

2021 REINING ALBERTA BRANCH CIRCUIT GENERAL RULES

Section A. Entrance Requirements:

- ◇ Both owners and riders must be current RA members to compete at RA shows
- ◇ Open to all breeds and grade horses.
- ◇ NRHA rules apply except where otherwise indicated.
- ◇ Non-Pros that do not hold a current NRHA Non-Pro card must complete the RA Non-Pro declaration form with their entry. NRHA Non-Pro horse ownership rules apply unless otherwise stipulated.
- ◇ All contestants must sign a waiver before taking part in any RA event.
- ◇ Both cheques and cash are accepted. All cheques must be made out to *Reining Alberta* in Canadian funds.
- ◇ Pre-entries for shows MUST be into the show secretary (email is fine) by the Thursday before the show. Payment may be made on the day of the show. Late (day of) entries will be accepted as usual, with no monetary penalty.
- ◇ All payments for classes must be made before you ride. If payment is not made prior to or on the day of the show all prizes and points for that show will be forfeit and entries for subsequent shows will not be accepted until the previous show fees are paid.

Section B. Equipment:

- ◇ Riders are required to wear long sleeve shirt, cowboy hat, and heeled boots at all times while showing.
- ◇ No training equipment allowed in any judged class.
- ◇ All horses must be ridden in equipment that is clean and in good working order.
- ◇ Beginner Horse, Green as Grass Reiner, Green Reiner & Ranch Reiner may be ridden one or two handed in any legal bit.

Section C. Eligibility:

- ◇ It is the competitor's responsibility to be aware of their earnings and enter classes accordingly. Eligibility criteria are explained for each class in the list provided by the branch circuits and are as of January 1st, current year. See CLASS ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION & RULES at the end of this document.
- ◇ RA classes use lifetime earnings, which are the total of all moneys earned at any reining event. Lifetime eligibility lists are available at <http://www.equistat.com>
- ◇ Youth riders are determined as Non-Pro riders 18 years of age or under as of January 1st of the current calendar year.
- ◇ Where the class eligibility information & rules outlined below are not sufficient to answer any disputes, the NRHA handbook shall be taken as the official rules.
- ◇ Where the rider of the horse is not the owner of the horse, and horse ownership rules apply for the class, proof of ownership or lease (NRHA certificate or other written contract (as per Reining Alberta)) will be required.

Section D. High Point Awards:

- ◇ To qualify for Branch Circuit High Point awards a member must attend at least 3 shows in a single circuit and volunteer a minimum of 3 hours at Reining Alberta events, with half of those hours being done in the first 4 shows. These hours will be recorded by the show secretary. Volunteer hours are required by Reining Alberta. Any volunteerism via Reining Alberta Main Branch will qualify for North Branch volunteer hours. Any disputes will be decided by the committee chair.
- ◇ Points are earned by the rider (except Beginner Horse) regardless of the horse ridden.
- ◇ A rider is not limited to the number of horses they can ride in any one class, but only the points earned on the highest placing run in each class will be recorded in the High Point tally for the rider.
- ◇ Beginner Horse points are earned by the horse, regardless of who the rider is.
- ◇ Not all classes qualify for High Point awards, eligible classes are determined by each branch individually.
- ◇ Ties for High Point awards will be resolved by a coin toss at the Reining Alberta North Branch year end banquet. The loser of the coin toss will then be awarded the reserve champion prize.
- ◇ High point awards will be presented at the Reining Alberta North Branch year end banquet.

- ◇ High point champions for Green as Grass Reiner, Green Reiner, Beginner Horse Non Pro, Beginner Horse Open and Ranch Reiner will no longer be eligible for points, prizes or high point awards in that class. These classes can be used as schooling classes as long as their individual requirements are met, but the entry form **MUST** be marked **SCHOOLING** on the entry form. A score will still be given for schooling purposes. Reserve champions are still eligible to show in the class until they achieve a championship.

High Point Calculations:

- 1st – 5 + ½ point for every horse placing lower
- 2nd – 4 + ½ point for every horse placing lower
- 3rd – 3 + ½ point for every horse placing lower
- 4th – 2 + ½ point for every horse placing lower
- 5th – 1 + ½ point for every horse placing lower

Section E. Stalls and Arena Availability:

- ◇ See branch schedules for specific open riding times, move in time and show office hours.
- ◇ The show committee reserves the right to close the arena for maintenance at any time they deem necessary.

Section F. Show Management:

- ◇ Any concerns must be directed to any committee member.
- ◇ No mistreatment or abuse of a horse, rider, judge or facility management will be tolerated.
- ◇ All competitors and spectators must conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner at all times.
- ◇ Show management decisions will be final and binding.
- ◇ All horses being ridden must be in full tack while on the grounds. Riding double or bareback is not allowed.
- ◇ Horses in any warm-up situation must be ridden (no ponying alongside another horse).
- ◇ Horses are **not** allowed to be tied in the warm up area; they must be accompanied **at all times**.
- ◇ While in the staging area no schooling (spinning, backing (unless to move your horse out of the way), etc.) will be allowed.
- ◇ Entrants in green as grass and/or youth classes are not allowed to ride or handle stallions.

Section G. Class Eligibility Information and Rules:

GREEN AS GRASS REINER: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro who has been showing for less than 2 years in reining or working cowhorse AND has \$0 lifetime earnings (as of January 1 of the current year). Horses may be ridden 1 or 2 handed in any NRHA legal bit. Modified pattern 5 (no lead change required). Horse ownership rules **do not** apply. Cases may be reviewed on a case by case basis.

GREEN REINER: *High point eligible class. Provincial challenge eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro with \$0 lifetime earnings (as of January 1 of the current year). Horses may be ridden 1 or 2 handed in any NRHA legal bit. Modified pattern (optional lead change or simple lead change allowed). Horse ownership rules **do not** apply. Previous high point champions are no longer eligible to claim points, prizes or high point in this class. This class can be used as a schooling class as long as the above requirements are met, but the entry form **MUST** be marked **SCHOOLING** on the entry form. A score will be given for schooling purposes. Reserve champions are still eligible to show in the class until they achieve a championship.

SHORT STIRRUP CLASS: Open to any RA youth 10 years old or younger (as of January 1 of the current year). Rider may show 1 or 2 handed at any gait (walk, trot or lope). Leadline is allowed. Horse ownership rules **do not** apply.

YOUTH 13 & UNDER: *High point eligible class. Provincial challenge eligible class (challengers will be chosen from all youth categories based on their show year).* Open to any RA Non Pro youth member 13 years old or younger (as of January 1 of the current year). Rider may show 1 or 2 handed. Horse ownership rules **do not** apply.

YOUTH 14-18: *High point eligible class. Provincial challenge eligible class (challengers will be chosen from all youth categories based on their show year).* Open to any RA Non Pro youth member 14 – 18 years of age (as of January 1 of the current year). Horses must be ridden one handed. Horse ownership rules apply.

RANCH REINER: *High point eligible class. Provincial challenge eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro with less than \$250.00 lifetime earnings (as of January 1 of the current year). Horses may be ridden 1 or 2 handed in any NRHA legal bit. Previous high point champions are no longer eligible to claim points, prizes or high point in this class. This class can be used as a schooling class as long as the above requirements are met, but the entry form **MUST** be marked **SCHOOLING** on the entry form. A score will be given for schooling purposes. Reserve champions are still eligible to show in the class until they achieve a championship. Horse ownership rules apply.

BEGINNER HORSE NON PRO: *High point eligible class.* Open to any horse with \$0 lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year and in its first 2 years of showing. The horse can never have won a buckle at any reining or cowhorse event (NRHA, RA, AQHA, APHA, AHA, NARHA (etc.) or an open show). Limited to valid RA Non Pro card holder. Horses that have won any other Reining Alberta or other championships are not eligible for this class. Horse may be shown one or two handed in any NRHA legal bit. Previous high point champions (horse only) from either the beginner horse non pro or open class are no longer eligible to show in this class. Previous high point champions (horse only) are no longer eligible to claim points, prizes or high point in this class. This class can be used as a schooling class as long as the above requirements are met, but the entry form **MUST** be marked **SCHOOLING**. A score will be given for schooling purposes. Reserve champions are still eligible to show in the class until they achieve a championship. Horse ownership rules apply.

BEGINNER HORSE OPEN: *High point eligible class.* Open to any horse with \$0 lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year and in its first 2 years of showing. The horse can never have won a buckle at any reining or cowhorse event (NRHA, RA, AQHA, APHA, AHA, NARHA (etc) or an open show). Rider and owner must be a valid RA card holder. Horses that have won any other Reining Alberta or other championships are not eligible for this class. Horse may be shown one or two handed in any NRHA legal bit. Previous high point champions (horse only) from either the beginner horse non pro or open class are no longer eligible to show in this class. Previous high point champions are no longer eligible to claim points, prizes or high point in this class. This class can be used as a schooling class as long as the above requirements are met, but the entry form **MUST** be marked **SCHOOLING** on the entry form. A score will be given for schooling purposes. Reserve champions are still eligible to show in the class until they achieve a championship. Horse ownership rules do not apply.

NEVER WON A BUCKLE: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro. Horse must be shown one handed in any NRHA legal bit. The rider can never have won a buckle at any reining event (NRHA, RA, AQHA, APHA, AHA, NARHA (etc) or an open show) as of January 1 of the current year. Horse ownership rules apply. One horse/rider combination per class per show. Reserve champion will be awarded at the end of the year.

SENIOR REINER: *High point eligible class. Provincial challenge eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro rider aged 50 and over as of January 1 of the current year. Horse ownership rules apply.

LIMITED NON PRO: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro card holder with less than \$2500.00 lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year. Horse ownership rules apply.

NON PRO: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA Non Pro card holder. Horse ownership rules apply.

LIMITED OPEN: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA card holder with less than \$10,000.00 lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current year. Horse ownership rules do not apply.

OPEN: *High point eligible class.* Open to any RA card holder. Horse ownership rules do not apply.

Ranch Riding: Open to any RA card holder. Open riders and Non Pro riders will be judged separately. Horse ownership rules do not apply for the open portion of the class. Horses may be shown one or two handed in any NRHA legal bit.

RANCH RIDING CHALLENGE:

- ◇ All rules are directly from the AQHA handbook under “RANCH RIDING”
- ◇ The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside of the confines of an arena. The horse should be well trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness

of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement is of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

◇ Class requirements:

- Each horse will work individually, performing the required gait maneuvers and a minimum of three optional maneuvers. Horses will be scored on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

- 1 ½	extremely poor	- 1	very poor	- ½	poor	0	correct
+ ½	good	+ 1	very good	+ 1 ½	excellent		

- The required gait maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope, both directions; and the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops and back.
- The optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turn of 360o or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a log(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a horse to perform or encounter during ranch work
- The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS (SHW334 Ranch Riding) with an emphasis on forward movement, free flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
- No time limit
- The use of natural logs is encouraged
- Posting at the extended trot is acceptable
- Touching or holding the saddle horse is acceptable

◇ Ranch Riding Penalties:

- A contestant shall be penalized each time one of the following occurs:
 - One (1) point penalties:
 - Too slow (per gait)
 - Over bridled (per maneuver)
 - Out of frame (per maneuver)
 - Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
 - Three (3) point penalties:
 - Break of gait at a walk or trot for more than 2 strides
 - Break of gait at a lope
 - Wrong lead or out of lead
 - Draped reins (per maneuver)
 - Out of lead or cross-cantering more than 2 strides when changing leads
 - Trotting more than 3 strides when making a simple lead change
 - Severe disturbance of any obstacle
 - Five (5) point penalties:
 - Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal
 - Ten (10) point penalties:

- Unnatural ranch horse appearance (horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver)
- (OP) Placed below horses performing all maneuvers eliminates maneuver
- Zero (0) score: illegal equipment
- No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score
- No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score

HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

- ◇ Horses can collect points at all six schooling shows
- ◇ Open to all classes for horses
- ◇ One score, being the highest for that day, will be entered for that one horse. One, 2 or 3 or more riders on the same horse will still only have one entry for the horse that day
- ◇ All point for a total of six shows per horse at the year end are to be totaled. Horse with the highest score for the year end wins Horse of the Year.
- ◇ Level of rider and/or class has no bearing on this award.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- ◇ To be awarded to an individual that exhibits willingness to help with various tasks at schooling shows and in other capacities
- ◇ The individual may not necessarily be the person who volunteers the most time, but will be a person who time and again demonstrates their willingness to help the North Branch grow and succeed over the year.
- ◇ The recipient is to be determined by the show secretary of the branch and the committee chair person.
- ◇ The recipient does not have to be a person who actively rides in the schooling shows, however that person must be a member of Reining Alberta