



# **RHSC Rule Book**

**WARNING:**

**Under Georgia law, an equine activity, sponsor, or equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia annotated.**

# Inclement Weather Procedure

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**In the event of inclement weather**, show officials will make a decision on the status of the show by noon Friday before the show. **If the show is cancelled, a cancellation message will be placed on the website [www.rollinghillssc.org](http://www.rollinghillssc.org).** If there is no cancellation message, the show will be held as scheduled.

## Year End Awards

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The following are the qualifications needed to qualify for End Of Year Awards:

1. Be a current member in good standing.
2. Participate in the majority of shows during the current year.  
Proof of age to participate in particular age divisions
3. Attend 3 meetings during the current show year.
4. Work 2 volunteer hours during the current show year per person.

The following are the qualifications needed to qualify for End Of Year Awards for Exceptional Riders:

1. Be a current member in good standing.
2. Participate at 4 show dates during the current year.

# Rolling Hills Show Rules

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1. **AQHA or USEF show rules apply as appropriate except where an RHSC rule conflicts.**
2. Each horse may have only one rider per class. However; exhibitors may show more than one horse in a class except for equitation and horsemanship as required by AQHA and USEF rules. **Exception:** Classes in Divisions D58 and D59 in the Running Ring horses may have up to two riders per class.
3. Classes with 20 or more riders on the flat will be split. Each group will be judged with top exhibitors from each group competing for final placing. One set of ribbons will be awarded to the class at the final placing except that Beginner Ring 11 & under flat classes with 20 or more riders will be split into two groups & each group will be judged separately & placed 1-6.
4. In classes with age requirements, eligibility is determined by the rider's age as of January 1 of the show year. The horse's age is determined by AQHA or USEF Rules. **Proof of age for horse or rider may be requested.**
5. Current negative Coggins test must be shown at registration, or a copy must be on file with the show office for all horses on the grounds as required by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
6. All exhibitors are required to wear the appropriate show attire for their discipline as defined by USEF/AQHA rules. Hunter and Beginner Ring exhibitors must wear approved headgear where required by USEF rules. **Open Ring huntseat exhibitors must wear approved headgear where required by AQHA rules.** Running Ring riders 18 & under must wear approved headgear while mounted. **It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with the applicable association's rules requiring appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and that the headgear is properly fitted and in good condition. RHSC Officers, Board Members and Show Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.**
7. Jumpers may only use equipment approved for USEF jumping classes.
8. Running martingales, galloping boots, bell boots, figure eight and dropped nose bands not allowed in hunter classes.
9. Boots, polo wraps, bell boots are allowed in Equitation classes and Running Ring classes only.
10. All appeals must be presented to the appropriate ring chairperson. Further appeals will be ruled on by show officials.
11. All decisions by show officials are final.
12. Discourtesies to show officials may result in rider, trainer, or spectator being excused from the show for the day.
13. Youth, beginner, and novice exhibitors may not show stallions.
14. Exhibitors must check in at the appropriate gate prior to their classes. If the class list does not show an exhibitor as entered, exhibitor will be required to show proof of entry receipt.
15. The ring chair must be notified of tack changes two classes in advance.
16. Ring is closed after the class is presented to the judge or after class has started in the Running Ring.
17. Awards are presented for each class places 1 through 6, except payback classes, as noted.
18. End-of-day division high point awards are awarded to Champion and Reserve Champion only. Horse/rider combinations must enter the majority (greater than 50%) of classes in a division to be eligible for day-end awards.
19. All points are based on a horse/rider combination except Halter (which is based on horse only), equitation (which is based on the rider only), and lead line (where points stay with the rider). Halter horses must be shown under the same back number all year, regardless of handler, in order for points to tracked and credited.
20. To be eligible for year-end awards exhibitors must be current RHSC members in good standing, compete in a majority of shows, attend 3 meetings, and volunteer 2 hours of work. Horse/rider combinations must show in the majority of shows for their division to be eligible for end-of-year awards in that division.
21. No bareback riding or double riding is allowed on the show grounds.
22. All horses must walk outside of rings when mounted.
23. No turn-out is allowed in any Wills Park ring. "No Lunging" signs in rings must be observed.
24. Lost and Found articles will held in the show office for 60 days. After that time unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.
25. All unsettled bills must be resolved prior to accumulation of any additional points, or prior to January 1st, to be eligible for year-end awards.
26. No cash payments are made for show help.
27. Stabling a horse in a stall without shavings is a \$35.00 fine.
28. All payback money must be collected the day of the show or it is forfeited.
29. Any participant with two returned checks in a show year must pay with cash or a certified check.
30. All Add / Drops of classes must be done in the Show Office prior to the class being run.

# Open Ring Class Definitions & Rules

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**\*\*Lead Line:** Class 46 - Rider age 6 and under, handler 13 and over; rider may not enter any other riding class.

**\*Green Horse:** HORSE'S first year showing under saddle; classes 7, 14, 52, 59.

**★Novice:** RIDER'S first two years showing (Excluding Beginner Division in the Open Ring); classes 5, 12, 13, 19, 20, 27, 44, 57, 58, 64, 65, 73, 80. Novice riders may not enter any class that canters as a group (except ★Novice classes and Beginner Ring classes) including Open, Adult and Youth Horsemanship & Equitation classes as group rail work is required.

**‡Beginner:** RIDER'S first 2 years riding; Open to riders 13 & Under and all exceptional riders. Classes 6, 30, 31, 32, 45, 47, 48, 49. Beginner riders may not enter any other riding classes

**Mini Halter:** Open to all Mini Horses and Ponies 40 inches or less. Height must be determined at time of registration.

**■Non-Stock Horse:** Non-Stock Horse English, Western, and Halter Classes are open to any breeds, including but not limited to: Arabians, Morgans, Friesians, Saddlebreds, and other gaited breeds. Horses being shown in Halter class may wear any type show halter that is appropriate for the breed being shown. Classes open to riders and horses of any age. Rider to use proper show attire and tack suitable to the breed and discipline of riding. Horses will be judged according to breed and riding discipline. Each exhibitor will be asked to execute the gaits typical for the breed. The gaits must be distinguishable in speed and/or animation. Riders to show at appropriate gait; gaits called for – English: walk, trot or slow gait or slow rack and canter or fast gait or fast rack Western: walk, jog, lope or walk, slow rack, lope or walk, slow rack, fast rack. Horses may be asked to back on the rail or in the lineup. Spurs, whips, or crops are optional. English saddles to be flat English type (saddle seat) or hunter type. Wraps, bandages, chains and artificial appliances are prohibited. The Fast Rack should be a slower gait in the Western Classes as compared to the English Classes, and should more compatible to the speed of the lope. The same applies to the speed of the slow rack as compared to the speed of the jog.

**■Ranch Horse:** No banded manes, tail extensions or hoof black. Clean work tack preferred. Collared shirt, jeans, boots (chaps/chinks not req'd). **Horse cannot cross enter into any western under saddle classes**

## ATTIRE

In all performance events and conformation classes, it is expected that all exhibitors wear traditional western attire that reflects the true ranch lifestyle. Appropriate western attire includes a long sleeve shirt with collar and cuff (buttons or snaps are preferred), a western hat and boots with heels. Chaps or Chinks are allowed but not required. The main focus is on the performance and ability of the horse and rider. Clothing with excessive crystals, glitter or sequins is strongly discouraged and in no circumstance will this have advantage over other exhibitors with well fitted western attire. The addition of any protective outerwear is acceptable as dictated by weather conditions.

## EQUIPMENT/GROOMING:

**A)** In conformation classes, horses are to be shown in good working halter; rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. No silver will be allowed on halters with the exception of the mandatory buckles only. Keepers and tips on open buckles are allowed.

**B)** In performance classes, equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged but not disallowed.

**C)** Lip chains, splint boots, leg wraps or bandages are prohibited in any conformation class. In the event of injury the judge may permit a protective bandage.

**D)** Hair dyes or fresh hoof black or hoof polish is not allowed and will result in the horse being disqualified from the class.

**E)** Clipping ears, bridle path, roached manes, muzzle, and legs is left to the discretion of the exhibitor and has no bearing on the horse's conformation and/or performance.

**F)** The horse should be clean and brushed. It is recommended that a horse should be shown as naturally as possible.

**G)** Banded or braided manes, braided tails, tie-in tails and/or extensions are not allowed.

**H)** No entries are allowed to enter the arena once the class has been called and the judging has started.

### **37 RANCH HORSE HALTER**

**A)** The horse will be judged on type, conformation correctness, and athletic ability.

**B)** Ranch Horse Conformation is defined as the physical attributes necessary to perform under saddle. The ideal standard in evaluating horses in conformation should include but not be limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the "appearance of" agility.

**C)** The horse should possess eye appeal with an attractive head; refined throat-latch; wellproportioned trim neck; long sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup. The horse should show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch.

**D)** Horses are not penalized for scars or brands.

**E)** All stallions two years and older shall have two visible testicles. Crypt orchids will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.

**F)** Only mares and stallions will be examined for parrot mouth and those found to exhibit same will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.

**G)** All lame horses will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge.

**H)** Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following five traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, with emphasis on correct manner of travel, degree of muscling, and agility. Of the five, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

### **66 RANCH HORSE PLEASURE**

A horse will be shown at three gaits - the walk, jog and lope. He will also be asked to reverse away from the rail, to stop and to back. The judge may ask for an extended walk or jog. Extended jog may be ridden by sitting in the saddle, posting or standing in the stirrups. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility. Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment. Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

### **81 RANCH HORSE TRAIL**

The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered in everyday riding. The horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the wellbroke, responsive and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.

The ranch trail course will include no less than six and no more than nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course.

#### **MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND/OR MANUEVERS.**

- Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs or poles).
- Opening, passing through and closing gate
- Ride over wooden bridge
- Backing obstacles
- Side-pass obstacle:

#### **OPTIONAL OBSTACLES:**

Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work.

**PROHIBITED OBSTACLES:** Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, or logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner.

**CREDITS AND PENALTIES:**

**1 Point Penalties:** Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two (2) strides or less; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; and one step on dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.

**3 Point Penalties:** Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; and break of gait at walk or jog for more than two (2) strides

**5 Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein); knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate.

**Off-Pattern:** Breaking pattern; leaving working area before pattern is complete; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience; fall of horse/rider (run ends and credit will be given for work done). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

**Disqualification:** Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; or improper western attire.

# Hunter Ring Class Definitions & Rules

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**RHSC Jr/Am Equitation on the Flat:** Class 316 is open to junior or amateur riders only and has a \$15.00 entry fee, with special day- / year-end awards.

**Pleasure Horse:** Class 309 is open to all riders.

**Take Your Own Line:** Classes 302, 305 and 308. After crossing the start line, the competitor must jump each obstacle in either direction (unless otherwise posted on the course diagram), in any order and cross the finish line.

**Short Stirrup:** Open to juniors age 12 and under in their first 2 years of showing in the Hunter ring over fences classes.

**Long Stirrup:** Open to Jr/Am 13 yrs. and older within the first 5 years of showing in the Hunter ring over fences classes.

**Green Horse/Rider:** Open to a horse/rider combination in their first 3 years of showing that has not competed over fences higher than 18" except for the Mini Hunter 18"- 2'.

**Chris Elliott Medal:** Class 318 is open to junior or amateur riders only and has a \$15.00 entry fee, with special day- / year-end awards. Ridden as an equitation course over fences at 2'6". The over fences portion will count 60% and a flat portion will count 40%. The Judge will call back all riders for the flat portion. Riders may not cross enter into class 227 Chris Elliott Medal.

Under Saddle classes will not be held for trainers. Over fences classes will not be held for more than 3 minutes for a trainer. The rider must then enter the ring for their round or be disqualified.

Horse/rider combinations may not enter more than 2 consecutive fence heights, excluding equitation (6" maximum difference).

Ring Chair and Judges reserve the right to excuse riders/horses at their discretion. Excused horses will be disqualified.

Only one rider per horse is allowed in a class.

Horses may not enter more than 8 over fences classes for the day excluding equitation & Hunter Hack.

Equitation: Open to Jr/Am only, excluding Green Horse/Rider Equitation & Chris Elliott Medal.

Soundness is emphasized in all hunter ring classes, lameness will be penalized.

# Beginner Ring Class Definitions & Rules

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**Exceptional Rider Division (Open to English & Western Disciplines):** Open to all riders, of any age, with special needs. Riders in these classes may not enter any other classes other than designated Exceptional Rider classes in the Beginner and Running Rings and the Beginner division and in-hand classes in the Open Ring. Riders of all ages must wear approved headgear while mounted.

**Exceptional Assisted:** Rider of any age. May not enter any other under saddle classes in the beginner ring. Handlers to be either walking next to the horse's head OR have lead line attached at all times. Additional side walkers are allowed for the safety of the rider. Riders in Exceptional Assisted classes may not enter in Exceptional Advanced classes.

**Exceptional Advanced:** Rider of any age. May not enter any other under saddle classes in the beginner ring. Handlers may be in the arena but must maintain approx. 10-15' distance from the horse in this division – no horses on lead lines. Riders in Exceptional Advanced classes may not enter in Exceptional Assisted classes.

**Green Horse/Rider Walk/Trot Crossrails:** Horse or Rider in first 2 years showing over fences. May not enter any other over fences class

**Mini Hunter Division:** Open to all ages. Rider and/or horse in their first 5 years showing over fences

**Beginner on the Flat Exhibitors 17 & Under:** First 2 years of showing. May not enter classes that canter as a group, except in the beginner ring and open ring novice. May not enter any classes that jump higher than crossrails.

**Walk / Trot Ground Poles:** May not enter any other over fences class.

**Novice Over Fences Exhibitors:** Rider's first 3 years of showing over fences.

**Green Hunter Over Fences:** Horse's first 3 years of showing over fences.

Standing martingales are allowed in all Beginner Ring classes.

**Chris Elliott Medal:** Class 227 is open to all rings and has a \$15.00 entry fee, with special day- / year-end awards. Equitation riders. 60% judged on over fence portion, 40% judged on under saddle portion. The Judge will call back the riders at his/her discretion. Riders may not cross enter into Hunter Ring Medal or jump higher than 2'.

Under Saddle classes will not be held for trainers. Over fences classes will not be held for more than 3 minutes for a trainer. The rider must then enter the ring for their round or be disqualified.

Horses may not enter more than 8 Over Fences classes for the day excluding equitation and Hunter Hack



# Running Ring Class Definitions & Rules

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**★Exhibition** (classes 100, 106, 112, 118, 123, 129): Timed warm-up classes, \$5.00 per run, no ribbons awarded, 60 second time limit. Unlimited runs while the pattern is set. All office fees must be paid per horse / rider combination.

**Exceptional Assisted:** Rider of any age. May not enter any other classes in the Running Ring except exhibition classes. Handlers to have lead line attached at all times. Additional side walkers are allowed for the safety of the rider. Riders in Exceptional Assisted classes may not enter in Exceptional Unassisted classes or Exceptional Advanced classes in Beginner Ring.

**Exceptional Unassisted:** Rider of any age. May not enter any other classes in the Running Ring except exhibition classes. Handlers may be in the arena but must not cross the timer line or rider will be eliminated. Handlers must maintain approx. 10-15' minimum distance from the horse in this division – no horses on lead lines. Riders in Exceptional Unassisted classes may not enter in Exceptional Assisted classes in the Beginner Ring.

**Lead Line 8 & Under:** Riders must be 8 years of age or under as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Handlers to have lead line attached at all times.

**Youth:** Riders 12 years of age or under as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Teen:** Riders must be between 13 and 18 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**\$\$ 4D Jackpot** (classes 101, 107, 113, 124): \$15.00 entry, no ribbons awarded. 80% 4D Payback (1<sup>st</sup> Division, 40% / 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 30% / 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 20% / 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 10%). Divisions are determined by one-second time brackets, not by order of finish.

The fastest time will determine the one-second time brackets as follows:

**1st Division:** Fastest time in the class

**2nd Division:** Fastest time in the class plus one second

**3rd Division:** Fastest time in the class plus two seconds

**4th Division:** Fastest time in the class plus three seconds

Running ring will enforce a 60 second gate call. If you are not in the gate 60 seconds from when you are called, you will be scratched from the event.

Running Ring Attire: Shirts with sleeves and boots are required.

Running Ring riders 18 & under must wear approved headgear while mounted in compliance with RHSC show rules.