



ATOA Virtual Horse Show Rule Book

Official Regulations for ATOA Online Competitions

Effective Date: March 1, 2026

Version: 1.0

ARTICLE 31 — ATOA VIRTUAL HORSE SHOW PROGRAM

31.1 Purpose of Virtual Shows

The American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) Virtual Horse Show Program exists to provide members the opportunity to compete with their horses regardless of geographic location. Virtual competition allows exhibitors to submit recorded performances which are judged by ATOA approved judges using official ATOA scoring standards.

Virtual shows are intended to:

- Increase accessibility for members unable to travel
- Promote participation in ATOA programs
- Provide additional opportunities for youth competitors
- Support horse development and training
- Award official ATOA recognition and points where applicable

Virtual competition is considered an official ATOA sanctioned event when conducted under these rules.

ARTICLE 32 — ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

32.1 Horse Eligibility

To compete in an ATOA Virtual Show, the horse must:

- Be registered with the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) or be eligible for registration.
- Be owned or leased by an ATOA member in good standing.
- Meet all pattern and color eligibility requirements defined in the ATOA registry rules.

Solid Paint Bred horses may compete in divisions that were permitted under ATOA registry guidelines. (Solids will be shown separately from Color in all events)

32.2 Exhibitor Eligibility

Exhibitors must:

- Hold a current ATOA membership
- Follow all ATOA conduct rules
- Submit entries prior to the closing date

Youth exhibitors must compete within the appropriate age division.

32.3 Divisions

Virtual shows may include the following divisions:

Youth Division

Ages 8–10

Ages 11–15

Ages 16–18

Amateur Division

Non-professional exhibitors

Open Division

Open to all exhibitors

Novice Division (Optional)

For first-time competitors or green horses.

ARTICLE 33 — VIDEO SUBMISSION RULES

33.1 Recording Requirements

All class entries must be submitted through unedited video recordings.

The following rules apply:

- Video must be recorded in one continuous take
- No editing, cuts, filters, or alterations are permitted
- The entire horse and rider must remain visible
- The video must clearly show execution of the class pattern

Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification.

33.2 Camera Position

Camera placement should:

- Provide a clear full-body view of horse and rider
- Remain stable throughout recording
- Show the entire pattern area

The recommended filming distance is 30–60 feet from the performance area.

33.3 Time Limits

All class videos must be recorded within the official show date window.

Example:

Submission Window: May 1–May 10

Videos recorded outside this window are not eligible.

33.4 Identification Requirement

At the beginning of each video the exhibitor must clearly state:

- Exhibitor name
- Horse name
- Class entered
- Date of recording

This may be spoken verbally or displayed on a written sign.

ARTICLE 34 — JUDGING PROCEDURES

34.1 Judges

All virtual shows must be judged by ATOA Approved Judges.

Judges must:

- Hold an active ATOA judge card
- Remain impartial
- Score classes according to official ATOA judging standards

34.2 Scoring Method

Classes will be judged based on:

- Execution of pattern
- Horse movement and cadence
- Rider effectiveness
- Overall presentation

Scores may be assigned using:

- Numerical scoring
- Ranking placement system

34.3 Tie Breaking

If a tie occurs:

The judge will break ties based on:

Overall quality of performance

Correctness of pattern

Degree of difficulty

If a tie remains unresolved, duplicate placings may be awarded.

ARTICLE 35 — CLASS STRUCTURE

ATOA Virtual Shows may offer a variety of classes.

Common classes include:

- Halter
- Showmanship
- Ranch Riding
- Western Pleasure
- Trail
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Horsemanship
- Ranch Conformation
- Leadline (Youth)

Additional classes may be approved by ATOA.

ARTICLE 36 — CLASS RULES

36.1 Halter

Horses must be presented standing square.

Judges evaluate:

- Conformation
- Structural correctness
- Balance
- Overall condition

Horse must be shown at walk and trot.

36.2 Showmanship

This class evaluates the exhibitor's ability to present the horse.

Judging criteria include:

- Precision of pattern execution
- Horse positioning
- Exhibitor appearance
- Smoothness of movement

The horse is not judged on conformation.

36.3 Ranch Riding

Horse should demonstrate a natural ranch style movement.

Judges evaluate:

- Forward motion
- Responsiveness
- Transitions
- Rider control

Horse should appear relaxed and efficient.

36.4 Trail

Horse must complete obstacles such as:

- Ground poles
- Gates
- Back-through obstacles
- Bridges

Judges score based on:

- Willingness
- Accuracy
- Calm behavior

ARTICLE 37 — TACK AND ATTIRE

37.1 Western Classes

Permitted tack includes:

- Western saddle
- Split reins or romal reins
- Western headstall

Bits must follow ATOA age guidelines.

37.2 English Classes

Permitted tack includes:

- English saddle
- Snaffle bridle
- English attire

37.3 Exhibitor Attire

Proper show attire is required.

Western:

- Western hat
- Long sleeve shirt
- Boots

English:

- Helmet or hunt cap
- Show coat
- Breeches

Youth exhibitors may follow modified attire rules when approved.

ARTICLE 38 — ENTRY PROCESS

38.1 Entry Submission

Entries must include:

- Completed entry form
- Entry fee payment
- Class selection
- Video submission

Entries are submitted through the ATOA online portal or designated show platform.

38.2 Entry Fees

Entry fees are determined by show management.

Typical fees:

\$6-\$8 per class

\$10-\$25 per class

Discounts may be offered for:

- Youth competitors
- Multiple class entries

ARTICLE 39 — AWARDS

Awards may include:

- Ribbons
- Certificates
- Prize packages
- High Point Awards

Annual awards may count toward ATOA OSAP Program standings and ROM points if the show is officially approved.

ARTICLE 40 — CONDUCT AND FAIR PLAY

Participants must demonstrate sportsmanship.

The following actions are prohibited:

- Video manipulation
- Misrepresentation of horse or exhibitor
- Harassment of officials

Violations may result in:

- Disqualification
- Loss of points
- Suspension from ATOA events

ARTICLE 41 — DISQUALIFICATIONS

A horse or exhibitor may be disqualified for:

- Edited video submissions
- Failure to follow class pattern

- Unsafe handling of horse
- Evidence of abuse or inhumane treatment

ATOA reserves the right to investigate any suspicious entry.

ARTICLE 42 — OFFICIAL RESULTS

Results will be posted:

- On the ATOA website
- On official ATOA social media pages

Results typically posted within 7–14 days after show closing.

ARTICLE 43 — ATOA ONLINE SHOW SERIES

ATOA may conduct a season-long Virtual Show Series.

Competitors accumulate points across multiple shows to determine:

- High Point Champion
- Reserve Champion

Series awards may include:

- Buckles
- Ribbons

- Trophies
- Certificates

ARTICLE 44 — RULE ENFORCEMENT

The ATOA Rules & Ethics Committee has authority to:

- **Review violations**
- **Investigate complaints**
- **Issue disciplinary action**