

Class Descriptions, Rules, Levels, Eligibility

All classes below shall be governed and judged by the current NRCHA rules and regulations with the exceptions to the following amendments. Proper show attire required such as a western hat or helmet, long sleeve button down collared shirt, chaps or chinks. NRCHA approved horse headgear guidelines.

Ethics- Contestants engaging in any form of misconduct, harassment, or unsportsmanlike conduct towards other contestants, show management, animals or Judges are subject to disqualification. Contestant questions and concerns will be addressed to the show manager during the show.

Spurring or hitting in front of the cinch at any time will be subjected to current year NRCHA judging criteria and rules.

Points System- At shows, the highest score wins. Ties will be remain.

To be eligible for end of year awards, riders must attend 2 out of the 3 shows.

The following points system will determine end of year rank and placings.

-Your score in each class will convert to points earned in that class. Ex: You scored a 72 in the herd work, you earned 72 points towards end of year awards. You scored a 68 in reined work, you earned 68 points towards end of year awards. This will combine with the NRCHA point system, as follows.

-In a class with 5 or more shown the first place horse will receive 5 points for the win plus one point for every horse defeated. Each succeeding place will receive 2 points less than the place before it, i.e. 10 horses in class, 1st is 14 points, 2nd is 12 points, 3rd is 10 points, 4th is 8 points, 5th is 6 points.

-In classes having less than 5 entries, the first place horse will receive points equal to the number of horses shown in the class plus one point for every horse defeated (i.e.- four horses shown, 1st place receives 4 points plus 3 points for the three horses defeated, for a total of 7. Three horses shown in a class, 1st place receives five points, 2nd place receives 3 points. Ex: 72 plus 14, equals 86 total points. 68 plus 12 points equals 80 total points.

-Ties: In the event of a tie in the year-end points, the herd work score of the class will be accumulated for all shows and the larger of the totals will break the tie.

-Money/point conversion- For progression through Greener than Grass and \$1K Limited divisions, all points will be tracked as money, in addition to money earned for ORCHA. At the end of each year, your total money/points earned within ORCHA will be published on the website so your eligibility for the following year can be known.

-Year end awards will be awarded in accordance with the NRCHA payout scale.

[illegible]

Time Limits

Herd Work- 2.5 minutes with 30 second warning

Box Drive- 1 minute 45 second with 30 second warning

Boxing- 50 seconds

Cowboy Class- 50 second for boxing and 60 second with 30 second warning on roping portion

Ranch Roping- 90 seconds with 30 second warning

LEVELS

OPEN- Open to ANY rider.

NonPro- A Non Pro shall also be defined as any person, regardless of age, who is not currently receiving remuneration directly, or indirectly for showing, training, giving lessons, clinics, assisting in the training of a horse for remuneration. This does not include prize money. Payment of entry fees and/or expenses by anyone other than the Non Pro, his/her immediate family, or his/her corporation is considered remuneration.

Remuneration is defined as:

- a. To receive pay or financial gain for work completed.
- b. Reimburse, compensate, make fair return for an action; barter.

1k Limited- Open to any contestant with lifetime earnings of \$1000 or less at the start of the calendar year in any event that pertains to reined cow horse (cutting, reining, cow horse, or any fence work events). Contestants cannot have shown down the fence three times in a judged reined cow horse event. Open to horses of any age, using NRCHA approved bridle, snaffle bit, or hackamore that is age appropriate for the horse.

Greener than Grass- Open to any contestant with lifetime earnings of \$250.00 or less at the start of the calendar year in any event that pertains to reined cow horse (cutting, reining, cow horse, or any fence work events), and has never won a class championship in any previous year (excludes youth). Riders that have ever been down the fence in a judged cow horse event are not eligible for the Greener Than Grass class. Open to horses of any age, using NRCHA approved bridle, snaffle bit, or hackamore that is age appropriate for the horse. Eligible for end of year awards.

Youth- Must be 18 and under, 17 and under as of January 1st of the current show year. Includes herd, boxing, box drive. Open to horses of any age, using NRCHA

approved bridle, snaffle bit, or hackamore that is age appropriate for the horse. Eligible for end of year awards.

Peewee- Must be 12 and under, 11 and under as of January 1st of the current show year. Includes herd, boxing, box drive. Open to horses of any age, can be ponied, lead line, ridden independently, any headgear. Eligible for end of year awards.

Eligibility and LTE- Since ORCHA is not NRCHA sanctioned and there is no way to determine each rider's accurate LTE's, we trust our members in using the "Honor System". Please enter each class to the best of your knowledge based on experience level and LTE in any event that pertains to reined cow horse (cutting, reining, cow horse, or any fence work events). NRCHA LTE definition from rule 2.1. Show Management retains the right to move up or disqualify a rider if they are clearly too advanced for the class they are entered in.

CLASSES, DIVISIONS & RULES

Bridle- **NRCHA Rule 3.5** Open to horses of any age, to be ridden in a NRCHA approved bridle. Reins with romal are required. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Open to any rider. Includes herd work, reined work, fence work, and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

Two Rein- **NRCHA Rule 5.4** Open to horses of any age that have not shown in the bridle down the fence in any judged classes or events (NRCHA 3.7). These horses can be shown only one year in this class. A horse may be shown in the two rein equipment for one year only, regardless of the class it is shown in. The rider must use an approved bit (in accordance with NRCHA Rule 5.2) with an approved bosal (in accordance with NRCHA Rule 5.4 and 5.5) underneath the bridle. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Any number of fingers between reins will be permitted. Open to any rider. Includes herd work, reined work, fence work, and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

Hackamore- **NRCHA 3.6** Open to horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year that have never been shown in a bridle or two rein down the fence at any judged classes or event. The rider shall use closed reins. Two hands must

be on the reins, except in the herd work. Open to any rider. Includes herd work, reined work, fence work, and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

Snaffle- ORCHA Open to horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year. Entries must be shown in an NRCHA approved snaffle bit. Open to any rider. Includes herd work, reined work, fence work, and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

5.2 Equipment – Bridle Classes (Bit): A spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics must be used in any of the bridle classes. Said characteristics shall be:

5.2.1 Unbroken bar mouthpiece

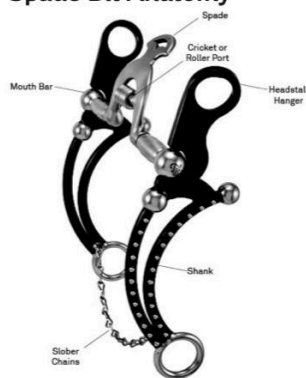
5.2.2 One inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port.

5.2.3 There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single or multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit.

5.2.4 It is legal to have a barrel made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece.

5.2.5 The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece.

Spade Bit Anatomy



5.2.6 The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is $\frac{5}{16}$ inch.

5.2.7 Bars must be round, oval or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable.

5.2.8 Nothing abnormal may protrude from either the bars or the port, such as extensions or prongs.

5.2.9 The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. It is acceptable to use metal, chain, wire, leather or braided rawhide. It is not acceptable to use duct tape, braided tail hair or bailing twine.

5.2.10 The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches measured from the inside bottom of the top of headstall ring to point of pull in the bottom ring.

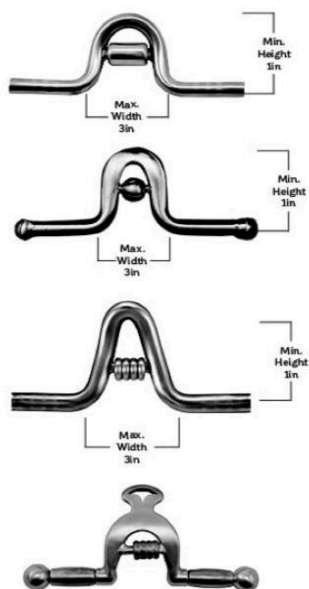
5.2.11 Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in width.

5.2.12 Braces, copper port cover and/or having copper smoothly inlaid in the mouthpiece are optional.

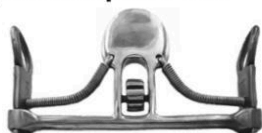
5.2.13 No wire, chain or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with the bit or part of leather chin strap.



Acceptable



Acceptable Spade Bit



Unacceptable

-0- Score



Anything BUT Legal- ORCHA You read it right! Anything but LEGAL! In this class there are no rules or regulations, within reason. Ride in any headgear or none, any clothes/attire (though you must be clothed). These classes ARE eligible for end of year points and awards, these classes are for FUN and also have the Jackpot option. The more entries in these classes the more money added to the pot! Ethics still apply to rider and animal misuse. If the judge feels necessary a No Score or disqualification may apply. Eligible for end of year awards.

JR. Green Horse- ORCHA Open to horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year. Horses must be ridden in any NRCHA approved snaffle, hackamore or bridle. Not age specific. Open to any rider. Horses can only show in this class for two years running. Includes herd work and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

SR. Green Horse- ORCHA Open to horses 6 years of age and over as of January 1st of the current show year. Horses must be ridden in any NRCHA approved snaffle, hackamore or bridle. Not age specific. Open to any rider. Horses can only show in this class for two years running. Included herd work and boxing. Eligible for end of year awards.

Open Cutting- NCHA Rule a, pg. 7 This class is judged using NCHA judging cards. Open to all horses regardless of breed, age, sex, colour, conformation, appearance or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only. Not eligible for end of year awards.

Non-Pro Cutting- NCHA Rule 5.a This class is judged using NCHA judging cards. Riders of cutting horses may be classified as Non Professionals. A Non-Professional in this association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration to work in any manner in the following activities on the premises of a cutting horse training operation: showing, training or assisting in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. **Rule d, pg. 8** Open to all NCHA Non Professional Card Holders regardless of lifetime earnings. Not eligible for end of year awards.

Herd Work- Judging will begin at the time line. The contestant shall approach the herd with no hesitation, weaving or reluctance on the part of the horse to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show his ability to make a cut. The horse shall work quietly, but alertly, causing very little disturbance to the herd or the animal brought out. Credit will be given for driving cattle, clearing the herd by a sufficient distance

and setting up a cow while holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal and the amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration. The amount of time actually spent working cattle in the 2 1/2 minute period will have a positive effect on the total score. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will toward the animal. Judging will end at the whistle. If an exhibitor is taking an excessive amount of time to get to the herd after their number is called the following will occur: the Director of Judges (if the Director of Judges is not there, then a designated judge) will contact the announcer and the announcer will give the exhibitor a "second call". If the exhibitor still is not starting to the herd, a 15 second call will be given and then the time clock will be started. Special consideration will be given to exhibitors who helped the previous exhibitor in the herd.

Box Drive- Work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty five seconds to complete the cow work. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 seconds remaining. At one minute and forty five seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time but must ride until the judge ends the run with a whistle or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving / rating it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving / rating the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn,' rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner. (New cow guidelines will follow rule 19.3.5.)

Boxing- Includes reined work and single cow work (boxing) on the end of the arena. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn.

Reining- Horses shall work individually. Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. There will be no schooling from the time the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs

terminating in well-balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a back-up of a reasonable distance with slight hesitations denoting each maneuver. NRCHA Rein Work Patterns found in this book are required for any approved NRCHA Event. The judge may deviate from traditional order of performance and he/she may also deviate from the exact printed pattern due to arena conditions. The judging ends when the rider indicates he/she is finished by coming to a complete stop. The best reined horse shall be easily guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized. All deviations from the exact given pattern must be considered a loss of control and marked down accordingly. Credit shall be given for the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse more exciting and pleasing to watch.

Circles: Circles are a controlled maneuver at the lope in the designated area of the arena. Emphasis on the scoring shall be given to the contestant exhibiting smooth, controlled figure eights with easy lead changes. Right and left circles shall have a common center line in the middle of the designated area. Circles shall be run and/or begun on the correct lead. The speed and size of the right circles shall be exactly the same as the speed and size of the left circles. The horse shall lope in an even, fluid manner with a minimum of rider contact and/or commands. Circles shall be run far enough from arena wall that it does not affect the circles.

Lead Changes: The act of changing the propelling side of the horse's body when changing the direction traveling at a lope. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of speed or gait. The horse shall change leads at the exact location dictated in the pattern description and shall change in one stride. A horse shall be considered out of lead if both front and rear leads are not changed in the same stride.

Jogging: jogging up to 2 strides incurs a 1/2 point penalty, jogging beyond 2 strides will incur a 2 point penalty. Jogging in excess of one half circle or one half the length of the arena will result in a score of 0. In determining whether a 1/2 or 2 point penalty has been incurred, it is useful for a judge to consider the distance traveled and to count the steps of the rear legs. Four steps and under would represent 2 or less strides and require a 1/2 point penalty; 5 steps and more, therefore, would require a 2 point penalty.

Run-Downs: Runs lengthwise through the arena. They shall be described in the given pattern, unless the judge indicated otherwise due to arena conditions. The horse shall demonstrate a relaxed fluid attitude when starting a run-down and throughout the maneuver. The horse shall use controlled speed consistent with the size of the arena and the condition of the ground. The horse shall travel in a straight line with a minimum of contact with the rider. Straight, controlled rundowns with square, smooth stops, maintaining suppleness and proper head position are desirable.

Stops: Shall be in line with the direction of travel. Horse shall have its hocks well under it during the entire stop, maintaining a proper head position and response to a light rein.

Spins: Consistent and positioned 360 degree turns executed with the inside hind quarter (pivot) remaining stationary. Spins shall be smooth and efficient. The location of the hind quarters shall be fixed at the start of the spin. The horse shall stop the spin exactly as dictated by the pattern description. The right and left spins shall have a similar speed and balance.

Back-up: The horse being caused to move in a reverse motion in a straight line for a required distance. The horse shall begin the back-up in a controlled manner and shall continue to back-up without hesitation until directed to stop by the rider. In the instance where a horse backs up where a back-up is not specified in the pattern, the penalty score of 0 will be incurred when the horse backs more than 2 full strides. It is important to note one stride is defined as the complete movement or steps of all 4 legs, one time. In this particular situation it is very helpful for a judge to watch and count the steps of the front feet. Up to and including 4 steps of the front feet in the not required backup receives no penalty; five steps and beyond constitutes the inclusion of a maneuver not specified and thus a penalty score of 0.

Hesitate: Hesitation is only long enough to show the completion of one maneuver before the next one starts. There shall be slight hesitation to indicate each maneuver.

Definition of fall of horse: When the horse's shoulder and hip are on the ground and all four feet are facing in one direction. Fall of horse in any event receives a score of 0.

Definition of fall of rider: Rider is no longer astride the horse.

At the discretion of show management, the rein work for the Boxing and Fence divisions, may be run concurrently. When the rein work is conducted concurrently, the rein work score will be used for both the Boxing and Fence divisions. The cow work for the Fence will be run and scored separately.

Fence Work-

Cow Work: Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and cow work when the cow work immediately follows the rein work, if run consecutively; the penalty for this will be a zero. At the start of the work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end. After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. Then the contestant shall take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle the animal at least once in each direction. The required pattern for the cow work is: boxing, fence turns, and circles, in that order.

-The judge should take into consideration the size of the arena, condition of the ground and disposition of the cattle in scoring each work. If ground, arena and/or weather conditions are deemed unfavorable by the exhibitors, they may inform the judge who may elect to alter the required cattle work for safety reasons.

-The greater the difficulty of the run, the more credit should be given. The difficulty may be due to the extreme speed or stubbornness of the cow, or the cow's reluctance to move down the fence when sufficiently driven by the contestant. The most controlled cow work, with the highest degree of difficulty, that exhibits good form throughout, should be marked the highest.

-Bad manners exhibited by the horse will be penalized under run content.

-When enough cows are available the contestant should receive a new cow if the cow drawn is unreasonably difficult or unworkable. Allowing the horse to quit working before the judge signals for a new cow will result in a zero score.

Once a rider has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls down no new cow will be awarded. The rider should complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements.

-The judge may blow his/her whistle at any time during the work. one whistle to terminate the work, two whistles to award a new cow. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, he or she must pull up immediately. With a multiple judge system, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.

If at any time a judge feels that the contestant is out of control endangering themselves and/or their horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a score of zero will be given. In the case of an emergency (Such as a person falling into the arena or part of the arena falling apart) the judge may blow two whistles for a second time. At this point, the contestant has no option to continue and must receive a new cow. Contestants must pull up immediately or a score of zero will be given.

-Judging ends when the whistle blows. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that point. In the cow work phase of any class one hand on the horn may be used to prevent the fall of the rider. Holding the horn excessively may be penalized under run content.

-During the cow work, when a cow leaves the working area, it is automatic that the contestant will receive a new cow and scoring will begin again with the new cow.

Boxing: Working the cow on the end of the arena until such time as the contestant has proven the ability of the horse to hold the cow. The horse should exhibit superior cow sense and natural cow working ability without excessive reining or spurring. In the head-to-head working position, the degree of difficulty shall be considered.

Turning on the fence: A fence turn is defined as a turn in which the cow, while being run down the fence on one side of the arena, or in the "open field", is turned in a different direction and held near the same fence, or the same side of the arena, while being run in the new direction. The exhibitor must be close enough to the cow to be the cause of the turn.

-The situation where a horse and rider attempt to turn the cow and the cow exits the turn behind the horse is also considered to have satisfied the fence

turn requirement. The route of the cow being worked has been altered because of the influence of the horse and rider.

-The actual stopping or turning of the cow by the end fence will not qualify as a fence turn. To qualify as a fence turn the turn must be accomplished without the aid of the end fences to actually stop or turn the animal being worked.

-During the turn the horse should use himself in a controlled, athletic manner, using his hocks to stop and drive out of the turn, while using his front end to balance and turn. When attempting to make an open field turn, it is preferable to separate the turn from the circles. This can be accomplished by making an open field turn, then changing sides before circling, or briefly hesitating after the open field turn before attempting to circle the animal in the same direction. In either case it is important to show separation in the circle and turn maneuvers.

-The contestant must get a minimum of one turn in each direction when attempting the fence work. More than two good turns in each direction should not result in extra credit but also should not be penalized, unless the cow is thereby too exhausted to circle correctly. One turn each way may not necessarily result in extra credit if the horse and/or cow are out of control

Circling: Maneuvering the cow smoothly at least 360 degrees in each direction without interference from the fence. The circle's size, symmetry, speed and relative balance from right and left show control. Tightening the circles down with fast head-to-head speed will be a credit situation. The circles should be completed before the cow is exhausted.

Cowboy Class- Horses of all ages are eligible. Horses 5 years old or younger may be ridden one handed in a snaffle or hackamore. Horses 6 years old or older will be ridden in an NRCHA approved bridle or two rein. Includes reined work, cow work (boxing), and modified steer stopping. Modified steer stopping may be run where the exhibitor waits in the arena, a steer is released into the arena, tracked, and roped and dallied. A breakaway hondo must be used. Scores may be "rolled" over for the boxing and reined work, but not required. Rider may run each event (reining, boxing and roping) together. 50 second time limit for boxing and 60 second time limit for roping portion. Open to cowboys/cowgirls who must be currently employed by ranching or livestock operations. Not eligible for end of year awards. Jackpot style only.

Ranch Roping- Horses of all ages are eligible. Horses 5 years old or younger may be ridden one handed in a snaffle or hackamore. Horses 6 years old or older will be ridden in an NRCHA approved bridle or two rein. Cattle will be marked and penned at the end of the arena. Time begins when you cross the line, the announcer will call the color or number of cow, you will cut the cow from the herd and drive it across the line. Then you will rope and dally. A breakaway hondo must be used. Scored as; (Cut 25pts, Drive 25 pts, Catch 25pts, Stop and Dally 25pts.) Judge will disqualify for excessive misuse. 90 Second time limit, unlimited loops. Not eligible for end of year awards. Jackpot style only.

All Around- Includes scores of Herd work, Fence work, and Ranch Roping. Each score will be “rolled” over for All Around score. Rider must use the same horse for each event and attend 2 out of the 3 shows. Rider must enter and pay the entry fee for All Around to be eligible. Eligible for end of year awards.