



USWRCA—MINUTES

April 11, 2023

Attending: President – Jack Taylor; Treasurer – Gina Bryson; Secretary – Candace Gruber; State Judge – Karl Jensen; District 1 – Jack Taylor, Debra Jacobsen; District 2 – Amanda Hoesel, Tiffanie Taylor; District 3 – Shane Stewart; District 4 – Brenda Draper; District 5 – Dave Peay, Wade Ashby; District 6 – Karl Jensen, Rachel Wilkinson; District 13 – Jackie O’Shea, Nate Ellis. Judges – Karl Jensen, Robyn Gruber, Crystal Gruber, Amanda Hoesel, Shane Stewart, Alan James, Gina Bryson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and the board was thanked for their attendance and service. Roll was taken and contact information obtained from the directors, judges and those that want to become a judge.

- 1- Thank you judges, apprentices and riders for attending.
- 2- Judging etiquette and expectations
 - Conduct and dress
 - Always give the contestant the benefit.
 - Need to know what the judge should be doing at the show. Make sure that you get there early before the start of the show to let them know that you are there. Before the show contact them to see if you need to bring your own papers, scribe, etc.
 - At the show make sure that you are conducting yourself. When in the arena only be doing what you should be in the arena save all other things for outside of the arena. Be prepared to answer questions after the class that judged for the contestants might ask you what they did wrong and what they can do better in your opinion.
 - Rulebook (pg. 18) At all times, when judging a show, judges must act in a professional manner in regard to dress and conduct. Score cards for all judged events should be posted after each class. If a judge has reason to believe a horse is unsound in any way, it is his/her duty to dismiss the horse from the class and not place them. Protests may not be filed pertaining to a judge’s decision when placing contestants. Exhibitors and assistants in Western Pleasure, Pairs Pleasure, Reining, and Ranch Cow Cutting, must wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, western hat and cowboy boots.
 - When judging make sure that you are dressed appropriately, which means long sleeve shirt, pants, boots, belt, and western hat.
 - Rulebook (pg. 13):
 - A club will be allowed to substitute up to 50% on any team; however, in single-horse events or Pairs' Pleasure, the horse may not be substituted.
 - A broken pattern in any event, except reining, will be a disqualification.
 - Equipment failure in any event that requires the team to leave the arena will be a disqualification. No time or rerun will be given.
 - General rules
 - Per the by-laws

- **Article 15:** To be a certified USWRCA judge, one must be a member of the state organization and hold a judge's card. For a judge to retain a judge's card he/she must be on the roster and attend a scheduled judge's clinic or meeting at least once every other year (May, 2012). To receive a judge's card an apprentice judge must be a roster member, must attend the annual judge's clinic, judge two District or Region or State (May 2022) shows in the same year with two different qualified judges, and be recommended by them.
 - **Article 11 Section 5:** A protest may not be filed pertaining to a judge's decision when placing contestants.
 - **Article 18:** (Jun, 2006) Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a club member toward any member, judge, steward, timer, or secretary shall be grounds for expulsion of said member from the USWRCA. Membership may also be terminated for criminal activity or other contempt to the association. Expulsion from the association shall be for one year from the date of the infraction. Prior to expulsion the member will be entitled to a proper hearing at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting of the board. The expelled member shall forfeit all of his/her rights, title, or interest in and to the property and assets of this association unless otherwise ordered by the board of directors.
 - Mileage and fees
 - **Article 15:** Compensation for judges will be determined by the board of directors. Currently for District Shows, judges shall be paid fifty dollars plus mileage one way at the rate of \$0.62 per mile to be paid by the district. Region shows shall be paid at the rate of seventy-five dollars plus mileage one way at the rate of \$0.62 per mile. The state or district organizations shall not be responsible for motel rooms retained by the judges (March, 2023).
 - Score sheets
 - It is recommended that use score sheets that are on the website (uswrca.com).
 - Scribes
 - It is recommended to have a scribe because if you are looking down writing as the judge you may miss something.
 - Tack and attire
 - Rulebook (pg. 16 Glossary):
 - Curb Bit: A bit that has shanks. Works with leverage and a curb chain/strap or curb action. It may have a solid or broken mouthpiece.
 - Hackamore: A flexible braided rawhide or leather or rope bosal with a core of rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material or metal will be permitted under the jaw.
 - Mecate reins: A form of rope, with a tail or lead line, used for closed reins usually with snaffle bit or hackamore.
 - Romal: An extension of braided material attached to closed reins. Romal reins are held with no finger between the reins.
 - Snaffle Bit: A bit that has no shanks. It may have a broken or solid mouthpiece. Snaffle bits work with no leverage, only direct pull. The mouthpiece will be round, oval or egg shaped smooth, unwrapped metal. An optional chin strap may be attached below the reins.
 - Western Bridle: Headstall will be of western type such as split ear or brow band with a curb bit. (For detailed explanation of western equipment see Rule 443 in the AQHA handbook.)

- Moderate extension of a jog: A slight lengthening of the stride of the horse. The rider must remain seated.
 - Dress Code: rulebook pg. 10
 - All members that enter the arena must wear long or short sleeved (not sleeveless), western shirt with snaps or buttons up the front. It must have a collar or collar stand. Queen-style or slinky tops are not acceptable western wear. No tee shirts, sweatshirts or golf-styled shirts will be allowed.
 - Long pants are required.
 - Cowboy boots are preferred; however, any western style footwear will be allowed as long as it is designed for riding and has a heel.

3- Western pleasure

- Rules

- Arena etiquette: good horse length or more between you and the horse behind you before you move back to the rail. If you can't see the heels of the horse in front of you then you are too close and need to pass.
- Rulebook (pg. 22): Horses are to be shown on a walk, jog, and lope in both directions of the arena on a reasonably loose rein with light contact and control.
- If a horse in the class is not being cooperative, then you have the right to remove them from the class.
- While the class is going on you should be judging the class the whole time, this includes when standing in line while waiting to be asked to back up.
- When judging in the arena before starting choose a spot to stand so you can see the largest part of the arena.
- Pair's rules
 - Rulebook (pg. 23):
 - Judging: Matching as to pairs 30%; Manners 40%; Performance 30%. Equipment used should match (i.e., both horses in western bridles, snaffle bits, or hackamores).
 - Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog, and lope in both directions of the arena on a reasonably loose rein with light contact and control.
 - Ride out of line, dismount, drop at least one rein per rider, and step at least three (3) full steps in front of their horses. Return and mount then back into line. Stools will be allowed to use if needed. Horses should stand and back quietly.
 - Matched pairs will be disqualified if horses are painted to match. Horses may not be substituted in this class.

- Scoring

- See website.

- Practice judging

- Questions & discussion

4- Reining

- Rules

- Rulebook (pg. 25): To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. Credit should be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness in performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed. The official guideline for the application of the

rules for judging shall be as specified in the NRHA Handbook (Judges' Guide). Contestants will be penalized but not disqualified for breaking a pattern.

- U.S.W.R.C.A permits the judge the option of awarding a re-ride to any contestant who is unable to compete a pattern for reasons that are out of the rider's control.
- Current pattern
 - Posted on website
- Score sheet
 - The score will be on a basis of 0 to infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments from low of -1 ½ (extremely poor quality) to a high + 1 ½ (excellent quality) with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty.
 - Lead changes: not docking for doing a simple lead change or flying lead change.
 - No DQ for breaking the pattern only penalty.
 - Examples of penalties:
 - Half (½) point penalties: Delayed change of lead per one stride, jog more than 2 strides, under or over spinning 1/8 of turn, failure to be on correct lead for ½ or less than one turn at the end of the arena, failure to be at least 20 feet from wall or fence.
 - One (1) Point Penalties: Over spinning ¼ spin, out of lead for each quarter of the circle; this is cumulative, out of lead at the turn at the end of the arena for more than ½ turn.
 - Two (2) Point Penalties: Breaking gait, freezing up in spins or rollbacks, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure, not completely passing specified marker before initiating a maneuver, off lead completely around the turn at the end of the arena.
 - Five (5) Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch, holding saddle with either-hand, blatant disobedience, use of either hand to instill fear or praise, failure to follow the pattern, five (5) point penalty for each “omission” or “inclusion” of maneuvers. Failure to complete the pattern as written, inclusion of maneuvers not specified in pattern.
 - No Score will include but not be limited to: Abuse of animal, illegal equipment, fall to the ground by horse or rider, equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
 - See score sheet on the website.
- Practice scoring
 - While judging make sure that there is a distinct change between the circles such as when its large needs to be fast and if small then should be slower.
 - BE consistent when judging. Must end the same way that you start judging.
- Questions & discussion

5- Parade & Drill

- Rules
 - Rulebook (pg. 11):
 - Parade and Drill teams will NOT be penalized for not displaying the club number
 - Rulebook (pg. 17 Glossary)
 - Regalia: Emblems, symbols, tack, equipment, dress, etc. pertaining to a club or organization...
 - Rulebook (pg. 20)

- There will be no backward movement as a group in any of the parade maneuvers.
- Parade will be judged on the following:
 - Appearance: Riders, horses and tack clean and in good working order (show shape). Uniformity in dress and tack is a plus.
 - Conduct: Riders and horses should show good, safe manners during the parade route. Maneuvers should show correct spacing, alignment, and coordination with flowing movements.
- Drills will be classified in the same manner as the Parade Classes. All riders in the arena will be counted. U.S. Flags will be counted in the Drill but must be posted at the beginning of the Drill and may only be un-posted at the completion of the Drill (see U.S. Flag Etiquette).
 - The time should not exceed eight (8) minutes. The time will start when the first horse enters the arena and end when the last horse leaves the arena. At six (6) minutes a two-minute warning will be given by the announcer. Teams will be given two (2) minutes to clear the arena or be disqualified.
 - Drills will be judged on the following:
 - Appearance: Riders, horses, and tack clean and in good working order (show shape). Uniformity in dress and tack is a plus.
 - Degree of Difficulty: A team that performs a more difficult drill should receive more credit than a team that performs relatively easy maneuvers. Difficulty is determined not only by the difficulty of the maneuver itself, but also by the speed (trot/lope) at which it is ridden and the spacing between the riders during the maneuver.
 - Precision Performance: Maintaining consistent spacing, showing symmetry and definition during each maneuver. A drill should flow from one maneuver to another with liveliness and energy that compliments the music and the variety of patterns. Riders should be alert to prevent collisions, crooked lines, broken gaits, non-round corners, etc.
 - If wearing costumes still must wear long or short sleeved (not sleeveless), western shirt with snaps or buttons up the front, underneath the costume.

- Score sheet

- The following is how the scoring is done:
 - Matching Uniforms (10 pts)
 - Clean/Groomed (10 pts)
 - Equipment (10 pts)
 - Spacing (10 pts)
 - Flow of Maneuvers (10 pts)
 - Alignment (10 pts)
 - Gait Maneuvers Performed (10 pts) Drill only
 - Degree of Difficulty (10 pts) Drill only
 - Flags (0-5 pts)
 - Over Allotted Time (DQ)
- See website.

6- Cutting

- Rules
 - Rulebook (pg. 23)

- Ranch Cutting is designed to show the ability of the horse and rider to enter a herd of cattle and make a cut. The horse should work quietly but alertly, causing very little disturbance to the herd or the animal brought out to work. Ranch cutting will be judged using U.S.W.R.C.A Rules, following the general rules of NCHA and NRCHA where applicable. The score card to be used will be the U.S.W.R.C.A Score Card as amended in 2009. An average score will be seventy (70). One half points are permissible. There will a 2 ½ -minute time limit. There will be NO 30 seconds warning. When a judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit should always go to the contestant. If a cow is lost by the turn back people, it is not a loss of cow by the contestant. Panels or fences will be used in the ranch cow cutting event.
 - Score sheet
 - Credit and Deductions:
 - Credits or Deductions may be given for the following categories of a run's content: driving an animal a sufficient distance from the herd, holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible, the degree of difficulty, eye appeal, the courage shown in staying on a tough cow, the amount of time actually spent working cattle, the horse showing 'cow' and the horse showing a great deal of expression, loose reins, horse charging, and excessive herd holder help.
 - Penalties:
 - One (1) Point Penalties: One (1) point penalties-losing working advantage, noise directed to cattle. “Toe”, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder.
 - Three (3) Point Penalties: Hot quit, second hand on reins if a curb bit is used, cattle picked up or scattered, spur in shoulder, pawing or biting cattle failure to make a deep cut, back fence.
 - Five (5) Point Penalties: Horse quitting a cow, losing a cow, changing cattle after a specific commitment, failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd.
 - Disqualification score of zero (0): Horse turns tail or falls to the ground. Illegal equipment. Leaving working area before time expires.
 - See website.
 - Questions & discussion

Adjourned: 9:33 pm

Next meeting: May 9, 2023 at the Spanish Fork arena

FYI:

• USWRCA Website: www.uswrca.com – state minutes, forms, schedules, judge and director lists

May 9 – Trophy, Cattle, Announcer Bids due

June 13 – Collection of Dues, Plan State Show

July 11 – Stewards meeting

Aug 8 – Pick up trophies, discuss district show concerns

Sept 8 – State Show Meeting