

# North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance

Rule Book

2026



## North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance

### 2026 Board of Directors

President: Kimberley VanDerSluis

Vice-President: Victoria Seip Eisses

Treasurer: Kaylee Thompson

Recording Secretary: Krista Larouche

Membership Secretary: Lauren Michelin

Directors: Annie Decroix, Farrah Lafleur, Megane Hennequin,

Chet Martin, Haley Turnell, Luis Simoes

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 show information

#### NERCHA Mission Statement:

NERCHA aims to promote & produce quality events and educational opportunities for our members, while creating a positive & encouraging environment to participate in and experience the reined cow horse discipline.

Proud Affiliate of



National Reined Cow Horse Association

1017 N Hwy 377

Pilot Point, TX 76258

## 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, and 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—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, 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 into 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 center 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 "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.

## North Eastern Reined Cow Horse Alliance Bylaws

### 1 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

- Promotion of NRCHA horse shows in Ontario and surrounding areas.
- Education of the general membership through lectures, clinics, newsletters, meetings, and seminars.
- To promote reined cow horse among the youth.
- Create 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. Directors must hold both a valid NERCHA and NRCHA membership and must have reached his/her 18th birthday. 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 16 to November 15 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.

If the original term of the Directors has been served, directors will be offered additional 1 year subsequent terms, this will encourage participation and diversify officer turn over

- President and Vice-President: initial 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
- Social Media 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).

### 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) Membership will expire November 15 of the show year (to match NRCHA)

### 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
3. First Year is Free for Riders participating in NERCHA or NRCHA Classes
4. All owners of any horses entering NRCHA sanctioned classes must have a valid NRCHA & NERCHA membership
5. All owners of any horses entering NERCHA classes are not required to have NRCHA or NERCHA membership

### 1.6.3 MEETING OF MEMBERS

- a) Annual General Meetings: The Annual General 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 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) 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 attendees votes to be in favour for the motion to be passed. Proxies are not allowed for rule or by-law changes.
- d) Quorum: A quorum of any general or annual general meeting shall consist of a minimum of fifteen (15) voting members.
- e) 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 December 1 to November 30 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 for it to be considered for payment. All bills that are not submitted within the calendar year will not 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.

**SHOW INVOICE PAYMENT:** A show invoice must be paid within 1 hour of the last horse show class on the last day of the horse show. Invoices can be emailed to exhibitors in advanced, however it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ask the Show Manager or Secretary in advance for the invoice. If the invoices are not paid by the end of the show, a \$50 late fee will be applied. Any discrepancies for show invoices must be made to the show manager prior to the end of the show. Any outstanding payments will result in suspension (see Below)

## 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. If 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 he/she is on probation.

Non-payment of any account with the Alliance for a period of 5 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, 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 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:

#### 2.1 GENERAL RULES

Any addition or amendment to the rules must be voted on and passed by a two-thirds majority vote at a special meeting or annual general meeting. Any amendments will be shared with membership if voted in, via social media and website.

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

##### 2.1.1 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) Stallions may not be shown, ridden, or handled by any exhibitor under 19 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
- d) Grades: refer to the NRCHA Official Rule Book for further details.

##### 2.1.2 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 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.

### 2.1.3 APPOINTMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Refer to NRCHA Rule Book

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 warmup 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.

NRCHA Classes: Refer to NRCHA Rule book for equipment rules

NERCHA Classes: Refer to Individual Class Descriptions for equipment rules

## 2.2 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) Substitution Policy: Substitutions can be made after entry deadline, for the NERCHA Club Classes if horse/rider can not compete a different horse/rider combination can be substituted into the same level of class. (Ie sell your slot) new horse will be required to pay administrative fees.
- e) Entry done after the entry deadline will be considered late and an added fee of \$50.00/horse will be charged for NRCHA Classes, Open Ranch Cutting, and Non Pro Ranch Cutting, Novice Horse Cutting classes (Fresh Cattle Classes). Late adds will be placed last in the draw/order of go.

- f) Entries done after the entry deadline will be considered late and an added fee of \$25.00/horse will be charged for NERCHA Club Classes (other than fresh cattle cutting classes). Late adds will be placed last in the draw/order of go.
- g) Any scratches to entries prior to the 9:00 pm the Thursday before the show starts will result in a loss of cattle fee. Exhibitors will not be responsible for “Judge fee, Entry Fee or Addback” All scratches must be communicated via email and sent to [nerchainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nerchainfo@gmail.com) If a valid Veterinary note is provided, stating horse is unfit to compete or has passed away NERCHA will scratch all fees regardless of the timeline”
- h) “Any scratches to entries after 9:00 pm the Thursday before the show starts, exhibitors will be responsible for ALL fees. Scratches can be made the day of, by completing the “add/scratch” form at the secretary booth . If a valid Veterinary note is provided, stating horse is unfit to compete or has passed away NERCHA will scratch all fees regardless of the timeline”
- i) Turnback riders who are not current NERCHA members are required to sign a waiver (no membership payment needed).

### 2.2.1 NERCHA CLASSES

To compete in NERCHA classes, one must be a current member of the NERCHA. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to know the rules for the specific class. Classes will be run subject to Show Management and as per published show bill.

- Riders do not need to wear chaps for all NERCHA Club Classes
- Rider does not need to own the horse for all NERCHA Club Classes
- All NERCHA Club Classes will be run on Re-run cows unless specified otherwise

#### 2.2.1.1 Beginner 1 Boxing Class

- In order to enter the 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.
- Riders cannot have participated in any down the fence classes (including Box Drive) at any club/organization prior to, nor can they cross-enter into any down the fence or Box Drive classes at any point during the current year at any club/organization. Doing so will result in immediate removal of beginner eligibility
- Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit.
- The class will consist of a simplified reining pattern in which the rider will do 1 ½ spins in both directions and will also allow riders the option to perform simple lead changes or flying lead changes. See “Simple Lead Change Judging Criteria” below for reference. There will be no preference/credit given to completing a flying lead change or a simple lead change.
- The reined work will be followed by the 50 seconds of boxing the cow along the short wall. The riders must demonstrate the ability to control the cow and effectively “box”
- Riders can earn a score in the reined work and/or cow work of below 60.
- Rider’s Lifetime Boxing earnings/ Boxing Spectacular Earnings will be tracked (Effective Jan 1 2026) and will be posted along with the results.

- Riders can continue to compete in the Beginner 1 boxing until they have won \$250 of cumulative lifetime boxing earnings as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete until the end of the season. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.

#### SIMPLE LEAD CHANGE JUDGING CRITERA (NRHA JUDGING)

- **Section 1.** In classes which allow simple lead changes, the ideal change is to jog for one stride to change leads. Any deviation from the ideal change that takes place in the lead change area as described by the Handbook would not incur a penalty but deserves less credit. In order of decreasing difficulty would be jogging more than one stride, walking rather than jogging, stopping during the change and finally more than one attempt to execute the change. Penalties would apply if the lead change was early or late just as they would for a flying lead change.
- **Section 2.** Judges should allow one-quarter circle coming into the change and one-quarter circle going past the change as an allowable simple change area (safe zone), with only the out of lead penalties applying. For example, a horse that comes across and takes 3 strides past “center” to complete the simple change, but before the end of the first quarter, would not get a break of gait penalty but would incur a one point out of lead penalty. The same logic would apply for changes before reaching center. All penalty applications would apply out of that “safe zone.”

#### 2.2.1.2 Beginner 2 Boxing Class

- In order to enter the 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 class (i.e., NRCHA, AQHA, NRHA, NCHA) prior to 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.
- 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).
- Will perform the complete NRCHA reining pattern as listed, followed by 50 seconds of boxing the cow along the short wall. The riders must demonstrate the ability to control the cow and effectively “box”
- Riders can earn a score in the reined work and/or cow work of below 60.
- Rider’s Lifetime Boxing earnings/ Boxing Spectacular Earnings will be tracked (Effective Jan 1 2026) and will be posted along with the results.
- Riders can continue to compete in the Beginner 2 boxing until they have won \$500 of cumulative lifetime boxing earnings as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete until the end of the season. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.

#### 2.2.1.3 Beginner Ranch Riding + Boxing:

- In order to enter the 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 class (i.e., NRCHA, AQHA, NRHA, NCHA) prior to 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.
- Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit.
- Rider will complete full ranch riding pattern, with the modification they can perform a simple lead change instead of flying lead change if pattern requests. Once Ranch riding pattern is completed, entrant will box the cow for 50 seconds (following NRCHA Rules)
- Poles/Obstacles which may injury cattle will be omitted from patterns
- Riders can earn a score in the reined work and/or cow work of below 60.
- Riders can continue to compete in the Beginner Ranch Riding + Boxing until they have won \$500 of cumulative RR+BOX lifetime earnings as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a "PER RIDER" basis not horse/rider combo.

#### 2.2.1.4 Beginner Cutting Class

- In order to enter the 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 class (i.e., NRCHA, NCHA) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit.
- 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 during the 2 minutes and 30 seconds.
- Riders can earn a score of below 60
- Riders can continue to compete in the Beginner Cutting until they have won \$500 of cumulative Cutting Earnings as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a "PER RIDER" basis not horse/rider combo.

#### 2.2.1.5 Making the Cut

- In order to enter the 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 class (i.e., NRCHA, NCHA) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit.

- The class will consist of the rider demonstrating the ability of to correctly cut 3 cows from the herd, during the 2 minutes and 30 seconds.
- Riders will be judged on entry into the herd, making the cut, eye appeal, time management and ability to make a deep cut on the standard NERCHA Herd work score card.
- Riders can earn a score of below 60
- **Class is not eligible for year end awards in 2026 & will be run on a trail basis**

#### 2.2.1.6 Youth Ranch Cutting:

- Open to Youth riders
- 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.

#### 2.2.1.7 Novice Horse Cutting:

- Open to horses who have less than \$1000 of Sanctioned Earnings (NRCHA, NCHA) as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Papers will be requested to verify horse earnings. If horse is found to be ineligible, will result in immediate removal of novice horse eligibility & all entry fees will be forfeited.
- Class is open to Youth, Non-Pro, or Open riders.
- 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 2.5-minute time limit.
- Will be run on fresh cows

#### 2.2.1.8 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.
- Riders are not penalized for picking up their hand or maintaining contact
- Will be run on fresh cows

#### 2.2.1.9 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.
- Riders are not penalized for picking up their hand or maintaining contact
- Will be run on fresh cows

#### 2.2.1.10 Open Ranch Pleasure:

- Open to all riders on a horse of any age.

- All exhibitors in the ring are on the rail 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.
- The class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. Horse should be well broke, relaxed, quiet, cadenced at all gaits.
- The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Horses will be judged under walk, jog, and lope, extensions of all gaits may be asked, stop and back up also may be completed at judges discretion.

#### 2.2.1.11 Open Ranch Riding:

- Open to all riders on a horse of any age.
- A Ranch Riding pattern will be performed individually
- A judge may ask participants to do added maneuvers either on the rail as a group or individually.

#### 2.2.2 NRCHA CLASSES – refer to NRCHA Rule Book

### 2.3 YEAR-END AWARDS

- To qualify for NERCHA year-end awards Non Pro & Youth classes must have the same Rider/horse combination must attend sixty percent (60%) of the total number of NERCHA shows in a calendar year.
  - "A show" counts as individual days.
    - ie. Cutting class offered 4 times, need to attend 3 classes to qualify
    - ie. Horse Show classes offered 8 times, need to attend 5 classes to qualify
- To qualify for NERCHA year-end awards Open classes will be based on the horse, however the rider must be eligible for the appropriate level of class entered (ie. Level 1 or Ltd) and must attend sixty percent (60%) of the total number of NERCHA shows in a calendar year.
  - "A show" counts as individual days.
    - ie. Cutting class offered 4 times, need to attend 3 classes to qualify
    - ie. Horse Show classes offered 8 times, need to attend 5 classes to qualify
- 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 and high 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 regional 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.

