

ARCHA HANDBOOK OF RULES & REGULATIONS FOR SHOW AND AWARDS

Effective date: 5/10/2023

Section I: General

1. NRCHA Rules & Regulations shall govern all contests provided by ARCHA. ARCHA reserves the right to alter NRCHA guidelines for any ARCHA class.
2. The riders of horses competing in ARCHA competition must comply with ARCHA membership and awards nomination requirements, being current members in good standing for points earned to count toward Year End Awards. The points are not counted retroactively, only from the day of enrollment to the end of the Award Year.
3. To be eligible in National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA)-sanctioned classes, rider must also comply with NRCHA membership and eligibility requirements.
4. All entry information represented on entry forms must accurately state the current membership number for the rider for ARCHA and NRCHA, when applicable, and the current membership number(s) for the owner/rider (s) for the points to count.
5. Year End Award points shall be kept for each of the following classes: All NRCHA Sanctioned classes offered at our shows and ONLY those ARCHA club classes as specified.
6. All Non-Pro and Rookie Rider division points shall be on one horse, one rider combination.
7. All Open division and Green Horse division points shall be awarded to the horse.
8. All Green Rider division points shall be awarded to the rider. Should a rider show more than one horse in a show day, only the highest score will be awarded points for that show day.
9. The ARCHA Year End Award winners must have shown in at least one more than half of the ARCHA approved shows for the year, inclusive of Jackpot Shows.
10. ARCHA will also present awards to Green Riders graduating from the Green Rider Program. Buckles will be awarded to those riders graduating from the Green Rider I and the Green Rider 2 portions of the Green Program.
11. A point scoring system shall be adopted by ARCHA and may be revised from time to time.
12. No points will be given for a no score or a score of zero (0). Tie breaking shall be determined by the high cow work score.
13. In determining the annual ARCHA awards, the show year will follow NRCHA calendar.
14. All riders in any Non-Pro, or Green Rider class must file an ARCHA Non-Pro declaration with ARCHA.
15. Top Five awards will be awarded in all ARCHA classes and NRCHA classes.
16. To be eligible rider/owner must show each class a minimum of 50% of the show season. If an odd number of classes are in a season, the rider must show one more than half.
17. The ARCHA adopts the AQHA's position on animal welfare for all ARCHA shows.

Section II: GREEN RIDER & GREEN HORSE CLASSES – YEAR END AWARDS

- A. **GENERAL:** The purpose of the green program is to provide inexperienced riders and/or horses the opportunity to become acquainted with the basic reined cow horse skills in a competitive, yet non-threatening environment. Once the program has been completed, riders and/or horses should have developed the skills necessary to be a competent NRCHA exhibitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.
1. There are no restrictions placed upon horse ownership, breed, age, or training level.
 2. Horses must be shown in an NRCHA or AQHA approved bridle, also snaffle bits will be allowed with no age limit in the Green Herd Work, Green Rider 1 and Green Horse Box.
 3. AQHA dress code applies: (Long sleeve shirt with collar, western hat or hard helmet and western riding boots. Chaps are optional.)
 4. AQHA rules regarding acceptable western equipment apply.
 5. The ARCHA board reserves the right to evaluate all new riders to ensure that each rider is competing among similar abilities.
 6. Exhibitors pay an entry fee and are scored based upon the execution of maneuvers as sanctioned by the NRCHA and as modified below.
 7. Green Rider has two divisions. Each level increases in complexity and builds upon the skills practiced each time the rider and horse enter the arena.
 - i. Green I
 - ii. Green II
 - iii. Green Youth under 12 will follow the same Rules as Green Rider 1
 - iv. Green Youth 13-18 will follow the same Rules as Green Rider 1.
 8. Highest class placing per show day per rider will determine points toward year-end awards.
 9. No Green Rider shall earn year-end award points for more than one horse per show day in the Green Rider classes.
 10. Any Green Rider that competes in a down the fence class will immediately forfeit their Green Rider eligibility as well as any Green Level graduation buckles.
 11. Entrants in all classes may continue to show in their class for the remainder of the year in which they earn enough points to graduate out of.
- B. **GRADUATION:** Graduation from the program is based upon accumulated points or money earned for placing in all classes shown, including Green Horse and ARCHA/ NRCHA classes. All points begin accruing upon entry of the rider's/horse's first show. Graduation between levels within the program will occur as follows:
- Any Green Rider I who accumulates a lifetime total of 100 points in any and all classes shown will graduate to Green Rider II.
 - Any Green Rider II who accumulates a lifetime total of 300 points in any and all classes shown will graduate out of Green Rider II.
 - Any Green Rider Level may compete up into the Non-Pro Limited classes without limitation. However, points earned in any Non-Pro Limited class count towards the rider's lifetime points in the Green Program.
 - Any Green Rider that competes in a down the fence class will immediately forfeit their Green Rider eligibility.
- C. **GREEN RIDER I (up to 100 points):** Rider must meet NRCHA Limited Non-Pro requirements with the exception of horse ownership. Reined work the same as NRCHA classes, except:

1. Horses may be ridden with any bit or bridle regardless of horses' age.
2. Rider may use two hands, if a rider chooses to ride one-handed, that ride must be completed one-handed.
3. Rider who chooses to ride one-handed may go to two hands. However, rider must return to using one hand.
4. Rider does one or one & half spins only instead of the number specified in the pattern.
5. Rider may break down to a trot for a lead change with no penalty.
6. Rider may break down to a trot before stopping with no penalty.
7. A sliding stop is not required but will be credited if the judge sees fit.
8. Cow work (boxing only) same as NRCHA limited non-pro class, except:
9. If the rider loses the cow two or more times, the 3 point penalty will continue to apply instead of the contestant receiving a no score.

D. GREEN YOUTH under 12yrs & GREEN YOUTH 13-18yrs

1. Rider will Follow Green Rider I Rules
2. Riders will Graduate up into their appropriate aged event regardless of points accrued.
3. Riders that graduate out of Youth 13-18yrs will be Eligible for Green Rider II if they have not earned more than 300 points.

E. GREEN RIDER II (101-300 points): Rider must meet NRCHA Limited Non-Pro requirements with the exception of horse ownership. Reined work the same as NRCHA classes, except:

1. All horses 6 yrs. old & older must be shown in 1 hand in a bridle, horses 5 yrs. and under may be shown in a snaffle or approved hackamore (Bosal, no mechanical parts).
2. Rider may go to two hands, if necessary, however, rider must return to using one hand.
3. Horses 5 years old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore and the rider may remain two-handed. (The two-handed rule does not apply to horses five and under being shown in a bridle.)
4. Reined work will be the full Reining pattern selected for that show date.
5. Rider must attempt a sliding stop.
6. Rider must attempt a flying lead change.
7. Cow Work (boxing only) same as NRCHA limited non-pro class, except: If the rider loses the cow two or more times, the 3-point penalty will continue to apply instead of the contestant receiving a no score.

F. GREEN HORSE BOX: All Professional and Non-Professional Riders Welcome. Eligible to any age horse which has no NRCHA, AQHA (or other association) working cow horse record. Reined work the same as NRCHA classes except:

1. Horses may be ridden in any NRCHA or AQHA bridle.
2. All horses may be ridden in 2 hands regardless of bridle.
3. Rider does 2 or 2 ½ spins only instead of the number specified in the pattern. IE: If the specified pattern calls for 3 spins the rider completes 2. If the specified pattern calls for 3 ½ spins the rider completes 2 ½.
4. Cow Work (boxing only) same as NRCHA limited non-pro class, except: If the rider/horse loses the cow two or more times, the 3-point penalty will continue to apply instead of the contestant receiving a no score.

Section III: ARCHA CLASSES – YEAR END AWARDS

A. ARCHA BEGINNING FENCE WORK

1. This class will demonstrate THE SINGLE COW WORK ONLY portion of the NRCHA Box Drive Class.
2. There will be NO REIN work performed for this class.
3. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the 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.

4. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving/ rating down the fence to the opposite end of the arena, and then driving/ rating the cow past the middle marker again.
5. 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.
6. AQHA dress code applies: (Long sleeve shirt with collar, western hat or hard helmet and western riding boots. Chaps are optional.)
7. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must be Non-Pro Boxing eligible.
8. All horses 6 yrs. old & older must be shown in NRCHA legal bridle with leather curb and romal reins
9. Horses 5 yrs. and under may be shown in a snaffle or approved hackamore (Bosal, no mechanical parts) and the rider may remain two-handed.

Section IV: ARCHA HERD WORK – YEAR END AWARDS

ARCHA will utilize the NRCHA rules regarding Herd Work. **(Chaps are Optional)**

A. ARCHA OPEN HERD WORK

1. Open to All Horses, All Riders.

B. ARCHA NON-PRO HERD WORK

1. Open to All Riders that Meet Non-Pro Qualifications (has completed an ARCHA Non-Pro Declaration for the current show year)

C. ARCHA GREEN RIDER HERD WORK

1. Open to All Horses and All Riders that Meet Green Rider Qualifications (has completed an ARCHA Non-Pro Declaration for the current show year)
2. Riders May Use One Hand or Two with Any Bit or Bridle Regardless of Horses Age

Section V: JUDGED CLUB SCHOOLING CLASSES – NO YEAR END AWARDS

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The purpose of these classes is to offer an opportunity for exhibitors to improve their showing skills through showing opportunities in a competitive yet non-threatening environment.
2. Schooling is allowed, however excessive schooling or significant departures from the pattern may be whistled out by the judge.
3. These are judged practice classes not eligible for year-end awards or jackpot.
4. AQHA dress code applies: (Long sleeve shirt with collar, western hat or hard helmet and western riding boots. Chaps are optional.)
5. All horses 6 yrs. Old & older must be shown in 1 hand in a bridle, horses 5 yrs. and under may be shown in a snaffle or approved hackamore (Bosal, no mechanical parts), unless specified otherwise in a specific class description.

B. ARCHA OPEN & NON-PRO WORKING COW HORSE:

1. Will run concurrent with the appropriate NRCHA fence or box class of your choice.
2. Will follow AQHA Working Cow Horse Rules.
3. This is a judged practice class not eligible for year-end awards or jackpot.
4. AQHA dress code applies: (Long sleeve shirt with collar, western hat or hard helmet and western riding boots. Chaps are optional.)

C. ARCHA OPEN STOCK HORSE BOX

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Reined work will be the full Reining pattern selected for that show date.
3. Cow work will consist of Boxing work.

D. ARCHA OPEN STOCK HORSE CLASS FENCE

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Reined work will be the full Reining pattern selected for that show date.
3. Cow work will consist of Fence work.

E. OPEN RANCH RIDING

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Will use an AQHA Ranch Reining Pattern as posted

F. AMATEUR RANCH RIDING

1. Will use an AQHA Ranch Reining Pattern as posted

G. OPEN RANCH REINING

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Will use an ARHA Reining pattern

H. AMATEUR RANCH REINING

1. Will use an ARHA Reining pattern

I. OPEN REINING

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Will use an NRHA Reining pattern

J. NON PRO REINING

1. Will use an NRHA Reining pattern

K. ARCHA OPEN REINING

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Will use an NRCHA Reining pattern

L. ARCHA NON PRO REINING

1. Will use an NRCHA Reining pattern

M. ARCHA OPEN FENCE WORK

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Cow work only in accordance with NRCHA guidelines for fence classes, no reining.

N. ARCHA NON PRO FENCE WORK

1. Cow work only in accordance with NRCHA guidelines for fence classes, no reining.

O. ARCHA OPEN BOXING

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. Cow work only in accordance with NRCHA guidelines for Boxing classes, no reining.

P. ARCHA NON PRO BOXING

1. Cow work only in accordance with NRCHA guidelines for Boxing classes, no reining.

Q. ARCHA BREAKAWAY ROPING (60 SEC)

1. OPEN TO ALL PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PRO RIDERS AND ALL HORSES
2. 60 seconds time limit to complete.

Section VI: OTHER CLASS OFFERINGS – NO YEAR END AWARDS

A. YOUTH LEADLINE

1. Open to young children, generally under the age of 7 years.
2. An adult or older child will lead the horse in-hand, while the child that is judged sits on the horse and holds the reins, but only for the sake of appearance, as the actual control of the animal rests with the handler on the ground.
3. Rider must be able to sit upright without assistance.
4. Only 1 rider permitted on the horse.
5. Judge may ask for a demonstration of some skills or a simple pattern for the rider with the handler's assistance.
6. Helmets are required.

B. YOUTH SHORT STIRRUP

1. Open to youth riders who are unable to lope on their own in the show pen.
2. Riders are to show their horses at a walk and trot on a pattern, as requested by the judge, followed by boxing for a time limit of 30 seconds.
3. Helmets are required.