than be scored from boxing of cow forward on new cow and any previous score on cow work will be null and void. A new cow will be given at the

discretion of the judge. This may be if a cow is unworkable or leaves the arena working floor. Unworkable is defined as an animal that for any reason does not let the contestant exhibit his horse at all. Such as a cow that fights the contestants horse or simply refuse to move upon entering the arena. A new cow will not be awarded if it is the contestants fault that the animal is tired, out of air, run down, or overworked to the point he doesn't care to move, etc. Judges, please keep this in mind - we are judging the cowboy's ability to recognize these things and adjust his run accordingly. Cowboys don't receive new cattle to work when out on the range! Judge will continue scoring each contestant until he completes his/her run even if a no score will be given. In case of a tie the working cow portion of the class will determine the winner. Horses must be sound and in good condition. Judge and officers have the right to eliminate any contestant if horse does not appear to be sound, in good condition, or if contestant is abusive to horse. Judges will use score sheet provided by the Northeast Stock Horse Association to help keep scoring consistent for every show.

Trail Portion of the class

Trail obstacles may vary from show to show. Example trail obstacles are working a gate horseback, crossing a bridge, opening/closing mailbox, removing slicker from fence and simulated putting on and removing as well as putting back on fence. These are just examples and may not be a complete list. Each class will be given 2-4 obstacles and each obstacle will be worth 5 points, with judge allowance for +/- as he sees fit. Approach to obstacle will be judged (following instructed gait as posted at beginning of each show) as well as how well each obstacle is handled by horse and rider. Maximum score will be given to the horse that approaches each obstacle with calmness and finesse and follows direction of riders cues.

Dry Work or Reining

Except where noted we will be following the National Reining Horse Assoc. rules with regard to scoring. The best working horse should be willfully guided with no apparent resistance. Any movement made by the horse on his own must be considered a lack of control. Any deviation from the pattern must be considered a lack of control and therefore faulted accordingly. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed. This event is intended to display the working ability of a horse suitable for ranch work. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 - infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance.

Rollbacks: At the end of the stop, the rollback should be a 180-degree turn, where the horse turns and leaves in one motion. Short, choppy rundowns will be penalized, as will bouncy, forced stops and rollbacks that come out at less than 180 degrees.

Circles and lead changes(when they apply): To be judged on the horses' ability to be willingly guided without pulling to the inside or to the outside of the circle, and on his ability to demonstrate his willingness to increase or decrease speed, and on his ability to change leads, front and back, smoothly with a minimum of cueing from the rider. Simple lead changes of 3 strides only will be allowed in all Green Class with out a penalty. This does not mean rider cannot achieve better score for a flying lead change, only that he/she will not be penalized for doing a simple lead change. In the circle segment of the dry work, the rider can increase his score by making his circles come together at the "same midpoint of the arena", making large circles the same size on each side, small circles the

same size on each side and lead changes at the center of the arena. This will demonstrate control to the judges.

Stopping and backing: To receive maximum credit, a horse should approach the stop loping or galloping freely, willingly moving forward in a straight line, gradually increasing his speed. The stop should be straight and square, and give the appearance of stopping because he is trained to stop, not because he is forced to stop. As in the rollback maneuver, maximum credit will be given to the horse that approaches the stop running straight, gradually increasing speed, stops straight and square, hesitates momentarily. Short, choppy, checky-looking rundowns, bouncy stops, head throwing, excessive open mouth and resistance on the part of the horse will be penalized. Maximum credit will be given to the horse that backs straight and willingly in a straight line for whatever distance the pattern designates. If the horse backs crooked, throws head, opens mouth excessively and shows resistance, the horse will be penalized.

Spins: Credit will be given to the horse that spins flat and smooth, showing no indication of being forced, and demonstrates a willing attitude. Forced speed shall not score higher than moderate willing speed. Horses will be penalized for choppy, forced or extremely slow spins. The horse that spins smoothly, with moderate speed, keeping his hindquarters in the same general area, and demonstrating good foot work in front should receive the greatest amount of credit. All Green classes will not do more than 2 ½ spins regardless of pattern.

COW WORK Cow work will consist of two segments, boxing or holding a cow at the end of the arena, and turning a cow down the fence in both directions. It must be remembered that the idea is to control the cow. Judges must take into consideration what kind of cow each contestant draws in order to accurately judge the degree of difficulty. When a contestant is holding a cow at the end of the arena, maximum credit will be given to the horse that is obviously watching a cow and making counter moves to hold the cow at the end of the arena with the help of the rider. The more a horse is doing on his own the more credit he should receive. Maximum credit should only be given when the horse is in control of the cow when the cow is allowed to go down the fence. Contestant needs to deliberately stop or pull up on his horse to show the judge that he is now ready to go down the fence. When the cow is allowed to go down the fence, maximum credit will be given to the horse that turns the cow at least once each way on the same fence that the cow originally went down. First turn should be past center to avoid penalty. Again the degree of difficulty offered by the cow should always be considered. Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance.

CIRCLING or ROPING:

CIRCLING After fencing the contestant shall then take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle the cow 360 degrees at least once in each direction. Maximum credit will be given to the rider that keeps cow from going back to fence once attempt at circling has begun. Maximum credit will be given to the contestant who does the circling in center of pen. Maximum credit will be given to the contestant that is in the idea position while circling the cow, that being the horse is in a position that will turn the cow in a 360 circle each way with little forward motion on part of the cow.

ROPING: Rider may only carry one rope. Rider must dally, no tying hard and fast. Maximum credit will be given to the horse that shows amble speed going to cattle, rates off so rider can rope, tracks a cow that circles, ducks right or left and stays in position to

allow the rider to rope. The loop must go over the animal's head, i.e., the animal has to look through the loop. The animal may end up being caught by the neck, body, or hind leg. If the animal is not roped within two loops, scoring will cease at this point. If the rope is lost after catching the cow, the run is considered complete and will be scored accordingly. A rider who loses his rope will not be scored higher than a rider that catches his cow and completes his run, on the roping phase of the run. Contestants may not receive any ropes from outside the arena to complete the run. If a contestant drops their rope prior to roping the animal, they may dismount and retrieve the rope to complete the run if time allows. Maximum credit will be given to the horse that stops square and hard in a straight line with the cow, hind quarters underneath him, alert and paying attention, holding the stop when the rope comes tight and leans back slightly to absorb the jerk. The loop has to go over the animal's head and therefore any part of the body that is caught may be used to stop the animal.

*NOTE: Open class only, after bringing the cow to a complete stop, the rider will turn 180 degrees and pull the animal off at least 10'. The scoring by judge will be completed at the end of the pull. The rider can then release the cow. The rider must use his discernment before pulling the cow if the cow has been caught in an unsafe manner to pull off, i.e. a leg caught up in a neck loop, etc.

For scoring purposes, the first circle will be compared to the roping and the 2nd circle will be compared to stopping.

The following will result in a no score:

*Abuse of a horse in the arena, and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition. *Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains. *Use of tack collars, tie downs, or nose bands. *Use of whips or bats. *Use of any attachment or procedure which alters the movement of circulation to the tail. *Failure to provide horse and equipment to the judge for inspection. *Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor. *Use of more than the index or first finger between the reins. *Use of two hands. (Exception: horses eligible to be shown in snaffle or bosal.) *Failure to complete the pattern as written. *Equipment failure that delays competition of the pattern. *Spurring in front of the cinch. *Use of free hand to instill fear. *Touching horse or saddle with free hand, except during cow part of class.

Faults against the horse that will be scored accordingly:

*Opening mouth excessively when wearing a bit. *Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head raising on the stop. *Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches. *Refusing to change leads. *Anticipating signals. *Stumbling. *Backing sideways. *Knocking over markers.

Faults against the rider which will be scored accordingly:

*Losing stirrup

*Any unnecessary aid given by the rider such as unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, jerking of reins, etc.

*Failure to ride beyond the markers in the roll-backs and stops

Dress Code:

1. Boots, cowboy hat or helmet and long sleeves are required. Leggings, chinks, chaps, kerchief/bolo, spurs, gloves, vest, jacket, etc. is the rider's decision. The total attire should appear workman-like, neat and devoid of the ornamentation and high-fashion styling that

requires more than a basic investment on the part of the exhibitor.

2. Saddles: Entries are to be shown in Western saddle with neat and serviceable working tack.

3. Horse Shoes: Any shoes are legal

4. Bridles and Bits: Contestants will not be allowed to use any device that gives him/her undue control over the horse such as: Tie downs, Mechanical hackamores, Quick stops, Martingales, Gag bits, wire on the curb device or any part of the headstall. Nothing may be around the horse's nose. Bits must be free of mechanical device. Nothing extending below the bars of the bits.

A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 ½". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to ¾" in diameter as measured one inch from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped.

Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar.

Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 ¼" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to ¾" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 ½" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid doughnut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited.

Roping bits with both reins connected to a single rein at the center or cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank.

Standard snaffle bits are permitted in any class on horses five years old and under. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center joined single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to ¾" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, egg butt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

Hackamores are permitted in any class on horses five years old and under. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core attached to a suitable headstall. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., metal or chains (exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable).

Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances, including mane bands or tail extensions or switches. Curb chains and leather chin straps may be used but must be flat and at least ½" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used as part of the leather chin strap or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.

The judge may require the removal of any equipment that does not fit the above standard definitions and is considered by the judge to be improper or inhumane.

It is the judges responsibility to check bridles if he feels it necessary.

Instructions to Riders:

Only one hand may be used on the reins except when using a snaffle or Hackamore on a horse 5 yrs old and younger and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an

obstacle during the trail part of the class. When the ends of split reins fall on the same side of the reining hand, one finger between the reins is permitted. When using romal, or when ends of split reins are held in the hand not used for reining, no finger between the reins is allowed. Rider may hold romal or end of split reins to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held at least 16" from the reining hand.

Points will accumulate during said fiscal year towards year end standings once membership is obtained. Contestant must be a member before start of show for any points earned during the show to apply towards year end standings. If contestant is not a member before show than points will not count towards year end standings till contestant earns points at a show after becoming a member.

Point accumulations for year end awards will run from January 1st of year till December 31st of same year.

Officers for the year 2008:

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