

The objective of the Cowboy State Stock Horse Association (CSSHA) Summer All Breed Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) Series is to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for all levels of riders to compete and gain experience in a show environment.

1. The CSSHA All Breed Summer VRH Series is a club show and is not American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) sanctioned, but we will be following the [AQHA Rulebook](#) with the following exceptions:
  - Horses of any age may be shown in a snaffle, hackamore, or legal bit. All headgear and reins must be used in the appropriate manor (single or two handed). Refer to the [AQHA Rulebook](#) for legal bits and, headgear/rein use.
  - Youth are defined as 17 years old and younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
  - You do not have to own/ride a registered AQHA horse to compete in this series.
2. By Entering, all contestants agree to abide by and follow all rules. CSSHA Show Manager reserves the right to refuse entry to any horse or individual.
3. If you have any questions, please ask the CSSHA Show Manager.

### Divisions & Eligibility

#### *Open Division*

In the Open Division, any horse can be ridden by any rider.

#### *Amateur Division*

An amateur has not shown, judged, trained, or assisted in training, or instructed another person for remuneration.

#### *Rookie*

A Rookie is an amateur who has not shown, judged, trained, or assisted in training, or instructed another person for remuneration. In addition, the rider must not have won any champion or reserve champion awards or cumulative year end awards at any stock horse show.

#### *Youth Divisions*

Youth are 17 years old or younger on January 1. There are two youth divisions, defined as:

1. Junior Youth: 13 & Under
2. Senior Youth: 14-17

### Classes

The following 5 VRH classes—by division—will be provided at each show.

1. Cutting
2. Reining
3. VRH Cow Work - to include boxing, box-drive-box, and down the fence.
4. VRH Ranch Riding (RR)
5. VRH Ranch Trail (RT)

*Class Order/Process*

Each rider will show the Reining/Cow Work back-to-back, for example, if you are entered in both the Rookie Reining and Cow Work you will run your reining pattern then call for your cow and do your cow work. The same will go for RR and RT. You will start with your RR pattern and move into your RT pattern, making sure to acknowledge the judge between patterns. For a complete list of classes by division see the show entry form available on the [CSSHA website](#).

- Each class will be judged separately.
- You do not have to enter both or all classes, for example, you can enter just reining or cow work if you choose.

**Fees/Entry & Awards**

*Entry Fees*

1. The class entry fee is \$35 per class entered (40% to jackpot).
2. All cattle classes will have an additional cattle fee of \$40 per horse/class, with exception of the cutting classes which will have a cattle charge of \$80 per horse/class.
3. Office fee of \$10 per horse will be collected, per show, to help support the cost of supplies and show secretary.
4. For year-end series awards there will be a one-time fee of \$25 per 1 horse/rider team by division. Series fee will be collected at your first show.
5. Pre-entry is required by Monday prior to the show. After that, a \$10 late entry fee will be charged. **Note:** if you do not enter by the deadline, you will not be able to enter any cattle classes, but you can enter all non-cattle classes.

**To enter**, complete the entry form available on the [CSSHA website](#), and email to [CowboySSHA@gmail.com](mailto:CowboySSHA@gmail.com). If you have any questions, contact the show secretary at 307-850-5122.

*Awards*

1. **Daily Jackpot Award:** Each class will be awarded Jackpot payouts up to 6<sup>th</sup> place, based upon the total number entries (payout percentages from AQHA).

*Payout will be as follows:*

	Placing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
# of Entries	1	100%					
	2	60%	40%				
	3	50%	30%	20%			
	4	40%	30%	20%	10%		
	5	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%	
	6+	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%

2. **Series Awards:** Series awards will be given to the Champion and Reserve Champion for each division:

- Must enter as a one horse/rider team for a single division,
- and must enter both shows (May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026) to be considered for the series high point awards.
- Must enter at least 1 cattle class, cutting and/or cow work.
- The horse/riders total show scores (points) will be calculated for series highpoint.
- Series highpoint awards will only be given to a one horse/rider team that has entered/and paid into the series. At a one-time fee of \$25.00.

*CSSHA will be using a six-point scoring system.*

You get a point for each horse you beat, up to 6 points.

For example, if there are 10 horses in a class, first place gets 6 points, second gets 5, third gets 4 and so on. If there are three horses in a class, first place gets 3 points, second gets 2, and 3rd place gets 1 point. If there is just 1 rider in the class that rider gets one point unless they are disqualified.

	Placing	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
# of Entries	1	1					
	2	2	1				
	3	3	2	1			
	4	4	3	2	1		
	5	5	4	3	2	1	
	6+	6	5	4	3	2	1

## Equipment & Attire

Please refer to the [AQHA Rulebook](#) for a complete description of equipment and attire. If you have any questions, please ask the CSSHA show manager.

### *Western Equipment*

1. **In all Classes**, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of the class. A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, high cantle, and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Horses of any age may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed, or spade bit. When a curb is used a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord.
2. **Optional Equipment:** 1) Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle. 2) Hobbles attached to saddle 3) Protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages are allowed, in reining and cow work classes only. 4) Spurs: not to be used forward of the cinch.

3. **Prohibited Equipment:** 1) Wire chin straps, regardless of how padded or covered 3) Any chin strap or chain narrower than one-half inch 4) Nosebands, tie downs and roping reins.

#### *Western Attire*

1. **Required dress:** all western riders will be required to wear a western hat or safety helmet, long sleeved western style shirt with collar, jeans, belt, and cowboy boots.
2. **Optional dress:** you may wear, chinks, chaps or shotguns, scarves/wild rags, and vests. It will not count against you if you do not wear these items.

#### Lameness

1. The judge shall examine and check for lameness of all horses exhibited. The judge has the authority to excuse any horse from the class, due to lameness, at any time while being judged.
2. Obvious lameness may be cause for dismissal. Obvious lameness is a) Consistently observed at a trot under all circumstances b) Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride c) Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move.
3. A judge may permit a horse with minor lameness to continue to exhibit without penalty if, in the judge's opinion, there is no risk of injury to either the horse or the rider by continuing to exhibit.

#### Horse and Rider Behavior

1. **Disruptive or Unsafe horses:** Any disruptive horse/rider team that poses a threat to the safety of others or to the safety of the rider, in the judgment of the CSSHA Show Manager or Judge, must be removed.
2. **Zero tolerance policy:** In show arena, in practice pen or on show grounds. Abuse includes but not limited to excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping abuse with any devise or equipment intended to cause trauma or injury to horse. Any accusations of abuse will be reviewed by CSSHA Show Manager. Abusers may be asked to leave show grounds forfeiting all fees and winnings.