

2024
Sagebrush Ranch Horse
Association

Rule Handbook
Adopted 1/16/24

I. ASSOCIATION GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES

It is the responsibility of the competitor to have knowledge of the rules included in this handbook.

B. ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES

It is the responsibility of the club, club officers, and event staff, including hired and/or volunteer judges, ring stewards, scribes, to assure the rules are followed by all competitors.

C. RULES OF OTHER ASSOCIATIONS WHEN CO-SANCTIONED

The rules in this handbook are for SRHA sanctioned events. In the event, the club co-sanctions with another association, the competitor must comply with that associations rules in order to eligible for their placings, awards, points.

D. EVENT YEAR:

The Event Year will run from January 1st to October 31st each year. Events occurring after November 1st will not count for points.

E. RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

A member, committee, the Board of Directors, or the Club staff may propose a rule change. A rule change is any change to the General Rules.

Rule changes shall be submitted on the rule change proposal form in the specified format. All blanks must be completed and a justification for the proposed change cited. Forms which are incomplete, lacking the justification, or failing to cite the specific change requested will be returned to the originator. The board of directors will provide notice that rule change proposals are being accepted in advance of the deadline. Rule change proposal can be submitted at any time; the board will file them for consideration. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposed change.

Two thirds (2/3) of the Board members at a specified Board meeting having the required quorum attendance must vote in the affirmative for a rule change to be adopted.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. BREED ELIGIBILITY

Any horse of any breed may be used. Must be three years of age or older.

B. OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A rider is not required to own the horse he/she rides in a competition or clinic.

*Note: A rider riding a horse not that he/she does not own may affect their non-pro/amateur status in other associations.

III. VERSATILITY SHOW DIVISIONS

A. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Divisions are designed to be a progressive program, based on rider skills and limitations, that will allow a novice rider to start from the beginning and as the horse and rider gain and develop horsemanship skills, be able to advance to the next level. The general progression through divisions will be from Novice to Intermediate to Advanced Amateur. Any Amateur is eligible to ride in the Limited Division for any reason, but may not cross enter any other divisions.

All riders will complete the Novice and Intermediate Eligibility Questionnaire and any rider that is ineligible for either of the divisions and believes they should be in the Novice or Intermediate division will have the opportunity to request further evaluation – See Novice and Intermediate Eligibility Requirements. Each year upon renewal of membership all riders must complete the eligibility questionnaire.

It is the Member's responsibility to know his or her correct division eligibility and exhibit in the correct division. Horse/Rider teams exhibiting in the incorrect division will not be eligible for placement points or awards.

Riders may choose to move to a higher division but must notify the Event Manager prior to the event. Once a rider chooses to ride in a higher division, that horse and rider combination cannot move back down a level at any other SRHA show in that year. Any points earned will remain in the division they were earned. This decision must be communicated to the office.

Division	Requirements	Cattle Class
Open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any professional or non-professional member with any horse regardless of past earnings. 	Box, down fence & circle
Amateur-Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider has not received payment for riding, training, assisting in training, showing horses, or giving lessons in the past 3 years Rider may stay in this division until they are ready to step up to advanced 	Box, drive, box, drive
Amateur-Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider has not received payment for riding, training, assisting in training, showing horses, or giving lessons in the past 3 years Riders will not fence or rope Riders may not cross enter any other division 	Box, drive, box, drive
Amateur-Novice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider has not received payment for riding, training, assisting in training, showing horses, or giving lessons in the past 3 years Rider has not won a combination of five (5) the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-All High Point , Reserve High Point, Championship, or Reserve Championship at any of the *listed associations with 5 or more participants in the division (day or weekend high points) Year-End High Point or Year- End Championship at any of the *listed associations with 5 or more participants in the division 10 lifetime points in any breed association in any **western performance discipline \$500 in a national organization (not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA) in any **western performance discipline Can complete the show season in which one becomes ineligible <u>Riders may ride any horse regardless of age with one hand in a legal western bit or two hands in a 2 rein set up, snaffle bit, or hackamore</u> 	Box only
Youth- Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider is 8 through 18 as of January 1st of the current show year Riders will not fence or rope Riders may not cross enter any other division 	Box, drive, box, drive
Youth- Novice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rider is 8 through 18 as of January 1st of the current show year Rider has not won a combination of five (5) the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-All High Point , Reserve High Point, Championship, or Reserve Championship at any of the *listed associations with 5 or more participants in the division (day or weekend high points) Year-End High Point or Year- End Championship at any of the *listed associations with 5 or more participants in the division 10 lifetime points in any breed association in any **western performance discipline \$500 in a national organization (not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA) in any **western performance discipline <u>Riders may ride any horse regardless of age with one hand in a legal western bit or two hands in a 2 rein set up, snaffle bit, or hackamore</u> 	Box only
Walk Trot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not have shown in ANY competition where loping or cow work was involved 	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a rider wins a year-end high-point award, they are no longer eligible for this division • Riders may not cross enter any other division • <u>Riders may ride any horse regardless of age with one hand in a legal western bit or two hands in a 2 rein set up, snaffle bit, or hackamore</u> 	
Select Sub-Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be entered in another Amateur Division • Rider must be 60 years or older as of January 1st of the current show year 	Per division entered
Junior Horse Sub-Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be entered in another Open or Amateur Division • Horse must be at least 3 years old, but not older than 5 • Age calculated from January 1st of foaling year. 	Per division entered
<p>*Listed Associations: SRHA, WSVRHA, NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, AQHA, APHA, RHAN, WRHA, and other like associations</p> <p>**Western Performance Disciplines: Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH, RHV), working cow horse, reined cow horse, reining, cutting, western pleasure, barrel racing, trail and other like events</p>		

V. GENERAL RULES FOR ASSOCIATION EVENTS

A. SELECTING JUDGES

The club will strive to hire and assign competent Clinicians and Judges with experience in Ranch Horse Versatility events.

B. CLINICS

Clinics may be offered throughout the year. These clinics can be part of a competition weekend, or they can be free-standing. Clinics can specialize in particular classes of ranch horse topics, or they can cover all five ranch horse classes. The club will make every effort to offer clinics that are accessible to riders of all levels.

C. BACK TO BACK COMPETITIONS

The club will make every attempt to not hire the same judge for multiple shows in a show season (with the exception of trail)

D. CO-SANCTIONED EVENTS

SRHA may approve competitions held in conjunction with other Associations provided. Managers should make every attempt to follow SRHA rules where they are different but compatible. Competitors should be aware that they will have to follow the stricter of the association rules in order to be eligible for placing, points, and awards.

E. EVENT AWARDS

Event Awards will be determined by event management. It is recommended that High Point and Reserve High Point awards in each Division be provided. Other awards may be presented at the sole discretion of the Event Manager. For a horse/rider team to be eligible for the division All-Around Award, the team must have participated in all five classes.

F. EQUIPMENT FAILURE:

If at any time during a performance a piece of equipment breaks, the rider may continue provided the broken equipment does not pose a hazard to the rider and/or is not cruel to the horse.

When two classes are run back to back and equipment failure occurs during the first class and the rider is unable to continue because of the broken equipment the rider will receive a score of zero for the first class. The rider will not leave the working area before the 2nd class but may have a "2 minute tack repair allowance" between classes. Outside help is allowed, the rider can dismount and pick up lost equipment or attire. A zero score in the second class for equipment failure will apply, if the repair of equipment should exceed 2 minutes.

In the event a new cow is awarded during the cow work broken equipment may be repaired within a 1-minute time limit. The rider may not leave the arena and may not receive physical assistance or equipment from outside the arena. If the rider is unable to continue because of the broken equipment, the rider will be excused with a score of zero.

G. LAMENESS OR INCAPACITY

The judge may ask to view the horse at the trot either under saddle or in hand any time he/she has concerns regarding lameness. The judge has authority to excuse any horse from the class, due to lameness at any time while being judged and apply the appropriate penalties. Obvious lameness may result in a Disqualification and -0- score for the class.

Obvious lameness is:

1. Consistently observed at a trot under all circumstances
2. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride
3. Minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move

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.

If at any time the horse appears to be physically incapacitated the judge has the authority to blow a whistle and stop or excuse the exhibitor.

I. INHUMANE TREATMENT

Inhumane treatment of horses or cattle will not be tolerated. A rider displaying any form of inhumane treatment to his/her horse or entering the arena with illegal equipment will be immediately corrected by the judge, a penalty will be assessed, and the problem will be resolved before continuing.

Judges will have the authority to blow a whistle at any time to stop or excuse any exhibitor if there is concern about the safety or welfare of the cow, horse, or rider.

J. FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER:

In the event of a fall by Horse or Rider, the run shall end when the rider or horse falls to the ground. A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the hip and shoulder are touching the ground and all four feet are extended in the same direction. A rider has fallen when he or she is no longer astride the horse. A horse/rider team will be disqualified and receive a -0- score for the class.

K. COMPETING WITH MULTIPLE HORSES:

An amateur rider may compete on more than one horse in a competition. Each horse will be a separate entry and points will be earned based on each horse and rider combination.

The following rules apply.

- Novice, Intermediate, Limited and Advanced Amateur riders may ride more than one horse in their respective divisions, if wanting to enter all classes on 2 horses they must enter one horse into the higher division for all classes and remaining in that division with that horse for the whole year
- An individual horse may only be shown by one rider per class regardless of the division.
- Placement Points are recorded based on one horse and one rider and are recorded in the Division earned.
- A rider must enter all five classes in the same division on the same horse to be eligible for High Point All Around points.
- Open Division is open to any horse and rider combination, but they cannot cross enter after competing in the open division.

L. CLOSED ARENAS

No rider is allowed to work or warm up his/her horse in any arena, or course competition area, on the day of the schooling competition until the Event Manager allows horses into the arena. Once the trail course is set on competition day the course will be closed, no riding allowed on the course. Riders may dismount and walk the course on foot.

M. DISRUPTIVE HORSES

Any disruptive horse and or horse/rider team that poses a threat to the safety of others or the safety of the rider, in the judgment of the Clinician, Judge, or Event Manager, may be asked to leave the event. No refund of class or event will be given.

N. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Conduct by club members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner's representatives, spectators, and all other persons present on the Club event grounds shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of horses. Any of these violations will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

O. IMPROPER WESTERN ATTIRE

Exhibitors participating in Ranch Horse classes must wear a collared, long sleeved shirt, a cowboy hat or helmet and western style boots. Chaps or Chinks are optional. Attire is casual for the day of the clinic. Penalty for competing in Improper Western Attire will be a disqualification and -0- score.

Exhibitors 12 years and under must wear a helmet any time they are mounted. Exhibitors between 13 and 18 are encouraged to wear a helmet but may be exempted with a release of liability signed by their guardian.

P. TACK AND EQUIPMENT

In all Ranch Horse classes, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of a class. A horse may be shown in different legal equipment (bridle, snaffle or hackamore) in each class as desired.

Horses 5 years old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. If shown in anything other than a snaffle bit or hackamore rider must show one handed, unless in Novice or Youth Novice where a snaffle can be used by a horse of any age. A violation of this rule will result in a major penalty and will be scored as "OP" - the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly.

Horses 6 years and older may only be shown in a 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. A broken strap or chain does not necessarily result in a major penalty. Both split reins and reins and romal are appropriate tack for a Sr. Horse and must be ridden one handed.

If you have a question, approach the Judge/Clinician prior to event to review tack.

1. Optional Equipment:

- Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.
- Hobbles attached to saddle
- Tapaderos are allowed except in working cow horse
- Protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages are allowed
- Spurs: not to be used forward of the cinch
- Chaps or Chinks

2. Prohibited Equipment:

- Wire chin straps, regardless of how padded or covered
- Any chin strap or chain narrower than one-half inch 9 except on a snaffle bit)
- Martingales and draw reins
- Nosebands, cavesson, tie downs and roping reins

3. References to hackamores mean the use of a flexible, braided rawhide, leather or rope bosal, the core of which must be nonmetal and flexible. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a lead-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited.

4. References to snaffle bits in western performance classes a snaffle bit means the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D ring with ring no larger than 4" (100mm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, or smooth latex wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16 (8mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25mm) in front of the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1 ¼ " (32mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. When using a snaffle bit a leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used and should be attached to the bit below the reins. No iron, chain or other material is allowed. The chin strap is allowed to include metal buckles and/or keepers. A twisted wire mouthpiece may not be used. When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hand and one hand on the reins at any time.

5. Reference to a curb bit: A curb bit must have a solid or broken mouthpiece that acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

- 8 1/2" (215mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the following diagram. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
- Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8mm to 20mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25mm) from the cheek. They may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to 3/4" (10mm to 20mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable.

- The port must be no higher 3 1/2" (90mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds and spades are standard.
- Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.

6. Reference to romal: A romal is an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. The reins can be held in either hand, with hand around reins in a fist position with thumbs up. The non-rein hand must be on the romal. (The keeper, or hobble, that attaches the romal to the reins is considered to be a part of the romal.) The non-rein hand is not allowed to touch the reins. No fingers are permitted between the reins in bridle classes, except in the Two Rein class. The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner.

In trail it is permissible to prepare to or to work an obstacle by changing hands, adjusting the romal to the opposite side or holding both reins and romal in the same hand even while in motion. It is permissible to hold the reins and romal in one hand while working a cow.

7. Reference to use of hands on reins: Except for junior horses (5 years old or less) shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed (see Novice division for exception). The hand is to be around the reins. Index finger only between split reins is permitted. A violation of this rule will result in a major penalty and will be scored as "OP" - the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly.

Junior horses (5 yrs. old and under) that are shown in a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. Mecate may be used with a snaffle bit or hackamore. In trail it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle on any age horse.

8. Reference to the Two Rein Bridle: Open to horses of any age that have not shown in the bridle down the fence in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales, prior to the first day of the current show season. 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 with an approved bosal underneath the bridle. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Any number of fingers between the reins will be permitted. In trail only, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.

9. Reference to the Get Down: A "get down" is defined as a rope tied around a horse's neck with intended use to lead or tie the horse. The get-down rope may also be run through a bosalito, as long as the bosalito is not tight enough to function as a caveson. Bosalito must be made of flexible leather, rawhide, or rope, and allow at least 2 fingers to pass freely between the nose and bosalito. The end or "lead" part of the Mecate in a legal hackamore or snaffle or a two rein set up may also be used. A get In any other case a rope tied or looped through a bosal or nose band of any kind will be considered illegal equipment and will result in a score of -0-.

Q. UNFORESEEN SITUATIONS

Rules are designed to be followed and should be the first choice in every circumstance, however not all circumstances can be foreseen. Decisions or situations not covered by this Rule Book shall be decided by the Event Manager, with consultation from a Board Member and/or the Judges/Clinicians.

These decisions are to be made using common sense and vetted through the following criteria:

1. Is this a Safety issue? Always err on the side of Safety
2. What is the intent of the decision?
3. Does this uphold the integrity of the Association with members, volunteers, sponsors, suppliers, vendors and bystanders?
4. To protect the integrity of the organization any rule decision made with mal intent to inappropriately advance or hinder any particular member or participant shall be dealt with severely.

VI. SCORING

A. SCORING SYSTEM

Sagebrush Ranch Horse Association will use a 70 basis scoring system that is designed to give credit to each rider for the work completed. The system has been designed to provide the most possible feedback, record of the rider's work, to be positive and straight forward, and to encourage growth and improvement in both horse and rider.

B. JUDGES SCORE SHEET

Each Horse and Rider team begins the run with a score of 70 points. The judge evaluates the quality of each maneuver and records a Judges Score of one of the following on the score sheet; +1 ½ Excellent, +1 Very Good, + ½ Good, 0 Correct, -½ Needs Improvement, -1 Poor, -1 ½ Very Poor. Penalties are also recorded and deducted from the total Judges Score. The entire class will be scored and placed (i.e. 20 horse/rider teams will result in 20 placing's).

In the case of a horse/rider team incurring ANY Major Penalty they will be scored with the notation "OP", the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern or requirements of the class correctly. While this term was originally derived from "Off Pattern", it is now a designation you will see that indicates you have received any kind of Major Penalty listed below.

Major Penalties – (OP) Off Pattern

Open Division - Complete loss of rope (falls completely to the ground prior to roping the cow)

Amateur and Youth - Complete loss of rope (falls completely to the ground once committed to roping the cow)

Failure to dally and remain dallied during log drag

Failure to attempt any part of the class

Repeated blatant disobedience

Schooling After entering the arena prior to calling for the cow

Schooling horse between cows, if a new cow is awarded

Turning Tail

Breaking pattern

Inclusion of a maneuver (i.e. over or under spinning, backing more than two strides)

3rd refusal

No attempt to perform obstacle

Two hands on the reins except in a snaffle or hackamore

More than one Finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except for the two rein)

Horse and Rider teams will be disqualified for the following reasons in all classes:

DQ -0- SCORE

- Inhumane Treatment
- Lameness or incapacity
- Illegal or failed equipment
- Fall of horse or rider
- Improper Western Attire
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Leave area before pattern complete
- Out of control, endangering the rider (judge blows whistle and ends the work)

Disqualified riders with a -0- score will count as entries in the class but will not receive placement points. For example, in a class with ten horses where one horse/rider team is disqualified, the first place horse/rider team gets ten placement points, the ninth place horse/rider team gets two points, and the disqualified horse/rider team gets 0 points. The last point is not given because the disqualified horse/rider team gets no points. This system will be used for any size class and may include more than one disqualification or -0- Score.

C. POINT BASED SCORING SYSTEM

The first place team will be awarded ten placement points, second place nine points, third place eight points, through the tenth place team one point, and eleventh through last place will not receive placement points. Points will not be a awards to an exhibitor with a DQ score.

D. BREAKING TIES:

All-around ties for competition and year-end awards will be decided by the highest placing in the Ranch Cow Work class in the applicable division. If a tie still exists the tie breakers will be in this order: Ranch Rein Work, Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding.

Ties within a class will first be broken by total number of penalty points in that class, with the exception of Ranch Cow Work where roping will be the first tie breaker. If the tie is still not broken specific maneuvers have been designated and will be used. If the tie is still not broken the judge will make the determination. The first tie breaker in a class will be Total Penalty Points. In regard to the Amateur Ranch Cow Work; if a tie exists between a rider who roped and a rider who circled, the tie breaker goes to the rider who roped.

VII. CLASS RULES & REGULATIONS

SRHA offers Five (5) classes in each division; Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reined Work, Ranch Cow Work and Ranch Pleasure. Exhibitors may enter any one or all of the classes in the Division in which they are qualified to participate under the following conditions.

- An exhibitor must enter all 5 classes in one division to be eligible to earn points toward ANY All Around High Point award, whether it be the Event High Point or the Year End High Point.
- Classes may only be entered one time per horse.
- Placement Points are recorded based on one horse and one rider and are recorded in the Division earned.
- Year End High Point Horse and Rider teams in each Division in each class will be recognized.

VIII. CLASS DESCRIPTIONS, RULES, AND JUDGING

SRHA will use a combination of American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and Western State Ranch Horse Versatility Association (WSRHVA) class descriptions, rules, and judging. Cow Work Divisions are described below. Please refer the respective Rules Books of these associations for specifics on other classes.

Any questions regarding the class description or rules should be address to event management prior to show or class.

RANCH COW WORK

1. Open Divisions

- Upon receiving the cow, the rider shall hold the cow on the end of the arena for sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to control the cow at that end of the arena. When the contestant is satisfied that he has shown control of the cow, the contestant shall drive the cow through the corner and down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. The first turn must be passed the center marker. Once made 2 turns on the fence you will take the cow off the fence and the complete a full small circle driving the cow in each direction The judge will blow the whistle when the rider has completed all requirements prior to time running out.

General Rules:

- There is a two and a half (2½) minute time limit with a one (1) minute warning in the combined cow work and circling portion of the class. The clock will start when the gate is closed after the cow enters the arena.
- When the two and a half (2½) minute time limit has expired, the announcer will call time
- It is legal to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow.

2. Intermediate Amateur

The goal of this class is to introduce the advancing rider to the “fence work” phases of the cow work.

- If run **concurrent** with Ranch Reined Work after completing the pattern the rider will signal the cow boss that he/she is ready for a cow to be released into the arena.
- If run as a **separate** draw the rider will enter the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and call for the

cow to be released into the arena.

- Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. When the rider is satisfied that he/she has control of the cow the contestant shall drive the cow through the corner and down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. The first turn must be passed the center marker, once the cow has been turned in both directions down the fence you will stop your horse .
- Each contestant will have 2 minutes to complete the cow work, working the full time is not required.
- There will be a 45 second warning, the announcer will signal when time is up.
- The judge will blow the whistle when the rider has completed all requirements prior to time running out.

3. Limited Amateur and Limited Youth Division

The Limited Amateur division will consist of a box – drive – box – drive element. If run concurrent with Ranch Reined Work the rider will face the cattle entry gate and signal the cow boss that he/she is ready for a cow to be released into the arena. Limited ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted two minutes to complete the work. When there is 60 seconds left, the announcer will announce, “50 seconds remaining”. At two minutes, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all the allotted time but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first.

There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a fence turn, instead the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

- **Part One – Boxing the Cow** – The rider shall ride into the arena, face the cattle entry gate, and signal for their cow to be turned into the arena. The cow shall be controlled on the entry end of the arena for a sufficient amount of time to demonstrate the horse’s ability to hold the cow. If the cow does not immediately challenge the horse, the rider shall aggressively move in on the cow to demonstrate his horse’s ability to drive and block the cow.
- **Part Two - Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence to Opposite End of Arena** – After the cow has been controlled on the entry end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up for driving down the side of the arena. When coming out of corner, the horse shall be close enough to cow to demonstrate control with cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately 1/2 to 3/4 the length of arena. Rider will then stop and release the cow and move horse toward center of arena to set the cow up for boxing.
- **Part Three – Boxing the Cow at Opposite End of Arena** – The exhibitor will regain control or hold the cow at end of the arena to demonstrate the horse’s ability to “hold” the cow
- **Part Four – Drive the Cow back down the fence** (original side)- past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion.

While boxing the cow at the opposite end, if the rider loses control and allows the cow to cross the center line, the judge will whistle the end of the run. The rider will receive off pattern penalty (OP) for the run.

4. Novice Amateur and Novice Youth Divisions

The goal of this class is to introduce the rider to the “boxing” phase of the cow work and develop skills for reading and controlling the cow. After completing the Ranch Reined Work, if Reined Work and Cow Work are run concurrently, the rider will signal the cow boss that he/she is ready for a cow to be released into the arena. Each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow for the full 50 second time limit.

- There is a one minute time limit with no warning, contestant must work the full time.
- The clock will start when the gate is closed after the cow enters the arena.
- The announcer or judge will signal when time is up.
- It is legal to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow.
- There will be no fence work or roping

2024

Trail Challenge Rules

Divisions:

12 & Under

14-17 Youth

18-59 Adult

60 & Over Masters

Walk/Trot (Cannot cross enter and no high point awards will be issued for this division)

Rules:

Safety of the rider and horse are always the most important component of this event.

1. All riders must be a member of the Sagebrush Ranch Horse Association in good standing with dues paid and must sign a release prior to mounting a horse at the designated location of the event. Youth must have a parent signed release.
2. You must enter the event prior to the start of the event and within the time limits indicated on the flyer for the event by using the approved entry form and paying all fees.
3. Horses may be of any breed. Youth may not ride a stallion. Horses must be serviceably sound and in good condition as determined by the judge. Horses must be treated humanely, any action deemed to be cruel, abusive or inhumane will result in immediate disqualification.
4. Dress code: Riders shall wear riding boots with a heel. Youth under 12 must wear a helmet. Youth under 17 must wear a helmet unless a parent has signed the helmet waiver form. It is recommended that everyone wear a helmet and it is at the discretion of the adult rider as to their compliance. All riders will wear long pants. It is recommended that riders wear a long sleeve shirt, cowboy hat or cap although this is not a requirement.
5. Tack must be in good shape and safe for the horse and rider. Riders may ride Western or English. Horses may be ridden in any humane bit or hackamore. Tiedowns, martingales, gag bits or drop nose bands are not allowed. Two rein is allowed. A bosalito with the purpose of a get down rope is allowed. You are allowed to ride with two hands in the bridle, but this may not enhance your scoring. A smooth, controlled ride however will earn you points so determine your best course of action. You may go from one hand to two hands whenever necessary.
6. A horse may be ridden by one horse/rider combination. Riders may compete on multiple horses within the division. Horses may not be cross entered into other divisions with the exception of the 12 & Under. The rider must pay an entry fee for each horse. Each horse must be tacked and ready to compete when called. Horses may be on the course only once with the exception of the 12 & Under division.
7. Riders under 12 may have an adult with them on the course but the adult will not negotiate the obstacles. Adult riders will assist in ensuring that the youth are safely negotiating the course.

8. No dogs will be allowed on the course or in the starting area. All dogs must be restrained at the trailer or truck.
9. Riders may walk the course (without their horse or any other animal) prior to the event at the time designated by the staff. There will be one walk through, and the judge will participate to answer any questions. It is the responsibility of the riders to fully understand the rules, obstacles and the course design prior to the beginning of the event. If a rider feels an obstacle is unsafe it should be brought to management attention immediately for review.
10. No horses will be allowed on the course prior to the beginning of the event or during the event until the event has concluded. Any schooling after that time will be with the approval of the owner of the premises and that of the club.
11. Order of go will be selected by management in a random drawing. You will have 30 seconds to start the course after your name is announced. Participants must at least try each obstacle. A try may be a horse looking at the obstacle from some point away from it but you cannot just bypass it without stopping and having your horse acknowledge the obstacle.
12. The obstacles will be placed in a pattern throughout the venue. An off course will result in a zero score.
13. Scoring: The judges will evaluate each obstacle. They will be judged on a 1-10 scoring system with 5 being considered an average score. The approach, transition and departure are all considered as part of the scoring system. Points will be added for riders riding with one hand in the bridle, smoothness, control, transitions, etc. deemed to be above average by the judge. Points will be deducted for the same items if the judge feels that they are below average as well as refusals. A horse will be allowed three refusals and then the judge will indicate the rider must continue to the next obstacle. A zero score on one obstacle will not disqualify the rider.
14. Fastest time will be scored as an obstacle: Fastest time 10 points, then 9 for the next fastest time, etc. Each division will have their own times for this component.
15. Tie breaker: Prior to the event the judge will decide on one obstacle for the tie breaker. The score from this obstacle will clear any ties.
16. The judge can dismiss a horse rider combination if they feel that safety is an issue. Safety is a priority.

DIVISION ELIGIBILITY FORM

Show Year: _____

Amateur Eligibility:

Yes ___ No ___ I have received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training, or showing horse(s) during the past three years. (Premium money won is not considered remuneration.)

Yes ___ No ___ I have received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training (under saddle), driving, or showing a horse during the past three years.

Yes ___ No ___ I have had expenses (including lodging, transportation, mileage, etc.) paid by someone other than family members. (Youth members may accept assistance from someone other than a family member.)

Novice Eligibility:

Have you won any of the following? If YES, how many times? _____ (if none- indicate 0)

A. *The Novice Amateur or Novice Youth rider meets the Amateur eligibility requirements as listed above and has NOT won any combination of **FIVE** of the following.*

Yes ___ No ___ Any Over All High Point or Championship title (day or weekend,) at any Sagebrush Ranch Horse Association, WSVRHA, SHOT, ASHA, NRSHA, NVRHA or any VRH association and or similar event(s), with or without cattle classes with five or more participants in the Division.

Yes ___ No ___ Any Reserve High Point or Championship title (day or weekend) at any Sagebrush Ranch Horse Association, WSVRHA, SHOT, ASHA, NRSHA, NVRHA or any VRH association and or similar event(s), with or without cattle classes with five or more participants in the Division

Yes ___ No ___ Any Division Year-End High Point Award or Year-End Championship Event title at any Sagebrush Ranch Horse Association, WSVRHA, SHOT, ASHA, NRSHA, NVRHA or any VRH association and or similar event(s), with or without cattle classes with five or more participants in the Division.

B. *The Novice Amateur or Novice Youth rider has NOT won any **ONE** of the following on any horse.*

Yes ___ No ___ Ten (10) lifetime points in any association (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, NCHA, NRCHA, RHAA, etc.) in any western performance discipline – VRH or Stock Horse All Around, roping, working cow horse, reining, cutting, ranch horse pleasure, etc.
(OR)

Yes ___ No ___ \$500 in a National Organization (including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, NRSHA, RHAA, etc.) in any western discipline – VRH or Stock Horse All Around, roping, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.

PRINTED Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Rule Change Proposal

Use this form to submit a rule change proposal to the SRHA Board, must be in our office by October 1 to be considered for the next rule book. SRHA current members in good standing and Board of Directors may submit rule change proposals. Use a separate form for each proposal. Use additional sheets as necessary, will be returned if incomplete.

Mail to: SRHA- Board of Directors

Or email to: srhaclubsecretary@gmail.com

PO Box 270242

Susanville, CA 96127

Proposed by:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Number: _____ Email: _____

(Use additional sheets as necessary)

Identify the Rule: _____

Specify whether your proposal is a: Change: _____ Addition: _____ Deletion: _____

Existing Rule Page Number: _____ Paragraph Number: _____

Recommendation for change/addition: Rule should be written as it should appear in the Handbook.

Justification for change, impact if passed, and impact if NOT passed: What is your purpose for the change? Why do you feel it should be changed? How does this change benefit the members, SRHA, and the future of the program?

Does this proposed change affect any other rules? If so, cite all related rules affected by this proposal that may also need to be changed and state exactly how they should read. (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Office Use Only:

1. Rules Committee Review – attach review sheet with the following:

Identify positive and negative consequences for change, include recommendation: (attach additional sheet) _____

- a. Identify other rules affected, if any _____
- b. Place in proper/legal wording and suggest proper placement in Rules _____
- c. Financial and/or Legal Impact (If applicable) _____

2. Board of Directos Review - Comment and make recommendations

3. Placement on Board of Directors Agenda – Date of BOD Meeting _____

Date of Post Mark/email _____ Rec'd by _____ Date: _____