

# North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance

## Rule Book

2024



**North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance**

**2023 Board of Directors**

*President: Kimberley VanDerSluis*

*Vice-President: Victoria Seip Eisses*

*Treasurer: Kaylee Thompson*

*Recording Secretary: Krista Larouche*

*Membership Secretary: Lauren Kochanowski*

*Past President: Greg Crispin*

*Directors: Lisa Allen, Annie Kim Decroix, Haley Frey, Shelley Hagan, Farrah Lafleur,*

*Chet Martin, Luis Simoes, Haley Turnell*

The NERCHA Board of Directors can be emailed at [nerchainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nerchainfo@gmail.com). Please refer to the NERCHA website (<http://www.nercha.ca>) for other Board of Director contact information.

***NERCHA Mission Statement:***

Our mission is to promote NRCHA horse shows in Ontario, educate the general membership through lectures, clinics, newsletters, meetings, and seminars, to promote reined cow horse among the youth and to provide special events for members.

**Proud Affiliate of**



**National Reined Cow Horse Association**

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## Who Are We?

We are a group of horsewomen and horsemen that came together to form an alliance for the sole purpose of promoting and helping improve the quality of the western reined stock horse; to promote exhibits, cow horse events, contests in expositions and shows; to promote the training of reined cow horses; and to promote interest in reined working cow horses among other horsemen and horsewomen from this province of Ontario and surrounding areas.

## Reined Cow Horse History

In the competitive reined cow horse arena, the finesse of modern horsemanship blends seamlessly with time-tested training methods. The show horses of today trace their performance roots to the meticulous, centuries-old process used by the California vaquero to create his most valuable working partner: a horse that could be controlled by a whisper-light touch on the reins, yet still possess the speed and grit to master the rankest cattle.

The vaqueros needed a quick-footed, intelligent horse with nerves of steel to assist them with daily chores like branding, sorting and doctoring. A trusted cow horse was a necessity, not an option, and over time, the vaquero developed a training system still revered for its elegance and precision.

The National Reined Cow Horse Association was formed in 1949, with the goal of preserving and educating the public about the rich history of this traditional horsemanship. The NRCHA is responsible for promoting the sport and ensuring high standards of competition. The association has continued to celebrate the early California traditions of highly-trained working cow horses and today, continues to work to keep the vaquero tradition alive in today's equine industry.

The NRCHA also supports numerous affiliate clubs like ours—the NERCHA—across North America and abroad. These groups serve as the association's backbone, holding many NRCHA-sanctioned competitions and events each year. The affiliate clubs provide the starting point for riders who are interested in reined cow horses and we, the NERCHA, take this role very seriously.

## Today's Reined Cow Horse

Reined cow horse events are "open" to all breeds. Reined cow horse is a type of competition, known also as working cow horse, where horses are asked to first perform a reining pattern, often referred to as the "dry work". The other portion consists of working a single live cow released in to the arena, often referred to as the "fence work". The horse is asked to first hold the cow at one end of the arena (known as "boxing"), then run the cow along the rail of the arena, turning it back without the aid of the fence (known as "down the fence"). Lastly, the horse maneuvers the cow into the centre of the arena and causes the cow to circle in a tight circle in each direction (known as "circling"). All of this must be accomplished before the cow is exhausted. Horses are judged on accuracy, timing, and responsiveness, as well as how they handle a single cow. Horses that can perform these tasks are called "reined cow horses," "cow horses," "stock horses," or "working cow horses."

In three-event competitions, the rider does the above two events (reining and fence work) and "herd work". The herd work is similar to cutting, where a single cow is "cut" from a herd of cattle and prevented from returning to the herd by the intervention of the horse and rider. Herd work is most often included in three-year-old futurity and four- and five-year-old derby classes. Herd work is also included in a "Bridle Spectacular" class. Horses may force cattle to move, but generally are not supposed to deliberately collide with the cow. The horse is judged on the ability to control the cow, as well as speed, balance, responsiveness to the rider.

Today's reined cow horse competitors train horses at three levels, similar to the original Californio method. Younger horses (three-year-olds) can compete with a snaffle bit. Four- and five-year-old horses can compete in either a snaffle bit or bosal. Horses six years and older horses compete in a "bridle". There are also two-rein classes, which are for horses of any age that have not shown in the bridle going down the fence.

Working cow horse events are also held at breed specific shows, such as American Quarter Horse Association shows.

# North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance Bylaws

## 1.0 BY-LAW NUMBER ONE

A by-law relating to the transaction of the business and affairs of the North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance (NERCHA) will be it enacted by the Directors of the Alliance as a by-law, thereof, as follows:

### 1.1 OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES

1. Promotion of NRCHA horse shows in Ontario.
2. Education of the general membership through lectures, clinics, newsletters, meetings, and seminars.
3. To promote reined cow horse among the youth.
4. Look into special events for members.

### 1.2 LOGO

The logo, an impression of which is stamped here, shall be the logo of the Alliance, and when used, shall be authenticated by the club. Signature of the President and Secretary or by the signature of officers and other persons that the Board may appoint are required for use.



### 1.3 DIRECTORS

The affairs of the Alliance shall be managed by a Board of Directors, comprising of voluntary members, with a minimum of three and maximum of eight.

Directors so elected shall retain their directorship for the entire term of office, with the exception of removal in accordance with the existing by-laws.

**QUORUM:** No less than 50% of the elected directors.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTORS:** Only members in good standing will be eligible to be directors. Members must hold both a valid NERCHA and NRCHA membership and must have reached his/her 18th birthday. A Family Membership is deemed the same as an Open Membership. No more than one member of a family shall be eligible to stand as a Director. "Family" shall be defined as persons living in the same household.

**NOMINATIONS:** Shall be made to the President no later than 30 days prior to the annual general meeting.

**ELECTION AND TERM:** The Directors shall be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance by secret ballot. Unless impossible, this meeting should be in the fall after the last show. Term of office will be from November 1 to October 31 of each year. If a member wishes to stand for the position of Director but is unable to attend the Annual Meeting, he/she may so indicate in writing.

- President and Vice-President: two (2) year term
- Treasurer: two (2) year term
- Secretaries: two (2) year term
- Directors: one (1) year term

**VACANCIES:** A Director may vacate office at any time by written resignation. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Executive, the person with the next highest votes will be appointed. When there is a shortage of elected Directors, the President has the right to appoint Directors for the remainder of the term with the board of Directors’ approval by a two-thirds majority.

**REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS:** A Director may be removed from office at any time by a resolution passed by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a Directors’ meeting of which notice of such resolution has been given, and the vacancy shall be filled as set out in vacancies above.

**DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS:** Directors’ meetings may be convened by the President or two Directors at any time and at anyplace on at least five days’ notice—delivered, mailed, or telephoned to each Director. The minutes of Directors’ meetings shall stand approved if no objection is raised within seven (7) days by anyone who was in attendance at that meeting.

a. Without Notice: Directors’ meetings may also be held at any time and at any place without formal notice, if all of the Directors are present or if absent, waive notice and consent to the holding of the meeting. No notice shall be necessary for the first meeting of the Board held after its’ election at the Annual General Meeting.

b. Waiver and Consent: Notice of any meeting or irregularity in any meeting or in the notice thereof may be waived by the Director. Any Waiver and any consent must be done by written consent.

c. Notice of Motion: Any resolution or notice of motion affecting policy, monetary or committee structure changes, or any deputations to be presented to the Board of Directors must be in the hands of the Secretary at least two weeks prior to the next regular meeting of the Directors so it can be distributed to the Directors prior to the meeting.

d. Attendance: Any Director missing more than two (2) consecutive Director’s meetings may be dismissed from the Board. A Director who cannot attend a meeting must advise the President or Secretary of his/her anticipated absence.

**VOTING:** At a meeting of the Board, each Director present shall have one vote on every question and in the case of an equality of votes, the President of the Board shall have the deciding vote.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF DIRECTORS:** The Board of Directors shall have the power to conduct all business and affairs of the Alliance including: the removal of Directors, disciplinary action and reinstatement, recommend by-law changes, and/or membership fees and classifications.

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS:** At each annual meeting, a complete statement of business and affairs shall be presented by the President and Board of Directors.

**RENUMERATION:** The Board may not accept remuneration for duties, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

## 1.4 OFFICERS

**APPOINTMENT:** There shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, two (2) Secretaries and other Officers as the Board of Directors may occasionally determine. The above officers shall be elected individually from the general membership at the Annual Meeting, prior to the election of the remaining Directors. A vacancy in the office of President will move up the Vice-President. Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretaries may be elected from the Directors by the Directors or be appointed, should there be a vacancy.

**PAST PRESIDENT:** The immediate past President of the Alliance will hold office for the following year.

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Alliance. He/she shall, if present, preside at the meetings of Alliance; shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried out; he/she and the Secretary and Treasurer shall sign all deeds or other formal documents and shall perform all other duties as are incident to the office of the President of the Alliance, or are required by the Directors. The President or Vice President or the Treasurer shall sign all cheques, drafts, notes, and orders for payment of monies. The President or Vice President or the Treasurer shall pay out and dispose of the same under the direction of the Board of Directors. The President will not cast a vote in regular voting activity, unless needed to break a tie.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President in the absence or the disability or refusal to act of the President. He/she shall also have such other powers and duties, as may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

**SECRETARIES:** There will be two Secretaries. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the minute's book of the Alliance and shall record the minutes of all the meetings of the Directors and any other proceedings as the Board may direct. Unless some other officer is specifically charged with the duty, he/she shall also keep or cause to be kept any books and records as required by the Board. The Recording Secretary can be a signing officer of the Alliance for any instruments that require signature.

The Membership Secretary shall have charge of handling the current year's membership applications, issuing membership cards, and carrying out any prescribed duties as set out by the Board.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the Alliance and shall deposit the same in the name of the Alliance in the bank or banks as the Board of Directors may stipulate. Unless some other officer is specifically charged with this duty, the Treasurer shall keep the books of account which the Alliance is required to keep. The treasurer can be a signing officer of the Alliance for any instruments that require signature.

## 1.5 COMMITTEES

In addition to the general directorship previously described, there may be the following committees or other committees as deemed necessary:

Awards and Points Committee

Banquet Committee

Publicity and Education Committee

Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee

Horse Show and Contest Committee

Rulebook and Disciplinary Committee

Youth Committee

The Board of Directors will be responsible for electing or appointing the Chairperson of each committee. It is recommended that a director sits on each committee, but need not be Chairperson. The President of the Alliance automatically becomes a member of every committee. The Board may select or appoint all the members of the committees or may delegate this authority to the Chairperson of each committee. Every committee, its chairperson, officers, members, and appointees are subservient to the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of each committee will submit to the Board:

- a) Their objectives with a list of priorities
- b) The terms of reference and jurisdiction
- c) A budget

If approval is given, the Board may delegate additional authority to each committee. Each Chairperson of a committee will submit the name and address of every committee member to the Board within one month of his/her appointment.

## **1.6 MEMBERS**

Application for membership shall be in writing or via the online NERCHA form. Each applicant, on becoming a member, agrees to be bound by the by-laws and all rules and regulations of the Alliance, including committees. The Alliance has the power to reject any application for membership.

It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that they have the proper insurance in place for both the horse(s) and the rider(s)/owner(s). This is not required by NERCHA but is highly recommended by the club's insurance company as members could also be named in a claim. If you do not have insurance on your property liability that extends to you and your livestock while off the property, please consider looking into a provincial equine insurance program. If you are an Ontario resident an Ontario Equestrian membership can be purchased online at: [ontarioequestrian.ca/membership](http://ontarioequestrian.ca/membership)

### **1.6.1 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Adult Membership:** The Adult member shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Alliance and be entitled to participate equally in any distribution of the Alliance upon its dissolution Annual membership fees must be paid.
- b. Youth Membership:** The Youth member will be under the age of 18 years. Annual membership fees must be paid.
- c. Honorary Member:** A Membership bestowed on a person, as recommended by the Board, and approved by the general membership.

### **1.6.2 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

All fees may be subject to review by the Board of Directors at any time.

- 1) Adult Membership \$65.00
- 2) Youth Membership \$45.00

### **1.6.3 MEETING OF MEMBERS**

**a. Annual Meetings:** The Annual Meeting shall be held at a place and time designated each year by the Board of Directors or the President. Unless impossible, it should be in the fall of the year after the show season. Election of the Executive and amendments to the rules or Bylaws can only take place at an annual meeting.

**b. Special Meeting:** Other General meetings may be convened by ordered of the President, Vice-President, or the Board of Directors at any time and at any place.

**c. With Notice and Without Notice:** Notice of the time and place of any meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be mailed or emailed to each member entitled to vote at the meeting, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Annual general meetings may be held at any time and at any place within our area without notice if all members entitled to vote are present. Notice published in the Newsletter is considered proper notice, if mailed ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

**d. Waiver:** Notice of any irregularity in the notice may be waived by any member. The waiver may be in written form.

**e. Voting:** At all meetings or polls, every voting member present or by written proxy, shall have one vote on a show of hands or by secret ballot. Changes to rules or Bylaws require two-thirds of the total votes cast to be in favour for the motion to be passed. Proxies are not allowed for rule changes.

**f. Quorum:** A quorum of any general or annual general meeting shall consist of a minimum of fifteen (15) voting members.

**g. Order of Business:** Business will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (Da Capo Press, 2011), or as follows:

- 1) Call to order and reading of notice of meeting
- 2) Identification of members and establish a quorum
- 3) Reading of minutes of previous meeting
- 4) Treasurer's report
- 5) Reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees
- 6) Correspondence
- 7) Unfinished business
- 8) President's report
- 9) Election of directors
- 10) New business
- 11) Adjournment

## **1.7 FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Alliance shall be from November 1st to October 31st each year.

**NON-SUFICIENT FUNDS (NSF) CHEQUES:** A \$50.00 charge for all NSF cheques will be levied and points will not accumulate until the member is in good standing.



**BILL PAYMENT:** A bill must be paid within one calendar year of said occurrence of the bill in question in order for it to be considered for payment. All bills that are not submitted within the calendar year will not be considered to be valid unless deemed so by the Board due to an extenuating circumstance for the bill not to have been submitted within the calendar year.

## **1.8 PROBATION, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION**

The Board of Directors shall have the power to place on probation, suspend, or expel any member who fails to observe any rule or regulation set forth in these by-laws or whose conduct is, in the opinion of the Board, prejudicial to the Alliance. Prior to the Board of Directors exercising its authority to place on probation, suspend, or expel a member, the member shall first have received notification of the breach or charge being brought against him/her and shall have an opportunity to answer such charge. Notification shall be in writing sent by prepaid post to the address last noted with the Alliance, and shall state the time and place of the hearing. The member charged has the right to appear in person or with counsel to address the Board of Directors to answer the charge. In the event that the member does not appear in person or in counsel on the date set for the hearing, the Board may proceed in his absence. A member placed on PROBATION shall be given a designated time for that probation and after the expiration of that time, shall be reinstated automatically. A member on probation shall be denied the privilege of voting during that period of time he/she is on probation.

Non-payment of any account with the Alliance for a period of ninety (90) days, shall result in automatic SUSPENSION from the Alliance until the arrears are paid in full. The member may then be reinstated at the discretion of the Board. After the Expiration of sixty (60) days, the suspended member has the right to apply for reinstatement in writing or by membership application to the Board of Directors, and may be reinstated at the meeting of the Board if two-thirds of the members present vote in the affirmative. A suspended member is denied all privileges of the Alliance with the exception that he/she will receive all publications and notices distributed to paid members during that period of suspension that the membership has been paid.

EXPULSION shall be for a specified period of time, not less than one year in duration, after which the expelled person has the right to apply for reinstatement in writing to the Board of Directors, and may be reinstated at the meeting of the Board, provided that two-thirds of the members present vote in the affirmative. An expelled member is denied all privileges of the Alliance.

If the Board of Directors refuses to reinstate a person suspended or expelled from membership, that person has the right to apply for reinstatement at the next General Meeting. Reinstatement requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

## **1.9 DISSOLUTION OF THE ALLIANCE**

In the event of the dissolution of the Alliance for causes such as listed found below, the property and assets of the Alliance after all liabilities have been met, will not, in any event, be distributed among the members, but will be disposed of by donating to another organization with similar non-partisan, non-profit objectives after notice presented. The general membership will be notified within a 90 day time frame in an attempt to rectify the dissolution.

Examples of dissolution cause: No executive and board of directors, claims of bankruptcy.

# Northeastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance General Rules and Regulations

## 2.0 BY-LAW NUMBER TWO

All members of the Alliance are governed by and are to follow the guidelines as outlined in the current general rules and regulations:

## 3.0 GENERAL RULES

ANY ADDITION OR AMENDMENT TO THE RULES MUST BE VOTED ON BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND PASSED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. ANY CHANGES WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR OR SHOW SEASON. CHANGES ARE NOT RETROACTIVE.

The following rules apply to ALL classes or events. Failure to comply with them will result in suspension.

### 3.1 HORSES

- a. A horse must be serviceably sound and properly groomed to be eligible for any approved class.
- b. All horses doctored in any way, improperly or unfairly prepared, or tampered with before coming into the show ring will be disqualified and forfeit all points earned for the current season and current NERCHA membership until reinstated by the Board of Directors.
- c. The age of a horse will be as of January 1st of the year foaled. A junior horse is 5 years of age or under.
- d. Stallions may not be shown, ridden, or handled by any exhibitor under 19 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
- e. Grades: refer to the NRCHA Official Rule Book for further details.

#### 3.1.2 HUMANE TREATMENT OF HORSES

No person on the show grounds may treat a horse in an inhumane manner which includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress.
- b. Tying a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress at any time, including lunging or riding.
- c. Use of inhumane equipment.
- d. Any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation in the tail.

Upon report or discovery of inhumane treatment, the incident shall be investigated by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the show committee. The discipline or course of action will be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Statement of principle on welfare of horses:**

- a. Upholding the welfare of horses, regardless of value, as a primary consideration in all activities.
- b. Requiring that horses be treated with kindness, respect, and the compassion that they deserve, and that they never be subjected to mistreatment.
- c. Ensuring that owners, trainer, exhibitors, and their agents use responsible care in the handling, treatment, and transportation of their horses as well as horses placed in their care for any purpose.
- d. Providing for the continuous well-being of horses by encouraging routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and competition officials to achieve the highest possible standards of nutrition, health, comfort, sanitation, and safety as a matter of standard operating procedure.
- e. Continuing to support scientific studies on equine health and welfare.
- f. Increasing education in training and horsemanship practices.
- g. Requiring owners, trainers, and exhibitors to know and follow their sanctioning organizations rules and to work within industry regulations in all equestrian competitions.
- h. Reviewing, revising, and developing competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of horses. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed, and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

Please refer to the NRCHA rule book for further information regarding disciplinary and ethics guidelines at NRCHA-approved shows.

### **3.1.3 APPOINTMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

Exhibitors will wear a western hat or helmet approved for riding by an equine organization, and appropriate western attire while showing, including a long-sleeved western shirt with a collar (standup, button down, tuxedo etc.) and cuffs. Vests, jackets, and sweaters may be worn over proper attire. Chaps or chinks must be worn in NRCHA classes (optional in NERCHA classes), except for in steer stopping. Failure to wear appropriate attire will result in a score of zero. This dress code will also apply to the warm-up pens and will begin one hour prior to the start of the show and one hour after.

Youth exhibitors, 13 years & under as of January first of the current year must wear a properly-fitted approved safety helmet in all riding classes and in the warm-up area while on the back of a horse. The helmet must comply with the requirements under the Ontario Horse Riding Safety Act 2001 – Bill 12

Youth exhibitors, 14 years to 18 years as of January first of the current year must wear a properly-fitted approved safety helmet in all riding classes and in the warm up area while on the back of a horse **UNLESS** a waiver of liability is signed by **BOTH** the youth exhibitor and parent or legal guardian prior to start of the show. The youth exhibitor will be able to show their horse in the show pen only, a helmet will be required in warm-up areas including in the designated show pen when it is open for riding. The helmet must comply with the requirements under the Ontario Horse Riding Safety Act 2001 – Bill 12.

- a. **NERCHA Classes:** All NERCHA classes will use NERCHA legal equipment. NERCHA legal equipment refers to any NRCHA and AQHA legal equipment, regardless of the age of the horse. Curb bits will be used one-handed (romals or split reins) and either a leather or chain curb strap can be used (a chin strap is required). Snaffle bits and

hackamores will be used two-handed. Snaffle bits will be used with a connector or either a leather or chain curb strap can be used (a chin strap is required). Chaps are not mandatory.

- b. NRCHA Classes:** A spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics must be used in any of the NRCHA bridle classes. Said characteristics shall be: one with an unbroken bar mouthpiece with one inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port. There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single for multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit. It is legal to have a barrel made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece. The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece. The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is 5/16 inch. Bars must be round, oval, or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs and the cheeks must be connected at the bottom. The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than 8½ inches measured from the inside bottom of the top of headstall ring to point of pull in the bottom ring. Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in width.

Braces, copper port cover, and/or having copper smoothly inlaid in the mouthpiece are optional. The use of a bosal, martingale, or tie-down is prohibited (bosal permitted in Two Rein class only). No wire, chain, or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with the bit or a part of the leather chin strap. Leather chin strap must be flat, flexible and at least ½ inch wide.

No metal rivets are allowed to come in contact with the chin, or chin groove of the horse. Metal keepers are not acceptable on the chin strap. Reins with romal are required. The reins can be held in either hand, with hand around reins in a fist position with thumbs up. The non-rein hand must be on the romal (the keeper, or hobble, that attaches the romal to the reins is considered to be a part of the romal). The non-rein hand is not allowed, at any time, to touch the reins or a score of zero (0) will be applied. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner. No fingers are permitted between the reins in Bridle classes, except in the Two Rein class.

Please refer to the NRCHA rule book for further information regarding appointments and equipment guidelines at NRCHA-approved shows.

## 4.0 SHOWS

- a. For purposes of eligibility, reined cow horse is synonymous with working cow horse or stock horse classes.
- b. Lifetime earnings are considered as all monies won at NRCHA Approved Horse Shows, Limited Age Events, Category 1 Special Events, and Category 2 Special Events.
- c. Any contest held along with a sale will not be considered a reined cow horse event if they do not follow NRCHA rein work, cow work, herd work and steer stopping patterns exactly. Horse eligibilities will not be affected by entering these events.
- d. Open and Non-Pro horse show classes are not to be run concurrently.
- e. Entries done after the entry deadline will be considered late and an added fee of \$50.00/horse will be charged. Any changes to entries the day of the show will result in a loss of cattle fee. All other entry fees will be returned up to the start of that day's show. Different rules may apply for special event classes.
- f. Turnback riders who are not current NERCHA members are required to sign a waiver (no membership payment needed).

## 4.1 NERCHA CLASSES

To compete in NERCHA classes, one must be a current member of the NERCHA. Please refer to 3.1.3 Appointments and Equipment for legal NERCHA equipment. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to know the rules.

**4.1.1 BEGINNER 1 CLASSES:** In order to enter the Beginner 1 classes, riders must be Non-Pro riders as per the NERCHA rule book and cannot have participated in any sanctioned organization's class (i.e., NRCHA, AQHA, NRHA, NCHA) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, nor can they cross-enter into any sanctioned organization's class at any point during the current year. The rider does not need to own the horse. Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit, so long as how the rider begins the class is how they stay for the duration of the class. Riders can continue to compete in this division for up to three (3) years so long as they are still eligible according to the above qualifications. (Note: showing in 'Beginner 1' at the same time as 'Beginner 2' counts toward one of those three years in both divisions).

**a. BEGINNER 1 CUTTING:** Open to any horse of any age, this class is open to riders who meet the Beginner 1 rider requirements above. The rider will also follow the Beginner 1 equipment rules. The class will consist of the rider demonstrating the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow during the 2-minute time limit. The rider does not need to do a deep cut.

**b. BEGINNER 1 BOXING:** Open to any horse of any age, this class is open to riders who meet the Beginner 1 rider requirements above. The rider will also follow the Beginner 1 equipment rules. The class will consist of a simplified reining pattern in which the rider will do 1 ½ spins in both directions (instead of the 2 ½ or 3 ½ as listed in the NRCHA patterns) and will also perform simple lead changes (instead of flying lead changes). The reined work will be followed by the 50 seconds of boxing the cow along the short wall. Riders can earn a score in the reined work and/or cow work of below 60.

**4.1.2 BEGINNER 2 CLASSES:** In order to enter the Beginner 2 classes, riders must be Non-Pro riders as per the NERCHA rule book and cannot have earned more than \$100 or 2.0 points in any sanctioned organization's cow class (or combination of classes) as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Riders cannot have participated in any down the fence classes (including Box Drive) prior to, nor can they cross-enter into any down the fence classes at any point during the current year. Doing so will result in immediate removal of beginner eligibility. The rider does not need to own the horse. Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules—one-handed for curb bits and two-handed for a snaffle bit and hackamore, following age of horse rules (see page 181 -SHW509.1.1 through to SHW510 in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations). Riders can continue to compete in this division for up to three years so long as they are still eligible according to the above qualifications. (Note: showing in 'Beginner 1' at the same time as 'Beginner 2' counts toward one of those three years in both divisions).

**a. BEGINNER 2 CUTTING:** Open to any horse of any age, this class is open to riders who meet the Beginner 2 rider requirements above. The rider will also follow the Beginner 2 equipment rules. The class will consist of the rider demonstrating the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow during the 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**b. BEGINNER 2 BOXING:** Open to any horse of any age, this class is open to riders who meet the Beginner 2 rider requirements above. The rider will also follow the Beginner 2 equipment rules. Riders competing in the 'Beginner 2 Boxing' will perform the complete reining pattern as listed (complete NRCHA pattern), followed by 50 seconds of boxing the cow along the short wall. Riders can earn a score in the reined work and/or cow work of below 60.

**4.1.3 OPEN RANCH PLEASURE:** Open to all riders on a horse of any age. All exhibitors in the ring are on the rail in a command class as directed by the judge. The judge may ask for exhibitors to perform as a group and/or individually. Show the horse at the walk, jog, trot, and lope on a free rein.

**4.1.4 OPEN RANCH RIDING:** Open to all riders on a horse of any age. A pattern will be performed individually. A judge may ask participants to do added maneuvers either on the rail as a group or individually.

**4.1.5 OPEN RANCH CUTTING:** Open to all riders on a horse of any age. The rider will demonstrate the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. There is a time limit of 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**4.1.6 NON-PRO RANCH CUTTING:** Open to Non-Pro riders on a horse of any age. The rider will demonstrate the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. There is a time limit of 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**4.1.7 YOUTH RANCH CUTTING:** Open to Youth riders on a horse of any age (no stallions). The rider will demonstrate the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. There is a time limit of 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

## 4.2 NRCHA CLASSES

To compete in NRCHA classes, one must be a current member of the NRCHA. Please refer to 3.1.3 Appointments and Equipment for legal NRCHA equipment.

**4.2.1 BRIDLE CLASSES:** Open to a horse of any age, to be ridden in an approved bit. Reins with romal required. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed.

- a. **Open Bridle:** Open to any rider.
- b. **Intermediate Open Bridle:** Open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved Events. An intermediate open class may be run concurrent with the Open Bridle class. It cannot be run as a standalone class; riders must enter the corresponding Open Division.
- c. **Limited Open Bridle:** Open to any rider that has not won more than \$15,000 in Open and Non Pro divisions in approved NRCHA events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Limited Open designation on their membership card and a current application on file in the NRCHA Office. The Open and Limited Open shall have a common draw.
- d. **Non-Pro Bridle:** Open to approved Non-Pro riders.
- e. **Intermediate Non-Pro Bridle:** Open to any rider who possesses a current Non-Pro card and is not in the top 25 Non Pro rider listing based on the previous three years of Open and Non Pro monies at NRCHA events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Intermediate Non-Pro designation on their membership card and a current application on file in the NRCHA Office. The Non-Pro Bridle, Intermediate Non-Pro Bridle and the Level 1 Non Pro Bridle may have a common draw at shows.
- f. **Level 1 Non Pro Bridle (Formally Limited Non-Pro Bridle):** Open to any rider who possesses a current Non Pro card and has not earned more than \$15,000 in Open and Non Pro monies at NRCHA events. There is no fall back

to the Level 1 Non-Pro Bridle. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Level 1 Non-Pro designation on their membership card and a current application on file in the NRCHA Office. The Non-Pro Bridle, Intermediate Non Pro Bridle and the Level 1 Non Pro Bridle may have a common draw at the shows.

- g. Youth Cow Horse (fence class):** Open to riders 18 years of age and under as of November 16th of the current show year. For safety reasons, Youth are not allowed to show stallions in any Youth class. Youth Bridle and Youth Limited classes may not run concurrently with any other classes.

**4.2.2 HACKAMORE CLASSES:** Open to horses five (5) years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year that have never been shown in a bridle or two rein down the fence at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and National High School Rodeo events. The rider shall use closed reins. Two hands must be used on the reins, except in the herd work.

- a. Open Hackamore:** Open to any rider.
- b. Intermediate Open Hackamore:** Open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved Events. An intermediate open class may be run concurrent with the Open Hackamore class. It cannot be run as a standalone class; riders must enter the corresponding Open Division.
- c. Limited Open Hackamore:** Open to any rider who has not won more than \$15,000 in Open and Non Pro divisions in approved NRCHA events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Limited Open designation on their membership card. The Open and Limited Open shall have a common draw.
- d. Non-Pro Hackamore:** Open to approved Non-Pro riders only.

**4.2.3 TWO-REIN CLASSES:** Open to horses of any age that have not shown in the bridle down the fence in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales, prior to November 16th of the current show year. These horses can be shown only one year in this class. A horse may be shown in the two-rein equipment for one year only regardless of the class it is shown in. The rider must use an approved bit in accordance with Rule 5.2 (see NRCHA Rule Book) with an approved bosal in accordance with Rule 5.4 (see NRCHA Rule Book) and 5.5 (see NRCHA Rule Book) underneath the bridle.

- a. Open Two-Rein:** Open to any rider.
- b. Non-Pro Two-Rein:** Open to approved Non-Pro riders.

**4.2.4 BOX DRIVE:** To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must be horse show Non-Pro Boxing eligible. Work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the cow work. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 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 ends the run with a whistle or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving / rating it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving / rating 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. Please see the NRCHA Rule Book for further information.

**4.2.4 BOXING CLASSES:** Work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work (boxing) on the end of the arena. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment or bridle. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes or events. A rider will be ineligible upon reaching the earnings threshold in any combination of officially published NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.

**a. Non-Pro Boxing:** This class is open to approved Non Pro Boxing riders and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the ownership rules. (See NRCHA Non Pro eligibility rules.) Earnings are calculated as lifetime earnings. This class may run concurrently with the Intermediate Non Pro Boxing and/or the Limited Non Pro Boxing.

Non Pro competitors may fall back into the Non Pro Boxing class for any reason ONLY ONE TIME, provided they submit notification to the NRCHA Non Pro committee. However, they may not go down the fence again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Non Pro Boxing Class.

After Non Pro competitors reach the age of 65, if they do not wish to exercise their fall back provision under 3.8.1.1 and fall back into the Non Pro Boxing, they may, in Limited Age Event Classes only, elect to compete in EITHER the LAE Non Pro Boxing division OR the appropriate LAE Non Pro fence division. A competitor may not show the same horse in an LAE Non Pro Boxing division AND a Horse Show fence division during the same event. For purposes of this rule, an event is any NRCHA approved show or shows held over consecutive, or back-to-back days.

**b. Intermediate Non-Pro Boxing:** open to approved Non Pro riders who have not earned more than \$5,000 in lifetime earnings and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules, with the exception of the section 2.4 ownership rules. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) For purposes of determining eligibility for this class, all Non Pro Boxing earnings shall be computed at zero as of January 1, 2002. This class may run concurrent with Non Pro Boxing. There is no fallback Provision in this class. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.

**c. Limited Non-Pro Boxing:** Open to approved Non Pro riders who have not earned more than \$1,000 in lifetime earnings and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules, with the exception of the section 2.4 ownership rules. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) For purposes of determining eligibility for this class, all Non Pro Boxing earnings shall be computed at zero as of January 1, 2002. This class may run concurrent with Non Pro Boxing. There is no fallback Provision in this class. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests

**d. Youth Boxing:** Open to riders 18 years of age and under as of November 16th of the current show year. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. A rider will be ineligible upon reaching the earnings threshold in any combination of officially published NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. Youth Boxing classes may not run concurrently with any other classes.



**e. Select Classes:** Open to riders 55 years of age and over as of November 16th of the current show year. One select class will be run concurrent with the Non Pro Bridle, Intermediate Non Pro Bridle, or Level 1 Non Pro Bridle. A second select class will be run concurrent with the Non Pro Boxing, Intermediate Non Pro Boxing, or Limited Non Pro Boxing. They cannot be run as standalone classes; riders must enter at least one concurrent Non Pro Division. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify for any of the six World Show qualifying classes.

## 4.3 JUDGING

**4.3.1 REINED WORK:** Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. There will be no schooling from the time the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs terminating in well-balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a back-up of a reasonable distance with slight hesitations denoting each maneuver. NRCHA Rein Work Patterns required for any approved NRCHA Event are in the NRCHA Official Rulebook. Modifications for the NRCHA Beginner classes are listed in the description above (4.1.1 and 4.1.2). The judge may deviate from traditional order of performance and he/she may also deviate from the exact printed pattern due to arena conditions. The judging ends when the rider indicates he/she is finished by coming to a complete stop. Praising or rewarding of the horse is only allowed after the reining pattern is complete and before the exhibitor calls for a cow. The best reined horse shall be easily guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized. All deviations from the exact given pattern must be considered a loss of control and marked down accordingly. Credit shall be given for the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse more exciting and pleasing to watch.

Please refer to the NRCHA Official Rulebook for penalty information.

**4.3.2 COW WORK:** Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and cow work when the cow work immediately follows the rein work; the penalty for this will be a zero. At the start of the work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end. After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. Then the contestant shall take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle the animal at least once in each direction. The required pattern for the cow work is: boxing, fence turns, and circles, in that order. The judge should take into consideration the size of the arena, condition of the ground and disposition of the cattle in scoring each work. If ground, arena and/or weather conditions are deemed unfavorable by the exhibitors, they may inform the judge who may elect to alter the required cattle work for safety reasons. The greater the difficulty of the run, the more credit should be given. The difficulty may be due to the extreme speed or stubbornness of the cow, or the cow's reluctance to move down the fence when sufficiently driven by the contestant. The most controlled cow work, with the highest degree of difficulty, that exhibits good form throughout, should be marked the highest. Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized under run content. When enough cows are available the contestant should receive a new cow if the cow drawn is unreasonably difficult or unworkable. Allowing the horse to quit working before the judge signals for a new cow will result in a zero score. Once a rider has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls down no new cow will be awarded. The rider should complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. The judge may blow his/her whistle at any time during the work. One whistle to terminate the work, two whistles to award a new cow. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, he or she must pull up immediately. With a multiple judge system, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow. If at any time a judge feels that the contestant is out of

control endangering themselves and/or their horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a score of zero will be given. In the case of an emergency (Such as a person falling into the arena or part of the arena falling apart) the judge may blow two whistles for a second time. At this point, the contestant has no option to continue and must receive a new cow. Contestant must pull up immediately or a score of zero will be given. Judging ends when the whistle blows. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that point. In the cow work phase of any class one hand on the horn may be used to prevent the fall of the rider. Holding the horn excessively may be penalized under run content. During the cow work, when a cow leaves the working area, it is automatic that the contestant will receive a new cow and scoring will begin again with the new cow.

Please refer to the NRCHA Official Rulebook for penalty information.

**4.3.2. HERD WORK/CUTTING:** Judging will begin at the time line. The contestant shall approach the herd with no hesitation, weaving or reluctance on the part of the horse to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show his ability to make a cut. The horse shall work quietly, but alertly, causing very little disturbance to the herd or the animal brought out. Credit will be given for driving cattle, clearing the herd by a sufficient distance and setting up a cow while holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal and the amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration. The amount of time actually spent working cattle in the 2½ minute period will have a positive effect on the total score. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will toward the animal. Judging will end at the whistle. If an exhibitor is taking an excessive amount of time to get to the herd after their number is called the following will occur: the Director of Judges (if the Director of Judges is not there, then a designated judge) will contact the announcer and the announcer will give the exhibitor a “second call”. If the exhibitor still is not starting to the herd, a 15 second call will be given and then the time clock will be started. Special consideration will be given to exhibitors who helped the previous exhibitor in the herd.

Please refer to the NRCHA Official Rulebook for penalty information.

**4.3.3 RANCH PLEASURE:** This rail class will have riders performing the maneuvers as verbalized by the announcer on behalf of the judge. The judge may ask for exhibitors to perform as a group and/or individually. Riders will show the horse at the walk, jog, extended jog, lope, and extended lope on a free rein.

**4.3.4 RANCH RIDING:** Each horse will work individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and minimum of three optional maneuvers. The required gait maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions: and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.

Please refer to the AQHA Official Rulebook (Ranch Riding) for penalty information.

## 5.0 CLASS CONDITIONS

Class conditions are subject to change under the official NRCHA conditions.

**OPEN:** Open to any rider.

**NON-PRO:** Anyone who has not won more than \$100,000 in Open competition, in any event that pertains to reined cow horse (cutting, reining, cow horse, or any fence work events), with the exception of Open NRCHA earnings won by a rider while having Non-Pro status in the NRCHA prior to November 16, 2009. A Non-Pro shall also 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. **Please see the NRCHA rule book for the remuneration definition and further information.**

**NOVICE:** Open to approved Non-Pro riders who have not earned more than \$7,500 in this or any other approved NRCHA class in lifetime earnings, except Youth Bridle, all Non-Pro Limited and Youth Limited classes as of November 16th of the current show year. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Novice Non-Pro designation on their membership card and a current application on file in the NRCHA Office.

**YOUTH:** Open to riders 18 years of age and under as of November 16th of the current show year. **Please see the NRCHA rule book for further information.** Youth may not show stallions in Youth classes for safety reasons. Youth Bridle and Youth Limited classes may not run concurrently with any other classes.

## **6.0 YEAR-END AWARDS**

To qualify for NERCHA year-end awards (both NRCHA and NERCHA classes), all competitors and owners have a current and full NERCHA membership. Accumulation of points to commence from the time of membership purchase. Rider and same horse combination must attend fifty percent (50%) of the total number of NERCHA shows in a **calendar year**. Year-end awards will be calculated by points earned to reflect the way NRCHA calculates year end. The champion and reserve champion of each class are determined by points earned with cow scores breaking ties.

Please refer to Sections 7.2 and 7.4 of the NRCHA Officiate Rule Book for point information.

Please see the NRCHA Officiate Rule Book for NRCHA organized year-end awards and World Show qualifying.

Year-end awards for all NERCHA classes, NRCHA Intermediate Open and all levels of NRCHA select classes will be determined annually at the discretion of the Executive and Board of Directors based on club finances.