



2025 RULEBOOK

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TENNESSEE STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION 2025 RULEBOOK

1100 General

1101 Introduction

The Tennessee Stock Horse Association (TNSHA) was founded in 2012 and began by putting on clinics and shows in the Middle Tennessee area. Currently we have extended to hosting 3-day clinics, shows, and championship events across the state of Tennessee and the southeastern United States. Clinicians are industry professionals from across the country. We are an established 501(c)3, and pride ourselves on creating a versatile, affordable, and fun family atmosphere. Whether this is your first show or you are a veteran exhibitor, we welcome you to join us ***where education meets competition!***

Where education meets competition - TNSHA puts on clinics prior to all of our shows. This opportunity gives riders the chance to refine their skills working live cattle, tuning up maneuvers, nailing those transitions, and mastering the obstacles prior to the day of showing - all with the help of an experienced professional. Clinicing also helps riders better understand the scoring system and show format.

1102 Mission Statement

The Tennessee Stock Horse Association is committed to promoting the versatility of stock horses by offering educational clinics and competitive shows. Our mission is to create an affordable and family-friendly atmosphere where education meets competition.

1103 Vision Statement

To be the leading force in the ranch and stock horse industry, empowering riders through educational clinics, fostering a family-friendly environment, and hosting events that champion the heritage, versatility, and excellence of stock horses.

1104 Animal Welfare Policy

Any welfare rules not specified in the TNSHA handbook will defer to the welfare policies and regulations outlined in the American Quarter Horse Association rulebook and addressed by the TNSHA Welfare committee. The Tennessee Stock Horse Association actively protects the integrity of the stock horse industry by establishing rules that govern every TNSHA event in order to reflect the natural ability of the horse. To that end, TNSHA is committed to the following beliefs:

A – Every horse and all animals, shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.

B – Rules established by TNSHA demand that all members are continually responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of all horses and animals entrusted to their care. Such rules include, but are not limited to, prohibited equipment or devices that could affect a horse's performance or alter the horse's natural conformation, prohibited medications (central nervous system altering drugs, i.e. tranquilizers, sedatives), blood on the horse.

C – Above all, horse welfare is paramount to other considerations. The humane treatment of the horse and all animals involved with TNSHA events, and fair competition supersede all other concerns.

D – Any welfare concerns can be addressed to the show manager, and will be promptly discussed and handled by the welfare committee.

1105 Lameness and Movement

Horses competing in TNSHA events are recognized for their conformation, which allows them to excel in a wide range of disciplines. The evaluation of lameness is a key factor in judging horses in both conformation and performance events. The overall condition and conformation of the horse are also considered. At the judge's discretion, a horse may be penalized or removed from an arena if it appears sullen, dull, lethargic, underweight, or overly tired. This includes assessment of horses used as mounts for cattle turnback. TNSHA places significant emphasis on proper movement and soundness during judging to ensure fairness and uphold the highest standards of horse welfare. Exhibitors may be dismissed from the grounds or competition should horse welfare become a concern.

1106 Cattle Class Welfare

In TNSHA classes involving the use of cattle, the welfare of the cattle, horses, and riders is of utmost importance. TNSHA may consult a veterinarian in the instance of a cattle welfare concern.

For events like cutting and ranch roping, an optimum number of cattle is recommended, and cattle should not be worked more than once within a go-round. In the working cow horse class, each head of cattle can only be used once per go-round. The use of hotshots to move cattle should be limited to situations where the safety of the cattle is at risk.

A rider should cease working any cattle displaying a bloody nose, lameness in gait, or laying down for an extended length of time. Specific guidelines for each class, including proper cattle care and handling, are outlined.

Judges have the discretion to penalize or disqualify contestants when necessary regarding proper cattle welfare, and are advised to uphold the highest standard of appropriate stockmanship.

1107 Disclaimer Responsibility of Safety

TNSHA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants at the shows or other events it sanctions and responsibility for participant safety remains solely with the participants as safety is a concern of everyone, but TNSHA does not assume responsibility for it. The limited purpose of TNSHA is to create a fair competition and educational environment for all. TNSHA reserves the right to dismiss individuals who are creating a hazardous or unsportsmanlike environment for others or themselves, whether it is intentional or not, with no refunds

1200 By-Laws

1201 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of members elected by the membership to hold office for three years, with at least one director being a representative of an equine educational entity. (This director cannot be a college student and this director may be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, if the election does not include an educational entity representative.) In addition to the directors elected or appointed, all members of the Executive Committee, all past presidents, directors-at-large, and Honorary Directors shall be members of the Board of Directors. The President shall serve as Chairman of the Board.

1202 Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Educational Liaison, Youth Director, immediate past president, and any such officers as may be authorized by the Board of Directors. These officers shall be elected by and from the membership of the Board of Directors. This committee shall serve as the hearing committee for all disciplinary actions and shall also serve as a planning committee to allow for a smoother flow of business and goals between incoming and outgoing Presidents. Recommendations from the Executive Committee shall be brought before the Board of Directors for final review and approval.

1203 Board of Directors

The current number of Board of Directors of this Association shall be six (6) members elected by members in good standing and must have held membership for at least 1 year prior to being elected. The number of directors is at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The elections will be staggered with one third (1/3) of directors being elected each year with a term of three (3) years.

A – Initial selection of six Directors to the Board will be based on individuals who have distinguished themselves by the length of service and/or accomplishments and members who are serving or have served as liaisons to other organizations. Board members will serve for two years initially beginning in 2011. After which time, one third (1/3) of the Board will be open for elections. The remaining Director positions will be elected over the next two years with one third (1/3) being elected each year. The year which each Director position is open for election will be determined by random draw.

B – Board members are expected to attend monthly TNSHA meetings and provide regular input and support for the association.

1204 Standing Committees

All Standing Committees shall consist of not less than two (2) Association members and not more than ten (10). All committee members must be Association members in good standing. In making appointments to the committees, the President shall appoint committee members for not less than one (1) year, and not more than three (3) years. Future appointments to fill vacancies and for new members shall be by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee

A – The Chairperson of each committee shall be appointed annually by the President from the current Board of Directors.

B – Committee members may be appointed from the Board of Directors and the general membership and a listing of all committee members shall be published as soon as possible after appointment.

C – Some suggested Standing Committees are education, finance, collegiate, youth, rules & ethics/welfare, shows, benevolence, awards, communications and promotion, and sponsorships.

D – Special committees may be appointed by the President from time to time to attend to special business. These committees serve for the duration of the special problem or TNSHA Rules and Regulations until replaced or until the committee is disbanded. Special Committees may be Annual Meeting and Convention, Special Events, etc.

1204 Youth Leadership Team

A – Applicants must have held a TNSHA membership for a minimum of 1 year as of January 1 of the year prior to applying for a leadership position (ie. if applying for a leadership position for 2025 the youth must have been a member prior to Jan. 2024)

B – Application must be filled out and submitted by December 31st of the current calendar year to be considered for the future year.

C – Incomplete applications will not be accepted

D – Approved applications will then participate in an interview with the TNSHA Executive Committee either in person or via online platform

E – All applications will be processed and the Leadership Team structure will be organized prior to the TNSHA annual banquet each year.

F – The Leadership Team will, at a minimum, consist of a President, Vice President and Secretary. Additional positions and committee's may be formed at the discretion of the Executive committee.

G – The Youth Leadership Team shall be under the direction and guidance of the Youth Director(s) of the Tennessee Stock Horse Association whom is part of the Executive committee.

H – The President will be a part of the board meetings as a representation of the youth membership.

I – The structure and duties of the Youth Leadership Team shall follow the Youth Leadership rules. The Youth Leadership Team reserves the right to revise and improve these rules and their structure by submitting proposals to the executive board for immediate consideration, vote, and implementation as necessary to adapt to changing circumstances.

1 – The duties of the President shall be as follows: preside over all meetings of this association, appoint any necessary committee; attend Tennessee Stock Horse Association Board meetings, report previous year's activities at the annual banquet, and other duties as required.

2 – Duties of the Corresponding Vice President shall be: to report activities of the association to TNSHA, assist the President, and perform duties of the President in his/her absence.

3 – The duties of the Secretary shall be: to keep minutes of all meetings, keep an up-to-date roster of association members, call roll at each regular meeting, furnish the President of the Youth Leadership Team and Youth Director(s) a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

4 – Duties of the Treasurer shall be: to keep detailed records of all monies associated with the fundraising and youth account. Provided updated financial reports at each youth meeting.

J – Meeting Requirements

1 – There shall be a minimum of four (4) meetings a year or as deemed necessary by the officers and Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall be for the election of officers.

2 – The Youth Leadership Team shall have as its principal objections:

Objective 1. Development of leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable traits of character.

Objective 2. To promote pride of ownership of horses among boys and girls.

Objective 3. Safety

Objective 4. The teaching and learning of horsemanship, both care and handling of horses, and participation in above.

3 – Membership shall consist of boys and girls 18 years old and under. Dues shall be annually and will coincide with the annual dues of the Tennessee Stock Horse Association.

1300 Membership

A – Annual memberships in the Tennessee Stock Horse Association may be purchased by any interested persons. Proper receipts and membership cards shall be issued upon payment of fees.

B – The application for membership should indicate clearly the first and last name in which the membership is to be recorded. By applying for membership, the applicant automatically agrees to be bound by and to abide by all rules, regulations and policies of the Association.

C – Upon completion and acceptance of a membership application form, an applicant is issued a membership card with an identification number. This number must be used in all official communication with the association and the card or card number must be presented when participating in association approved events.

D – Membership fees are not refundable.

E – As reciprocal assistance to the Association for privilege of membership and participation, the Association may use any photograph or other form of likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner, or their horse and registered equine names to promote the Association's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from the Association.

1301 Annual Membership

Annual Memberships are available for individuals for a one year period beginning January 1st through December 31st. Renewal notice to the members shall be sent to their last known email address. When an annual membership expires, the membership can be reinstated by simply paying the current year's annual fee. Memberships may only be issued to individuals and may not be transferred. The following designations of annual membership in the Association are currently available. An individual membership is restricted to one person, carried in that person's legal name only. For an amount voted on by the board. (\$25 / individual)

1302 Specialty Membership

A - Collegiate Team Annual Membership

An annual membership for full time undergraduate or graduate college students as part of a collegiate stock or ranch horse team. This membership provides privileges of participating in collegiate classes only and includes voting rights. If a member of a collegiate team enters into a non collegiate class a regular TNSHA membership is required. Collegiate team memberships are available at the rate voted on by the board. (\$50.00 / team)

B – Lifetime Adult Membership

A lifetime adult membership for persons 19 years and older provides privileges of participating in all Association events, activities and voting rights. Memberships available to Adult Members: Open, Amateur, and Associate membership at the rate voted on by the board (\$250.00)

C – Lifetime Youth Membership

A youth membership is provided for boys and girls age 18 and Under, as of January 1 of the current year, which entitles a youth to receive a membership card of eligibility to show in the youth division, and to participate in Association events, activities and voting rights. Memberships available to Youth members: Youth membership at the rate voted on by the board. (\$125.00)

1303 Termination And Rejection of Membership

Termination or application rejection proceedings shall be conducted under the Association's disciplinary procedure for notice, hearing and temporary suspension. The effect of termination or rejection may be denial of the privileges of the association as set forth in the Association's disciplinary procedure.

1400 Rule Change Proposal

A – An association member, a standing committee, a special committee, the board of directors, the executive committee or the association staff may propose a rule change. A rule change is defined as any change to the Bylaws or Rules.

B – All proposed changes must be submitted by a current TNSHA member in good standing. The TNSHA official rule change form is available on the TNSHA website. 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 not be considered.

C – A proposed change form should be sent to the association office by September 1 of each calendar year to be considered for the following year.

1 – Proposals will be researched and reviewed by the association Office Staff, Budget and Finance Committee, Executive Committee and the Association Attorney, if deemed necessary. A proposed Rule Change that contains possible legal or financial implications or any consequences deemed not in the best interest of the Association may be subject to action by the Executive Committee. If tabled by the Executive Committee, the proposed change will be returned to the originator with comments from the reviewers. If deemed appropriate for further study, the proposed change will be referred to the appropriate Standing Committee Chairman and the Rules Committee.

2 – Referred to the appropriate Standing Committee(s) Chairmen and the Rules and Regulations Committee.

3 – Referred back to the Executive Committee from the standing committee(s) chairmen and/or rules committee with a report and recommendations. If reviewed favorably by the Executive Committee, the proposed change will be presented for consideration to the Board of Directors.

4 – Presented to the Board of Directors in a legal and properly worded form for consideration on the agenda of the next Board of Directors meeting.

D – The Board of Directors will then vote on the proposed change.

1401 Extraordinary Rule Change

If a proposed Rule Change is considered to be of such extreme importance by the Executive Committee that it must be acted upon immediately, such proposed change must be presented to the Board of Directors and is subject to amendment. The emergency status of the proposed change should then be put to a vote by the Board of Directors. The emergency status must first be approved and requires a motion and majority vote in favor.

A – If the Board of Directors approves the Emergency Status, the proposed change with any amendments attached shall then be put to a vote by the Board of Directors for immediate action and/or implementation. If approved, the change can become effective immediately. If the emergency status of the proposed change is rejected by the Board of Directors, the proposed change itself cannot be put to vote at this time but can still be presented for a vote by the regular procedure.

1500 Release of Liability

The Association and co-sponsoring organizations, if any, shall not be responsible for any personal injury, or for loss or damage to property, occurring at any Association activity. Each owner, exhibitor, handler, or consignor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Association, its officers, directors and employees from and against all claims, demands, causes of actions, and expenses of every kind, including attorney's fees, arising out of or related in any manner to the acts or omissions of an owner, exhibitor, handler, or consignor, or the actions of any animal under the care, custody or control of the owner, exhibitor, handler or consignor. Presentation of signed entry or consignment forms shall be deemed acceptance of the conditions of this rule. In the event an entry or consignment form is not signed or presented, appearance on the grounds or at the sale ring of any Association activity as an exhibitor, handler, owner, or consignor shall be deemed to be acceptance of the conditions of this rule.

1501 Disclaimer of Responsibility of Show or Event Participants

A – Show/event management is responsible for the condition of show/event premises, including arena and exercise areas, the conduct and competence of show/event employees and other representatives, implementation of show/event activities and events, and all other aspects of an Association approved show/event.

B – The Association does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this show/event in regard to participants or any other third parties, or for the horses or other property thereof.

C – As an express condition of the privilege to participate at an Association approved or sponsored show or event, each horse owner, exhibitor, trainer, and participants assumes the risks of participation and thereby releases and discharges the Association and its officers, directors, representatives and employees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, as to personal injury or property damage, occurring as a result of participation in a show/event conducted by the Association or on the show/event grounds thereof.

D – Without assuming the affirmative duty to monitor possible physical or mental handicaps of exhibitors, if condition of exhibitors' physical or mental disability comes to the attention of the Association, the individual may be denied participation privileges in Association approved events until such time as he or she provides the Association with sufficient information to conclusively establish physical or mental capability to participate, without posing a significant risk to the health or safety of the individual and/or the other exhibitors of the class in which he or she desires to participate. At Association's sole discretion, the individual may be authorized to use special equipment to enhance physical ability to safely exhibit in Association approved or sponsored shows/events.

1600 Disciplinary Procedures

The Association reserves the right to independently direct disciplinary action or sanction against individuals coming under the jurisdiction by participating in Association sponsored events. The Association Executive Committee is the forum within the Association that initially or ultimately hears or reviews evidence of alleged violations of rules and regulations by members and/or participants in Association approved events. A member may be disciplined, suspended, fined, and/or expelled from the Association, and any non-member participant may be denied any or all Association privileges.

1601 Violations

A - Financial Violations – Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Association or any nonmember may be denied the privilege of the Association by the Executive Committee of the Association, for the failure to pay, when due, any obligation owing the Association. Upon receipt of a fraudulent payment, a member or non member will be notified in writing and given a reasonable amount of time to submit valid payment. Repeat offenders will be put on a cash only basis. Ultimate failure to pay the owed amount to the Association or its sponsoring groups will result in suspension of membership and all privileges.

B – Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Conduct by Association members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner’s representatives, spectators, and all other persons present on the Association event grounds of facilities shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike, and humane in the treatment of horses. Any of these violations will be subject to disciplinary procedures. Examples include but are not limited to: persistent foul language, directly approaching the judge to deliberate scores, or mistreatment of horses.

C – Inhumane Treatment

1 – No person may treat a horse in an inhumane manner which includes, but is not limited to:

2 – Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress.

3 – Tying a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress including but not limited to in a stall, trailer or when lunging or riding.

4 – Use of inhumane training techniques or methods, poling or striking horses legs with objects (i.e. tack poles, jump poles, etc.)

5 – Excessive spurring or whipping

6 – Excessive jerking of reins

7 – Excessive fencing or spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction)

8 – Use of inhumane equipment, including, but not limited to, saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack hackamores

9 – Exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired

10 – Any item or appliance that restricts the movement or circulation of the tail, or

11 – Intentional inhumane treatment which results in bleeding

1700 Television And Media

A – Attendance at an association sponsored or approved event, in whatever capacity, shall constitute authorization for the Association, its agents, designees, or assigns to photograph, video tape, televise, or record by other means (hereinafter referred to as “photographic material”) any person or animal on the premises of an Association approved event, and shall further constitute authorization for the use of such person’s name, voice and biography, or the name, pedigree and performance record of any animal on the premises (hereinafter referred to as “related information”) in conjunction with any photographic material.

B – The photographic material and related information referred to above may be used in any manner that the Association, in its sole discretion, determines would be beneficial to promoting the purposes and goals of the Association, provided, however, that no photographic material or related information will be used in conjunction with the endorsement of any product unless prior written consent is obtained.

2100 Eligibility

2101 General Eligibility

A – Eligibility for all divisions is determined by a rider’s accomplishments as of January 1 of the current year (see separate guidelines for collegiate eligibility).

B – Exhibitors are ultimately responsible for determining their showing status. Any exhibitor showing in a division they do not meet the eligibility criteria for risks forfeiting points and awards with no refunds. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to enter the correct division to compete in.

C – Horses are not required to be registered with any breed organization. Mules and Donkeys are welcome. No additional registration papers or memberships beyond a TNSHA are required to show.

2102 Open Division Eligibility

Open Year End Awards/Titles are based on the horse not the rider. The Open Division is open to any professional or nonprofessional member in good standing with any horse regardless of past winnings. The Open Working Cowhorse includes fence turns and circling/or roping.

A – Limited Open Division Eligibility

Limited Open Year End Awards/Titles are based on the horse not the rider. This division is open to any professional or non-professional member in good standing, with any horse regardless of past winnings. The Limited Open Working Cowhorse class will box-drive-box-drive. *The Limited Open division is not offered at the National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance national show, but eligible riders can opt to enter in the regular open division.*

B – Junior Horse Eligibility

Junior Horse Year End Awards/Titles are based on the horse not the rider. The Junior Horse Working Cowhorse class will box-drive-box-drive. A horse is eligible to be shown in this division if the following criteria are met:

- 1** – The horse is five years of age or younger as of January 1 of the current year.
- 2** – A junior horse may be shown by a rider from any division.

2103 Amateur Division Eligibility

A – The rider is 19 years or older (as of January 1st) and has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training astride, assisting in training astride, or showing horse(s) at any time during the past five years.

B – The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training, driving or showing a horse any time during the past five years.

C – The rider has not had any expenses (including lodging, transportation, mileage, etc.) paid by someone other than family members or their own business.

D – EXCEPTIONS for “b” and “c” above:

1 – An amateur who otherwise qualifies under these rules may conduct clinics provided the only remuneration they receive is for reasonable expenses. If questions are raised about Amateur eligibility, the contestant must be able to document any remuneration.

2 – Collegiate riders who are enrolled in an equine program or as part of an educational curriculum are exempt from items b and c above.

3 – Certification as an instructor in equine therapy by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) or similar organizations recognized by national equine associations are exempt from b and c above, provided the instructor only teaches students enrolled with the recognized organization or rehabilitation prescribed by a medical doctor.

4 – An amateur who otherwise qualifies under these rules may receive payment for day work/ranch hand duties on horseback, horseback tour guides, feedlot or sale ring operations.

5 – An amateur who otherwise qualifies under these rules and works as an instructor/professor at a recognized educational institution (college, high school) may keep their Amateur status provided their instruction does not consist of teaching mounted activities.

6 – A person who does not meet the criteria for Amateur status or a Professional seeking Amateur status, may regain Amateur status after said person has met the Amateur definition for a period of one year for every year, or partial year, they did not meet the Amateur definition, with a maximum of 3 years. The years of this compliance period must be served consecutively.

7 – Premium money won is not considered remuneration.

8 – An Amateur rider may show in the Open Division without losing Amateur eligibility as long as requirements for an Amateur are still met.

9 – The Amateur Division is open to any nonprofessional member in good standing with any horse regardless of past winnings.

E – Limited Amateur Division Eligibility: Exhibitors who qualify as Amateur riders may choose to show in this division because of the class schedule or other personal choice. Exhibitors may also show in the Open or Amateur divisions without losing their eligibility in the Limited Amateur division. Riders in this division will work a modified version of the working cow horse class that will not involve turns down the fence, or circling or roping. The Limited Amateur Working Cowhorse class will box-drive-box-drive. A rider may show in both Amateur and Limited Amateur classes if they choose.

F – Novice Amateur Division Eligibility

1 – The Novice Amateur Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience. New members in TNSHA do not necessarily qualify for the Novice division. Advanced skills may be better suited for an advanced division. An exhibitor may fill out a division exemption form to submit to the eligibility committee for approval no later than 30 days prior to the event they wish to compete in.

2 – The rider must meet all Amateur eligibility requirements listed above.

3 – Unmounted, Level 1/Rookie, or non-western performance events, or speed events do not count toward eligibility.

4 – Breed or discipline associations with less than 5,000 members do not count toward eligibility questions.

5 – Novice Amateur Division Eligibility Restrictions

a – The rider has not won three champion or reserve champion all-around show titles in any loping division at a TNSHA show or similar association.

b – The rider has not won a year-end title in a loping division in TNSHA or similar association.

c – The rider has not won an all-around champion or reserve title, or year-end champion awards at any other nationally-approved show in judged western performance classes.

d – The rider has not earned more than 10 points in any mounted western performance classes in the following breed associations (AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around, etc.; (breed association Novice/Level 1 points do not count).

e - The rider has not earned more than \$500 in a national organization (AQHA, NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, ARHA, NRSHA, etc.) in any judged western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.).

6 – If a member loses novice eligibility through a competition, he or she may finish that year in the novice division.

7 – Riders in the novice division will work a shortened version of cow work that will not involve turns down the fence, circling or roping. The cow work will be boxing only. Riders in this division may not cross enter a fence cow work class (boxing, fence turns and circle/roping) at the same show.)

8 – Stallions are prohibited in this division.

9 – An Amateur rider may not cross enter in the Novice division at the same show, however, a Novice Amateur may cross enter in the Amateur division.

2104 Youth Division Eligibility

Exhibitors in the youth division must be ages 18 or under as of January 1 of the current year. No youth rider may show a stallion. Youth riders have three divisions specific in age and/or experience to compete in (Advanced, Limited, and Novice).

A – Advanced Youth Division Eligibility

Exhibitors in the advanced youth division must be ages 14 thru 18 as of January 1 of the current year. The Advanced Youth Division is for individuals with more riding and showing experience. The Advanced Youth division will follow the Open and Amateur working cow horse class procedure with 3 phases including boxing, fence turns and roping or circling.

B – Limited Youth Division Eligibility

Exhibitors in the youth division must be ages 18 & under as of January 1 of the current year. The modified working cow horse pattern will be a box-drive-box-drive pattern following the Limited Amateur cow horse rules. The cow horse pattern will not involve turns down the fence, circling or roping. Limited Youth will be split into two age divisions for year-end awards if there are at least 4 riders representing each age group at 50% or more of TNSHA regular season shows. Senior Limited Youth 14-18 and Junior Limited Youth 8-13 will run concurrently and will be awarded high points together at all regular season shows.

1 – An Advanced or Limited youth may not cross enter in the Novice Youth or Walk Trot Divisions at the same show.

C – Novice Youth Division Eligibility

Exhibitors in the Novice Youth division must be aged 18 & under as of January 1 of the current year. The Novice Youth Division is reserved for individuals with limited riding and showing experience who wish to learn more about showing in TNSHA as an introduction into ranch and cattle events. Novice Youth will be split into two age divisions for year-end awards if there are at least 4 riders representing each age group at 50% or more of TNSHA regular season shows. Senior Novice Youth 14-18 and Junior Novice Youth 8-13 will run concurrently and will be awarded high points together at all regular season shows.

1 – The rider has not won any combination of 2 of the following:

a – Three champion or reserve champion all-around show titles in any loping division at a TNSHA show or similar association.

b – Year-end champion all-around title in any loping division.

c – Has not been a champion or reserve champion all-around at any 4-H Southern Regional in western performance division.

d – All Around champion or reserve titles or year-end champion awards at a nationally-approved show in judged western performance classes;

e – Or have earned the following:

1 – no more than 10 points in any breed association with more than 5000 members (AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around, etc.; (breed association Novice/Level 1 points do not count); points earned in non-mounted classes do not count (Halter, Showmanship, etc.)

2 – \$500 in a national organization (AQHA, NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA, etc.) in any judged western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.)

3 – If a member loses Novice Youth eligibility through competition, he or she may finish that year as a Novice Youth rider.

4 – Riders in this division will work a shortened version of cow work that will not involve turns down the fence, circling or roping. The cow work will be boxing only. (See Novice Working Cow Horse class rules for specifics on rules for this division.) Riders in this division may not cross enter a fence cow work class (boxing, fence turns and circle/roping) at the same show.

2105 Walk / Trot Division Eligibility [Adult & Youth]

A – To compete in the Adult Walk/Trot division, an exhibitor must be Novice Amateur eligible. (See Novice Amateur eligibility requirements)

B – To compete in the Youth Walk/Trot division, an exhibitor must be Novice Youth eligible. (See Novice Youth eligibility requirements)

C – Only one horse/rider combination is allowed per class.

D – If a rider is entered into a walk/trot class that rider cannot show in the corresponding loping class at that show. However, a horse/rider combination is permitted to switch back and forth between different shows throughout the year.

E – The adult and youth walk/trot divisions will run as separate divisions eligible for high point awards at each show and TNSHA year-end awards.

F – This division is not eligible to qualify for the NRSHA national show.

G – If an exhibitor cross enters into walk/trot and walk/trot/lope of the same class at the same event the exhibitor is automatically DQ'd from the walk/trot class at that event, with no refunds.

H – An exhibitor may fill out a division exemption form to submit to the eligibility committee for approval no later than 30 days prior to the event they wish to compete in.

2106 Collegiate Program And Eligibility

The TNSHA Collegiate Program is under the direction of the TNSHA Education Liaison. College students must have a general membership of TNSHA Association to participate in non-collegiate sanctioned divisions. Collegiate membership grants eligibility to compete in collegiate divisions only. College students will be eligible to serve on the Collegiate Programs Committee as nominated by the president. TNSHA supports the National Intercollegiate Ranch and Stock Horse Association (NIRSHA) and in doing so will function with their rules and guidelines in mind. TNSHA observes the NIRSHA competition year (September 1st) for collegiate eligibility and collegiate year end awards, and NIRSHA rules for academic eligibility, division eligibility, and alternate team point rider criteria for TNSHA collegiate competitions as detailed in the NIRSHA handbook. College students are able to participate in any association event as well as specific events planned solely for collegiate teams. Upon request, the regular association show secretaries may compile results of collegiate entries within regular association show events allowing a collegiate show within a regular association show.

A – Placing and awards for collegiate show participants may be posted and announced. In addition to regular approved association clinics and competitions, the Education Liaison must apply to the association for approval for events designed specifically for and limited to collegiate teams. Applications to host and/or sponsor special collegiate events must be received in the association office at least six (6) months prior to the event. Results of all association collegiate events must be received in the association's office within two weeks after the event. Results will be made available on the association's website, and year-end totals will be tabulated, distributed and posted on the website. Announcements and results of the association's collegiate events will be posted on the association's website as well as included in other association publicity such as newsletters and press releases. Special awards and recognition may be presented at the association's Year-End Awards Banquet. College students will have the opportunity to serve as interns and participate in special educational projects that will benefit both the association and the student. In order to compete in TNSHA Collegiate Competitions, each student must be a current TNSHA member.

B – In order to achieve these goals, TNSHA will provide leadership and coordination and publicize the TNSHA Collegiate program, approved clinics and competitions and keep TNSHA Collegiate show results in the Official TNSHA records and on the TNSHA website.

C – Academic Eligibility. TNSHA Collegiate Stock Horse Teams and Collegiate Individuals must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1 – Undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours of classes and graduate students in a minimum of 9 hours. Graduating students may enroll in fewer hours during the semester of graduation.

2 – Students must be in good academic standing with their school, defined as at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

3 – Students will be limited to 5 years or 8 semesters (whichever comes first) of collegiate eligibility to compete, including both graduate and undergraduate years.

4 – Students should be able to provide an unofficial transcript or document from the registrar's office confirming full time student status, including minimum 2.0 GPA at the first show of each semester that the student participates.

D – Any questions or disputes about eligibility should be directed to the Eligibility Committee of the NIRSHA Board of Directors.

2200 General Events

In addition to the normal entry fee, all divisions may collect and offer jackpot fees which will be paid back to exhibitors or owners (must be designated on entry form) according to the TNSHA payout schedule. These jackpot fees are a minimum of \$10 per class except for special events or championships which may be determined by the TNSHA board of directors.

A – Class paybacks: Half of the established jackpot fee will be for the class entered. Open class entries are competing for class points, plus a payback ($\frac{1}{2}$ of the jackpot monies collected for that class) according to the following schedule.

B – All-Around paybacks: Exhibitors in all four classes will be eligible for the All-around paybacks – ($\frac{1}{2}$ of all Open entries go to jackpot money). The All-Around paybacks will be figured on the total number of All Around entries and will be paid according to TNSHA payout schedule.

C – Payout Schedule is as follows: (Figure A)

Figure A: Payout Schedule

Number Of Horses	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-19	20-23	24-27	28-31	32-35	36-40	41-44	45-49	50+
Number of places	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
% Paid	100	60	45	40	34	32	28	26	26	25	25	25	23	23	23
		40	35	30	27	22	22	22	19	18	17	16	16	15	14
			20	20	20	19	17	14	13	13	12	11	11	10.5	10.5
				10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9.5	9	9	9	9
					9	9	9	9	9	8.5	8	8	8	8	8
						8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
							6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
								5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
									4	4	4	4	4	4	4
										3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
											3	3	3	3	3
												2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
													2	2	2
														1.5	1.5
															1

2201 Competitions And Clinics

A – General:

The Tennessee Stock Horse Association (TNSHA) competitions aim to showcase the versatility and athleticism of the working ranch horse by offering a variety of ranch classes, including but not limited to: Working Western Rail, Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, and Cow Work. Points will be awarded in each class based on the horse's placing and the number of horses competing in that class. All-Around points will be awarded to riders based on their cumulative scores from individual classes. To be eligible for All-Around awards, a rider and horse combination must compete in at least one cattle class and one additional riding event (non-cattle). Year-end awards will be determined by the total points accumulated in All-Around standings. TNSHA competitions are designed to promote the athletic ability and versatility of the stock horse.

All riders and owners of horses ridden and/or showing in Association events must be members in good standing. Class or clinic entry forms must contain the contestant's and owner's correct TNSHA member number. Horses may not compete under saddle until September 1 of their two-year old year. Special events such as in-hand trail can be any aged horse 1 year and older. No horse can be shown in any class in the same division by more than one rider.

B – Competitions And Special Events

1 – Applicants desiring to hold TNSHA approved shows must follow the guidelines as described in the TNSHA General Rules. A letter of request for affiliate approval must be submitted to the Executive Secretary for the Board of Directors approval 90 days prior to the event.

2 – Event applications are approved based upon the date of the week. A TNSHA approved event having been held the previous year is considered an established event and has priority to reserve identical dates for the current year until terminated by TNSHA.

3 – TNSHA sanction of an event approval is the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. Approved events will count towards TNSHA year-end awards.

4 – Sanctioned events require compliance with all TNSHA association rules and guidelines, fees, and documentation.

5 – A regular TNSHA Event is considered to be a clinic and a competition. The recommended schedule is to have a clinic one day and a competition the following day or day(s).

6 – Person(s) requesting show approval must have prior knowledge of competing in or hosting TNSHA events. In addition, the show management must document adequate cattle handling facilities are present, provide adequate stalling, and maintain adequate arena footing during the entire competition.

7 – It is recommended that each approved show carry \$1,000,000 per claim/\$2,000,000 aggregate liability insurance.

8 – Year-end points shall be awarded to qualifying horse and rider combinations entered and exhibited in TNSHA approved competitions and events according to TNSHA rules, except Open, Limited Open, and Junior horse.

9 – Year-end points for Open, Limited Open, and Junior horse shall be awarded to the qualifying horse, not the rider(s).

10 – Each class must be placed through the total horses actually judged in that class and points awarded to each horse that is placed. Points will be awarded with the horse placing first receiving one point for every horse they placed above plus 1.

11 – Competition Assessment Fees – Competition management must collect a \$5 bookkeeping fee per horse/rider entry per show and forward the competition results along with original scribe sheets signed by the judge within 2 weeks of the event completion. These fees help to defray the costs of record keeping and TNSHA Certificates and/or awards.

C – Clinics

In alignment with our mission of blending education with competition, the Tennessee Stock Horse Association (TNSHA) will offer clinics at each sanctioned stock horse event. These clinics may include, but are not limited to, riding demonstrations, instructional sessions on riding techniques, cattle work, judging guidelines, equipment usage, and rules and regulations. The specific topics, schedules, and instructors for these clinics will be determined by the Executive Board and coordinated by show management. Clinic registration will be open to current members in good standing prior to release to the general public. Current members will be given priority registration at least 1 week prior to public release of information.

2202 Collegiate Competitions

A – TNSHA observes the NIRSHA competition year (September 1 - August 31) for collegiate division eligibility and collegiate year end awards

B – TNSHA may approve official TNSHA Collegiate Shows that will be open to collegiate members only and that will offer a TNSHA Collegiate Stock Horse Team Competition

C – TNSHA may approve special TNSHA College Team Challenges as may be decided by participating coaches and the TNSHA Collegiate Committee with special awards. Special conditions may alter the number of team members and the specific division(s) offered.

D – TNSHA may also approve an official TNSHA Collegiate Show within a regular TNSHA competition. These will count as a separate show and must be approved, announced and publicized as such. At these collegiate shows within a regular show, the collegiate divisions of Open/Non Pro, LTD Non Pro and Novice must be offered. Collegiate points will be awarded based on the number of collegiate competitors in each division. The team awards will be based on the scoring system below.

E – Collegiate riders will enter classes in their respective collegiate divisions. The collegiate classes may be held with the regular TNSHA classes depending on the show schedule. Collegiate riders wishing to compete in non-collegiate divisions. Collegiate riders competing in non-collegiate divisions of TNSHA must abide by TNSHA general eligibility rules for those divisions if the eligibility criteria is different.

2202 Description Of Collegiate Program

The TNSHA Collegiate program serves to provide an avenue for education and competition of collegiate students in the ranch and stock horse events and is under the responsibility of the the TNSHA Educational Liaison. The collegiate division is not offered at the NRSHA national show, but the National Intercollegiate Ranch and Stock Horse Association (NIRSHA) offers a national show yearly for collegiate teams to attend (non-qualifying).

A – Collegiate teams will make up four riders of any mixture from either of the following divisions: Collegiate Limited Non-Pro, or Collegiate Novice. Riders do not have to be evenly spread among divisions.

B – Collegiate Members may compete in other eligible divisions at the show, but must purchase a TNSHA membership..

C – A college or university may enter more than one team, but must designate differences in team by giving the teams a different color or letter title. Example: MSU Team White & MSU Team Blue or WKU Team A, WKU Team B. Coaches must designate point riders at least one hour before the start of competition on the first day. No changes can be made in point-rider designations even if the rider is a scratch after classes start. Point-riders may only represent one team.

D – Any college or university student who can furnish proof of meeting the eligibility requirements may compete in a collegiate competition only if their college does not have a ranch or stock horse team. Collegiate students must present documentation of their collegiate status and academic standing to the educational liaison at time of entry (typically a dated college transcript will suffice).

E – If a college has a Stock Horse Team, students must receive permission from the coach to compete for that team. Coaches must abide by eligibility requirements when placing collegiate members on a team.

F – A fee of \$25 must be submitted with each per-team submission to confirm participation towards collegiate team awards. Colleges submitting more than one team will be charged \$25/team. Fees will go towards furnishing team awards.

2203 Description of Collegiate Team

The collegiate stock horse team shall consist of at least 4 total members. Designated representatives can compete in the Collegiate Limited Non-Pro or Collegiate Novice depending on eligibility. Collegiate riders will only be placed against other collegiate team riders. Riders not selected as a team rider will not count towards team points (see calculation of points for collegiate team riders).

A – A school may enter a team with less than 4 members as its representatives, but will forfeit those points for any missing representatives. Each team member must ride a different horse. A drop score will occur for the lowest point earner in each class. A point rider form must be filled out prior to the start of the show. Point riders cannot be changed during the show.

B – Collegiate team classes should include but are not limited to, ranch riding, working cow horse, trail, and reining.

2204 Collegiate Competition Awards

Both a High Point and Reserve High Point Team Award will be given if at least two teams from different colleges or universities are entered in competition. Awards may exceed to Top 3 or Top 5 awards.

A – Team point riders will be placed against other team point riders across both divisions in all classes based on their class score.

B – A team point rider's point values are set a 1st place, 7 points. 2nd place, 5 points, 3rd place, 4 points, 4th place, 3 points, 5th place, 2 points, 6th place, 1 point. If an individual rider that was not selected as a team point rider places, it will count toward individual placing and individual high point awards only, no team awards.

C – A drop score will be effective toward team points. One drop score for each class.

D – Example of team point riders placings: Back number 112, a team point rider achieves a 70 in the novice ranch riding. Back number 317, *NOT A TEAM POINT RIDER* achieves a 73 in the limited non pro ranch riding. Back number 586, a team point rider achieves a 79 in the limited non pro ranch riding. Back number 119, a team point rider in novice is an OP. The points for collegiate team awards would be based on score:

1. Back number 586 -79 score (7 points toward their team)
2. Back number 112 - 70 score (5 points toward their team)

3. Back number 119 - OP (4 points toward their team)
4. Back number 317 - 73 score (No points toward their team- because they are **NOT A TEAM POINT RIDER, but still placing individually in the class**)

E – Incomplete teams with less than four members shall still be eligible for team awards if their team totals exceed those of teams having complete teams. In the event of a tie between teams, the tie will be broken on the basis of most first place class wins, then on points won in the working cow horse class, reining class, trail class and then ranch riding class, respectively.

2300 Awards And Highpoint Calculations

2301 Class placings

A – Riders will be placed against all (qualifying, OP, and DQ) runs in their class. Riders will be given +1 point per exhibitor in the class. For example, if there were 6 exhibitors in the class, first place would receive 6 points, second place 5 points, third place 4 points, fourth place 3 points, fifth place 2 points, 6th place 1 point. All placings in a class shall receive a point. Riders who receive an OP will still place, but below any who did not mark an OP. Disqualified runs will not receive any points for the class.

B – A prize will be awarded to each class winner.

2302 All-around awards

A – A horse/rider combination competing in a trail, ranch riding, working western rail, reining, and cow horse class in the same division shall have their class placing points entered into the all-around tabulation. Points from each class placing are added together for the overall score.

B – A horse competing in the Open, Limited Open, or Junior Horse competing in a trail, ranch riding, working western rail, reining, and cow horse class in the same division shall have their class placing points entered into the all-around tabulation regardless of rider. Points from each class placing are added together for the overall score.

C – In the Working Western Rail a judge will place the class up to 15 riders. Any additional riders for classes larger than 15 will all receive the lowest point value toward all around point tabulations.

D – In order to be eligible for an all-around award a rider must compete in all five core classes in the same division (cow horse, reining, trail, ranch riding, working western rail).

E – Riders may compete in more than one division that they are eligible for.

F – Ties for the all around winner are broken using the highest placing of the working cow horse class. If a tie remains, the tie will be broken using the classes in the following order: reining, trail, ranch riding, and working western rail.

2303 Year-End Highpoint Awards

TNSHA Year-End Awards Criteria

Year-end awards recognize the achievements of horse/rider combinations throughout the competition season, except for the Open and Junior Horse divisions where points are awarded to the horse only. These guidelines reflect TNSHA's commitment to fair competition and ensure that year-end awards honor the skill, consistency, and sportsmanship of our members. The following rules and guidelines will govern year-end award eligibility and tabulation:

A – Eligibility:

1 – A rider must be a current member in good standing.

2 – A horse/rider combination must compete in at least one cattle class and one non-cattle class within the same division at at least two shows to qualify for year end awards.

3 – The following classes qualify for year-end awards: Trail, Ranch Riding or Working Western Rail, Reining, and Cow Horse.

4 – Riders may compete in more than one division, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for each division entered.

B – All-Around Point Calculation:

1 – Class placing points earned in each eligible class will be added together for the all-around year-end score. Points are accumulated for each horse/rider combination in their respective division(s).

C – High Point Class Calculation:

1 – Class placing points earned for each eligible class will be added together for the High Point year-end score.

D – All-Around Tie-Breaking Rules:

1 – Ties for year-end awards will first be broken by the highest score in the Working Cow Horse class.

2 – If a tie remains, the following class scores will be used in order: Reining, Trail, Ranch Riding, and Working Western Rail.

3 – If necessary, ties will be further resolved based on the number of first-place finishes.

E – High Point class Tie-Breaking Rules:

1 – Ties for year-end awards will first be broken by the most number of first places.

2 – If a tie remains, then the tie will be broken by the most number of second, then third, then fourth, then fifth, then sixth places, etc. until the tie has been resolved.

3 – If necessary, ties will be further resolved by a coin toss.

F – Awards:

1 – A High Point and Reserve High Point prize will be awarded in each division for the year-end results.

2 – Awards will be presented during the annual banquet, celebrating the hard work and dedication of all TNSHA participants.

2304 NRSHA National Show Qualification

A – Qualification Dates: Opening date: March 1 end date: February 28

B – Qualification Requirement: Compete at 3 alliance partner shows

C – Two ways to get invited:

1 – Riders competing with the same alliance partner 3 times during the qualifying period will automatically receive an invitation to the National Championship Show from their alliance partner.

2 – Riders showing with a variety of alliance partners (ie. 1 show with AQHA, 2 shows with TNSHA) the exhibitor must submit an Attendance Verification Form that documents attendance with each alliance partner. The form is due by March 15 in order to receive an invitation to the NRSHA National Show.

D – What shows count?

1 – Any alliance partner show that offers the core all-around stock horse classes (cow work, reining, trail and pleasure/ranch riding) can be qualifying shows. Check with the alliance partner to verify their qualifying shows. Events like World Shows, Derbies and other special events may not be considered qualifying.

2 – Shows that only offer a portion of these classes do not count. For example, an AQHA show offering individual VRH classes but not the All-Around classes are not considered qualifying shows.

E – What events do I qualify for?

1 – Qualifying is not by event. Competing with an alliance partner show in at least one class will qualify that rider to compete in all NRSHA classes at the National Championship Show.

F – Is qualification on the horse or the horse/rider combination?

1 – Qualification is based on the horse/rider combination in all divisions except Open, where qualification is based on the horse only. Any rider can show a qualified horse in the Open division at the National Championship Show.

G – What division do I qualify for?

1 – Seven Divisions are offered: Open, Amateur, Limited Amateur, Novice Amateur, Youth, Limited Youth and Novice Youth.

2 – Qualified horse/rider combinations can enter any division they are eligible for.

3 – To be eligible for the novice division a rider may not have more than 10 points in any breed association (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around); or \$500 in a national organization (including but not limited to NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, NRSHA) in any western performance discipline (including but not limited to western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail).

4 – The rider must meet other amateur or youth eligibility requirements for their respective division per AQHA's definition of an amateur and a youth.

H – What competition rules are used at the National Championship Show?

1 – There are 5 classes offered in each division – ranch reining, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch cow work, and ranch cutting.

I – The show follows AQHA VRH rules for each event with the following exceptions:

1 – In NRSHA cow work for open, amateur and youth, the exhibitor has the option to rope the cow or circle the cow. However, any open entries showing concurrently in VRH junior or senior ranch cow work class must rope to meet VRH rules.

2 – Riders may ride two-handed in a snaffle bit, hackamore or bosal on any age horse in the novice division. This is only allowed in novice divisions. All other AQHA equipment rules apply.

3 – Classes run concurrently with their respective AQHA VRH division. The Open will run concurrently with VRH junior and senior classes.

3100 Judging Procedures And Scoring

3101 SCORING SYSTEM

A – The Tennessee Stock Horse Association (TNSHA) Scoring System is designed to be positive, straightforward, easily translatable amongst other breed and industry judging standards while always encouraging growth and improvement in both horse and rider. The scoring system is designed to give credit for the work done.

B – In the ranch reining, ranch riding, working cow horse, and ranch trail, each horse/rider team is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1½ Extremely Poor, -1 Very Poor, -½ Poor, 0 Correct, +½ Good, +1 Very Good, and +1½ Excellent).

C – Pluses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers. Penalties may be accrued for incorrect maneuver execution. For more detail on credits and penalties, see the details in “Classes.” The entire class will be scored. In the case of a horse/rider team being Off-Pattern the horse/rider team cannot place above other horse/rider teams who have completed the pattern correctly.

D – In the case of a rail class, the judge will place the top 15 exhibitors. Judge has discretion to keep a selected number of riders on the rail for additional rail work if needed.

E – Riders will be supplied 2 back numbers per horse. The correct back number must be displayed on each side of the saddle pad so that it is visible to the judge. Riders not using both back numbers or entering the arena without a back number will not be disqualified as long as the rider is able to be easily identified by show management.

3102 OP/Off-Pattern

All divisions will follow an Off-Pattern (OP) system, which means when exhibitors are considered off-pattern (OP), they cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly. Judges should continue to score each class in completion when an off-pattern (OP) occurs. Off-Pattern (OP) offenses can be found under each class.

3103 Disqualifications

A – Grounds for disqualification include illegal equipment (including but not limited to hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions), obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers, obvious lameness, inhumane treatment, rider misconduct or disrespect; leaving the working area before the pattern is complete or fall of horse/rider.

B – Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class but will not receive points. (For example, in a class with twenty-one horses where one horse/rider team is disqualified, the first place horse/rider team gets twenty-one points, the twentieth 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.

3104 Fall of Horse/Equipment Failure

A – In the case of a fall by a horse or rider, the run shall end when the rider or horse falls to the ground. A horse is considered fallen when his shoulder, ribs, or hip contact the ground with all four feet pointing the same direction. A rider is considered fallen when the rider is no longer astride the horse. A horse/rider team will be scored for what was accomplished prior to the fall, but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed.

B – In the case of equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped and the horse/rider team is scored for what they have accomplished prior to that point, but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed.

3105 Judging Ties

A – Ties will not be broken for class placings (see exception for class winner awards).

B – All-around ties will be broken first by the higher cowhorse class placing, then reining, then trail, then ranch riding, then working western rail.

C – Class ties will only be broken for class winner physical awards. Specific maneuvers will be designated by the judge to be tiebreakers in a class in the event of a tie for first place. Three tiebreaker maneuvers will be marked prior to the start of the class and noted on score sheets.

3106 Show Results

A – Show results are final 48 hours after the completion of the show. Any corrections or concerns must be brought to show management before this time.

B – A rider changing divisions during the show must do so before a rider competes in that class. Once a class has been completed, no changes can be made to the entry for that class and may result in a DQ if the rider incorrectly entered the class.

3107 Scoresheets

A – TNSHA score sheets shall be used to judge all classes. Judges will select specific maneuvers prior to the class as tie-breaking maneuvers. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second, third, fourth, fifth, etc.

B – During the class a scribe shall assist each judge by recording the score after each of the maneuvers on the appropriate class score sheet. Judges shall sign their score sheets, and the score sheets will be turned in to the show secretaries.

C – Show secretaries shall total individual scores to place the class. They will check with the judge if there are any discrepancies.

D – All exhibitors will be ranked according to scores, placed from highest to lowest scores, and given class points according to their placing.

E – An OP should be written in the penalty box, and placed below and scored exhibitors that performed correctly.

F – Judges should continue scoring an OP ride.

G – Class score sheets shall be posted as soon as possible after each class to allow riders to evaluate their performance.

H – When using combined judges (2 or more) to determine one set of results, the classes will first be placed under each judge and class placing points awarded and posted. One judge shall be designated as the tiebreaker judge for the day before judging begins. The composite results (combined results used to determine an overall winner) shall be calculated as follows: All class placing points will be added for each judge to determine an all-around winner. If there is a tie, the tiebreaker judge's class placings will determine the winner.

3108 Backup Ruling

Any rules and procedures not covered in this rulebook will immediately defer to the AQHA VRH rules as backup ruling. In the event that neither the TNSHA or AQHA VRH rules cover a scenario, the executive board will be consulted for appropriate action.

3200 Core Classes

Working western rail, ranch reining, working cow horse, ranch trail, and ranch riding are considered the core classes of the Tennessee Stock Horse Association. Additional special event classes may be offered at any show.

3201 Gaits

In all gaits, the ranch horse's movement should reflect the qualities of a working ranch horse that needs to cover long distances. Horses should move softly, quietly, and with a calm, attentive manner. The following terminology shall apply:

A – Walk - the walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

B – Extended Walk – the extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.

C – Trot- the trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

D – Extended Trot- the extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride that allows the horse to efficiently cover more ground. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with a level or above level topline. Riders may hold the horn, post, sit, or stand during this gait.

E – Lope- the lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

F – Extended Lope- the extended lope is not a gallop, but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display a level or above level topline with a bright, attentive expression. Riders may hold the horn, sit, or stand during this gait

3202 Working Western Rail

The working western rail class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The movement of the working western rail horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a natural flowing stride and consistent, ground covering gaits. Transitions should be performed when requested, with smoothness and responsiveness. The ideal working western rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint while being responsive to the rider and making timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle, yield to contact and shall not be shown on a full drape of rein. Riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control by the rider. The horse shall be balanced and appear willing and a pleasure to ride in a group situation. Judges must call for a walk, trot, and lope both directions. Extended gaits must be called at least one direction of the pen. Walk-trot classes will not call for any lope gaits.

3203 Ranch Reining

The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward looking manner. The ideal ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch.

TNSHA, NRHA, AQHA VRH, NRCHA or other similar association patterns may be used. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena. Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored accordingly. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward looking manner. The ideal VRH ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.

All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear.

A – Penalties

One-half (1/2) point: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.

1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein.

2 point: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or roll-backs; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; **at end of pattern, failure to hesitate to demonstrate completion of pattern.**

5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear;

Off-Pattern (OP): breaking pattern; inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); trotting in excess of 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; repeated blatant disobedience; use of two hands (except junior and Level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein). Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider; **out of control, dangerous, or excessive schooling.**

B – Walk-Trot Specific Penalties

Penalties that are applicable from rule 3202–A apply to all Walk-Trot Ranch Reining classes in addition to the penalties below.

One-half (1/2) point: Starting a circle or exiting a roll-back at the incorrect gait for up to two (2) strides; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.

1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver), out of frame (per maneuver), incorrect gait for two strides or less,; Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein.

2 point: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or roll-backs; failure to be in a trot prior to the first marker on trot-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting or walking beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; at end of pattern, failure to hesitate to demonstrate completion of pattern.

5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

3204 Working Cow Horse

The ideal stock horse must also be a cow horse and this class demonstrates and measures the horse's ability to do cow work. Holding the saddle horn is permitted in this class. There is a time limit per horse/rider team to perform the work depending on the division and the time begins when the cow is turned into the arena. If the time has not elapsed and the judge is satisfied that all requirements of the class have been met, the Judge should blow the whistle for the exhibitor to cease work. The Judge may blow a whistle at any time for the Exhibitor to cease work for safety reasons as well. Judges will score what they have seen, but the horse/ rider team will be judged accordingly for not completing the class. Only the Judge may award a new cow by two whistle blows to a contestant to replace a cow that will not honor a horse. If the Judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor accepts the new cow, the time for working the cow will start over. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, the exhibitor must pull up immediately. When multiple Judges are scoring, any one of the Judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow. From the time the exhibitor enters the arena until the final whistle, signifying the run is complete, the pair are being judged. In the fence work, 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. In the case that a rider is awarded a third cow, the rider will have the option to work their new cow or to rest their horse for up to 20 minutes for their horse to recover before working the third cow. In this case, the rider is not allowed to leave the warm up area. Doing so will result in a DQ.

A – OPEN, AMATEUR, ADVANCED YOUTH DIVISIONS

Exhibitors in the Open, Amateur and Advanced Youth Divisions are allotted three minutes to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, "one minute." At 3 minutes, the announcer will call "time." There are three parts to this Division's work: boxing, fence work, roping or circling.

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 on the entry fence.

Part Two – Fence Work – After the cow has been controlled on the end of the arena, the rider shall set the cow up and drive it down the side of the arena. The cow should be turned on the fence at least once in each direction. The first run out for a turn shall be past the halfway mark of the arena. All turns down the side shall be completed before reaching the end fence.

Part Three – Optional Roping or Circling - The rider has the option to either rope the cow or to take the cow to the middle of the arena and circle it at least once each direction. A rider may circle or rope the cow but cannot combine the two to get credit for this portion of the class.

To rope the cow, the Exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The Exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope, and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The Exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop. In the roping portion of this class, the Exhibitor is permitted two throws and the horse will be judged on two (2) maneuvers: tracking/rating, and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the Exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is legal as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The Exhibitor may tie the rope on or dally. If the Exhibitor does not catch, or if it is an illegal catch, the horse will be given credit for rating and tracking and will be assessed a penalty specific for the division. If the exhibitor runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold maneuver and a penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/rating/control/position and speed/degree of difficulty.

To circle the cow, the Exhibitor will maneuver 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. Once an Exhibitor has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls down no new cow will be awarded. The Exhibitor will complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements. In the circling portion of the judging, one whistle will terminate the work, two whistles will award a new cow.

1 – Credits and Penalties for Open, Amateur, Advanced Youth

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions are subject to penalty at that time. During "Boxing," credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.

Credit will be given during "Fence Work" for making the first run past the center of the arena; making turns right on the cow; and controlling a difficult cow.

If “Roping,” credit will be given for rating and following cow to allow rider the optimal roping position; stopping hard; and staying in the ground during the hold. Credits for each element of Roping range from $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ to $+1 \frac{1}{2}$ points.

If “Circling”, credit will be given when the horse works willingly; acknowledges the cow; and gets close enough to the cow to control the circles. Credits for Circling range from $-1 \frac{1}{2}$ to $+1 \frac{1}{2}$ points for each direction.

a – Penalties

1 Point Penalties:

- Loss of working advantage
- Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence
- Changing sides of arena to turn cow
- For each length horse runs past cow
- Working out of position
- Two-loop catch in Amateur/Youth
- Slipping rein
- Failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn
- Over-bridled

2 Point Penalties:

- Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow
- When working an animal in the open field (at least 20’ from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned
- When roping, an illegal catch, or failure to catch if roping in Amateur/Youth

3 Point Penalties:

- Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping
- Hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn)
- Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage
- Two-loop catch in the Open

5 Point Penalties:

- Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence
- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- Failure to catch or an illegal catch if roping in the Open

b – Off-Pattern (OP)

Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly

- Turning tail
- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore)
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein)
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow
- Schooling horse between cows, if new cow is awarded
- Failure to attempt to complete any part of the class
- Complete loss of rope, once committed to roping

c – Disqualification (DQ)

Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

- Abuse
- Lameness
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed)
- Illegal equipment
- Improper western attire
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- Bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air
- Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers

B – Limited Open, Limited Amateur, Junior Horse, Limited Youth Divisions

Exhibitors in the Limited Open, Limited Amateur, Junior Horse, and Limited Youth Divisions are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. Announcer will give a “50 seconds left” time warning. 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 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,’ rather 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 on the entry fence.

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 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 again control and box the cow to demonstrate the horse’s ability to “hold” the cow.

Part Four – Drive the Cow back down the same fence as the first drive, past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. If at any time, if the rider loses control and allows the cow to cross the center line the second time, the judge will whistle at the end of the run. The rider will receive off pattern penalty (OP) for the run for failure to attempt portions of the class not completed.

1 – Credits and Penalties for Limited Open, Limited Amateur, Junior Horse, and Limited Youth

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During "Boxing," credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.

Credit will be given during "Set Up Cow and Drive Down Fence" for rating the cow; blocking the cow with pressure towards the end of the arena; driving the cow with control down the side of the arena; and controlling a difficult cow. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

a – Penalties

1 Point Penalties:

- Loss of working advantage
- Working out of position
- Slipping rein
- Driving the cow down the opposite fence on second drive (changing sides)
- On the first drive, failure to drive past the middle marker
- Over-bridled

3 Point Penalties:

- Dangerous Position
- Knocking down the cow without having a working advantage;
- Performing a fence turn (whether initiated by horse or rider)
- failure to drive cow past the middle marker on second drive before time expired

5 Point Penalties:

- Spurring in front of cinch;
- Blatant disobedience;
- Use of either hand to instill fear

b – Off-Pattern (OP)

- Turning tail
- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver

- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow;
- Schooling horse between cows, if new cow is awarded;
- Failure to complete any part of the Class; . Cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.
- On the first drive down the fence, failure to drive the cow past the middle marker after two attempts

c – Disqualification (DQ)

Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

- Abuse
- Lameness
- Disrespect or misconduct;
- Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed),
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- Improper western attire
- Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers.

C – Novice Amateur And Novice Youth Divisions

Exhibitors in the Novice Amateur and Novice Youth Divisions are allotted fifty (50) seconds to complete the work. 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 50 seconds 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 on the entry fence.

1 – Credits and Penalties for Novice Amateur and Novice Youth

All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During "Boxing," credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning the cow; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.

a – Penalties

1 Point Penalties

- Loss of Working Advantage
- Working out of position
- Slipping rein
- Over-bridled

3 Point Penalties

- Evading the flag without having a working advantage
- Losing a cow while boxing.

5 Point Penalties

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

b – Off-Pattern (OP)

Cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

- Turning tail
- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore)
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Schooling after entering the arena prior to beginning work
- Failure to attempt complete any part of the class
- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore)
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Schooling after entering the arena prior to beginning work
- Failure to attempt complete any part of the class

c – Disqualification (DQ)

Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

- Abuse
- Lameness
- Disrespect or misconduct
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving working area before finishing
- Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed),
- Improper western attire.
- Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers

D — Walk-Trot Specific Procedures

Exhibitors in walk trot divisions are allotted fifty (50) seconds to complete their work. Offering the class with a mechanical flag or a walk-trot dry work pattern will be at the discretion of Show Management, and released with the patterns. If completing the class with a mechanical flag, the rider shall ride into the arena, face the mechanical flag, and signal to start. The flag shall be worked for 50 seconds to demonstrate the horse's ability to "hold" a cow. All riders will work the flag at the same speed. The operator will stop and turn the flag once the rider is in an appropriate stopping position; if a programmable mechanical flag is used the same program will be used for all participants.

1 – Credits and Penalties for Walk-Trot

If Mechanical Flag is used:

a – Riders will work a mechanical flag for 50 seconds. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. During "Boxing," credit will be given for the horse's expression and its 'cow sense' (i.e., making moves with little rider assistance); holding, controlling, and turning with the flag; the amount of work actually done; and the degree of difficulty of the work.

b – If a dry-work pattern is used in lieu of a flag: Credits for each pattern maneuver will range from -1 ½ to +1 ½ points. Riders may be asked to perform a combination of maneuvers including a walk, trot, extended trot, rollbacks, stopping, and backing.

2 – General Walk Trot Penalties

a – Penalties

1 Point Penalties:

- Loss of working advantage
- Working out of position
- Slipping rein
- Over-bridled
- Changing sides of the cones

3 Point Penalties

- Evading the flag
- Breaking up to a lope

5 Point Penalties

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise

b – Off-Pattern (OP)

Cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

- Turning tail
- Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore)
- More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Schooling after entering the arena prior to starting work
- Failure to attempt complete any part of the class

c – Disqualification (DQ)

Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

- Abuse
- Lameness
- Disrespect or misconduct

- Illegal equipment
- Leaving working area before pattern is complete
- Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed),
- Improper western attire.
- Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers

3205 Ranch Trail

The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/ rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. Show management has the discretion to eliminate or modify obstacles, including mandatory obstacles, in order to run an efficient and safe horse show.

The trail course will include no less than six and no more than nine obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course for walk, trot, lope divisions. A walk can be part of an obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. A trot must be at least 35 feet and score with approaching obstacles. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet, and score with approaching obstacles. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider.

When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committees have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each single-performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this Class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous, positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less.

Judges must walk the course prior to the start of the class and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable, or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws for that class.

The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.

It is up to show management if the competition trail course will be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Pick your own path patterns are acceptable.

Once competition for the specific class/division begins, no extra verbal instructions will be given to exhibitors by the judge or show management. All runs begin upon entering the working area. A Judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns.

A – Prohibited Obstacles

Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner. Only live or stuffed animals which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting and which are not used in an attempt to “spook” a horse may be used.

B – Mandatory Obstacles and/or Maneuvers

1 – Ride over obstacles on the ground – usually logs or poles. Walk, trot, or lope may be used, but only one gait is required.

- a.** Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 26-30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
- b.** Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36 to 42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.
- c.** Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

2 – Opening, passing through, and closing gate: Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing. *optional for walk trot divisions.

3 – Ride over bridge: Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long

4 – Backing obstacles: Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30- inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches.

5 – Side pass obstacle: Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches.

6 – Rope drag: For Open, Limited Open, Amateur, Limited Amateur, and Junior Horse Classes ONLY. A rope drag is not to be used in Novice, Youth, or Walk Trot Classes. Drag may be a complete circle or figure eight depending on what the pattern calls for. Distances may be adjusted for Junior horses without penalty, if so desired. The exhibitor must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag.

C – Optional obstacles

Members may suggest new obstacles provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:

1 – A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 14” high or more than 24” high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle.*not for walk trot divisions

2 – Carry object from one part of the arena to another.

3 – Remove and replace materials from mailbox.

4 – Trot through cones spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart.

5 – Cross natural ditches or ride up embankments.

6 – Swing rope or throw rope at dummy steer head. *not for walk trot divisions

7 – Step in and out of obstacle.

8 – Put on slicker or coat.

9 – Stand to mount with mounting block. *not for walk trot divisions

10 – Walk through water obstacle.

11 – Open gate on foot. *not for walk trot divisions

12 – Pick up feet.

13 – Walk through brush.

14 – Ground tie *not for walk trot divisions

15 – Lead at the trot.

16 – Ground-tying

- a. When ground-tying with split reins, one or both reins may be dropped. For romal reins without a get down rope, one rein should be detached from the bit and loosely draped over the horse's neck or saddle horn. For romal reins with a get down rope, both reins should remain attached to the bit, with the get down rope dropped to the ground.

D – Penalties

1 Point Penalties:

- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, or any component of the obstacle
- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- Split pole in lope-over
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified
- One to two steps on dismount/remount or ground tie except shifting to balance
- Over-bridled (per maneuver);
- Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less.

3 Point Penalties:

- Wrong lead or out of lead more than 2 strides
- Draped reins
- Break of gait at lope except when correcting an incorrect lead
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- Three or four steps on dismount/remount or ground tie

- Trotting for more than 3 strides in lope departures or exiting a rollback
- Knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with 1 foot
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with 1 foot

5 Point Penalties:

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- Stepping out of, or falling off of an obstacle with more than 1 foot
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than 1 foot
- Dropping an object required to be carried
- 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal
- Letting go of gate
- Five or more steps in dismount/remount or ground tie

E – Off-Pattern (OP)

Cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly. Breaking pattern (Eliminates or adds maneuver); Repeated disobedience; Use of two hands in a curb bridle (except walk trot divisions); More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein); Failure to dally and remain dallied; Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete the gate;

F – Disqualification (DQ)

Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/ rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire; Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around

G – Walk Trot Specific Penalties

1 Point Penalties:

- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, or any component of the obstacle
- Incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot

- Skipping over or failing to step into required space
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified
- One to two steps on dismount/remount or ground tie except shifting to balance
- Over-bridled (per maneuver);
- Breaking to a lope for 2 strides or less.

3 Point Penalties:

- Breaking to a lope for more than 2 strides
- Draped reins
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
- Knocking down or over, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with 1 foot
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with 1 foot

5 Point Penalties:

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of either hand to instill fear/praise
- Stepping out of, or falling off of an obstacle with more than 1 foot
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with more than 1 foot
- Dropping an object required to be carried
- 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal
- Letting go of gate
- Five or more steps in dismount/remount or ground tie

1 – Off-Pattern (OP)

Cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly. Breaking pattern (Eliminates or adds maneuver); Repeated disobedience; Use of two hands in a curb bridle (except walk trot divisions); More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein); Failure to dally and remain dallied; Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete the gate;

2 – Disqualification (DQ)

Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Fall of horse/rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/ rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire; Obvious schooling for multiple maneuvers. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but can not receive points or credits for that class toward the all around

3206 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 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 are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

A – Each horse will work individually. 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 1/2.: -1 ½ extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Natural ranch horse appearance will also be evaluated ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½.

B – TNSHA, AQHA, and VRH approved patterns must be used.

C – The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

D – No time limit.

E – The use of natural logs is recommended.

F – Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

G – Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable and should not be penalized.

H – Penalties

The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

One (1) point

- 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
- Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- Wrong lead or out of lead for more than two strides
- Draped reins (per maneuver)
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- Trotting more than 3 strides when making a simple lead change
- Trotting for more than 3 strides in lope departures or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five (5) point

- Blatant disobedience (including, kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking) for each refusal

1 – Off Pattern (OP)

Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates or adds maneuver

- Incomplete maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Use of two hands (except horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)

2 – Zero (0) Score

- Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions
- Willful abuse
- 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.

K — Walk Trot Specific Penalties

The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

One (1) point

- Too slow (per gait)
- Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- Out of frame (per maneuver)
- Break of gait for 2 strides or less

Three (3) point

- Break of gait for more than 2 strides
- Draped reins (per maneuver)
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle

Five (5) point

- Blatant disobedience (including, kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking) for each refusal

1 – Off Pattern (OP)

Placed below horses performing all maneuvers

- Eliminates or adds maneuver
- Incomplete maneuver
- Repeated blatant disobedience
- Use of two hands (except horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two rein)

2 – Zero (0) Score

- Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions
- Willful abuse
- 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 scores

3300 Special Event Classes

The following classes are considered special event classes and will not count toward TNSHA All-Around high point awards. Show management may choose to offer all, some, or none of these classes. Additional special event classes may be offered. Rules and regulations for those classes will be released with other show information.

3301 Ranch Cutting

This class is judged on the ability of the horse to work a cow by separating it from the herd and holding it to demonstrate the horse's ability to work the cow. A single cow is cut from the herd and the horse must demonstrate its ability to work the cow. The ideal ranch cutting horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Objective will be to cut two cows from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders, or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, he or she may use the horse that they are competing on, or use a different horse. Herd holders' and turn back riders' horses must be TNSHA members.

A – In all divisions, there will be a two minute time limit. The announcer/timekeeper will give a warning when one minute of the two minute working time has expired. Each exhibitor must work two head and has the option of ending their run before the two minute limit or working the full two minutes. For international countries, show management has the option of allowing exhibitors to work the two head or there may be a one and one half time limit and work only one head.

B – Time will begin when a rider crosses a timeline just prior to entering the herd. Time should not start until the contestant crosses a pre-determined and marked timeline. The rider will then quietly separate his/her cow from the herd.

C – Unnecessary roughness or disturbing the herd excessively could result in disqualification.

D – Ultimate credit will be given to horses demonstrating excellence in the herd work by committing to, driving, setting up and working a cow in the center of the arena with minimal disturbance to the herd.

E – Exhibitors will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should display natural ability.

F – Scoring. 100 percent will be judged by the horse's performance and natural ability.

G – Penalties

One (1) point

- over-bridled (per maneuver)
- out of frame (per maneuver)
- losing working advantage
- toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder
- working out of position

Three (3) point

- cattle picked up or scattered
- spurring on shoulder
- pawing or biting cattle
- back fence
- hot quit

Five (5) point

- horse quitting cow
- losing cow
- changing cattle after a specific commitment
- failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd
- blatant disobedience

1 – Off Pattern (OP)

- turn tail
- failure to cut two cows
- repeated blatant disobedience
- use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/ hackamore)
- more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein)

2 – Disqualification (DQ)

- Lameness
- Abuse
- disrespect or misconduct
- illegal equipment
- excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena
- leaving arena before run is complete
- fall of horse/rider
- improper western attire

3302 Ranch Roping

Exhibitors are permitted to hold romals and tail in one hand while holding the horn with the other hand. If the exhibitor chooses to show this way they must enter the arena with reins in one hand and are not allowed to touch the reins with off hand at any time during the class. If the exhibitor comes in with both hands on the romals, they are required to maintain the same rein hold, the way they entered the pen. Exhibitors may show in romal, split or one-piece roping/closed reins. No tie-downs or martingales etc. may be used in this class.

A – The intent of this class is to show the ability of the horse and rider skill of handling cattle as if they were doctoring injured or sick cattle. Cattle should be handled as calmly and slowly as possible, with the intention of remaining at the walk or trot. The judge should judge this class as if the cattle belonged to him or her. Exhibitors do not have to separate their cow from the herd and should not receive credit for separation from the herd. When a cow is separated from the herd there should be no excessive running or cutting of the cow.

B – This is a judged event with a 90 second time limit. 70 denotes an average score. The rope must be thrown and the contestant may throw only two loops. Any attempt by an exhibitor to trap, snare, or collar cow by holding onto the loop will be cause for disqualification. A second rope may be used, but the total number of loops thrown may not exceed two (2). If a second loop is used it must be recoiled. **The honda on the rope used must be of a factory plastic breakaway design.**

C – Horse and rider must start from behind a starting line which will be located 1/3 of the arena length away from where ten (10) calves are held as a herd with each bearing a number 0 - 9. A random draw will be used to select the calf to be roped, and will be announced to the contestant when the horse crosses the starting line.

D – Each contestant may have the option of using one (1) herd holder. The herd holder may cross the starting line. The sole duty of the herd holder is to assist in holding the cattle at the working end of the arena.

E – The contestant must make a legal catch of the designated calf and dally up. A legal head catch is a loop that goes completely over the calf's head and honda can be broken by any part of the calf's body, but must go over the calf's head first. When the calf breaks free from honda, the judge will signal the end of the run, via one whistle.

F – After catching, it is desired for the horse to remain facing the cow until the honda breaks. Turning away from the cow to make the honda break quicker will receive a 5 point penalty.

G – Credits

- Quietness in the herd
- Handling the cattle
- Position of the horse when cattle are roped
- Quality of loop

H – Penalties

One (1) Point

- Working out of position
- Loss of working advantage
- Holding cut too long without roping

Three (3) Point

- Picking up cattle in herd
- Breaking the honda without a dally

Five (5) Point

- 2 loop run (second loop).
- Loss of cow (re-cut in the herd)
- Excessive running/scattering of herd
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing or striking
- Horse turns tail
- Chasing cattle

I – Disqualification (DQ)

- Running into or over cattle
- Schooling.
- Whipping or hitting a horse with the rope.
- Half of herd crossing starting line
- Thrown from horse
- Fall to ground horse and/or rider
- Loss of rope
- Failure to make a legal head catch
- Roping the wrong cow/number or multiple cows

3303 Ranch Conformation

The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve the ranch horse type selecting well-mannered individuals that possess the following characteristics: the horse should possess eye appeal that is the result of a harmonious blending of an attractive head; refined throat latch; well-proportioned, trim neck; long, sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup; and well-defined and muscular stifle, gaskin, forearm and chest. These characteristics should be coupled with straight and structurally correct legs and feet that are free of blemishes. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout. The ideal ranch conformation horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail. Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

A – To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least two riding classes in that division at the same show.

B – Horses in each division will be shown as one class.

1 – Stallions, mares and geldings will compete together within each division.

(e.g) All of the exhibitors entered in the Novice Amateur division will be in a class together, all of the exhibitors in the Open will compete together.

C – No stallions will be allowed in the Novice or Youth divisions.

D – All stallions shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles.

E – All stallions and mares shall be examined for parrot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse has parrot mouth or is cryptorchid, such horse should be excused from the ring prior to final placing by the judge.

F – Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses may not be shown with a lip cord or safety lead; however, a chain may be used under the chin or over the nose. It is recommended but not required for exhibitors to remove their spurs.

G – As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

H – Exhibitors may enter more than one horse in ranch conformation classes. The additional horse(s) may be shown by any other TNSHA member that meets that division's eligibility requirements.

3400 Lameness And Movement

Judges are expected to consistently evaluate the lameness and overall condition of all horses exhibited. At the judge's discretion, a horse may be penalized or removed from an arena if it appears sullen, dull, lethargic, underweight, or overly tired. This includes assessment of horses used as mounts for cattle turnback. Exhibitors may be dismissed from the grounds or competition should horse welfare become a concern.

3500 Cattle Welfare

Judges should whistle to should cease a rider from working any cattle displaying a bloody nose, lameness in gait, or laying down for an extended length of time. Specific guidelines for each class, including proper cattle care and handling, are outlined. Judges have the discretion to penalize or disqualify contestants when necessary regarding proper cattle welfare, and are advised to uphold the highest standard of appropriate stockmanship.

3600 Equipment And Attire

Horses shall be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over good clean, working equipment. Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, two-rein, or curb bit. Judges may perform a bit inspection and disqualify violators at any time. It is recommended to show in a back cinch and breast collar. The judge, steward or show management may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage. An example of prohibited equipment giving an unfair advantage includes use of an electronic device or earbud, a magnetic device, etc. Any question on equipment that is not disclosed in TNSHA Rulebook, refer first to AQHA Equipment rule SHW300 and if not addressed in previous rules then refer to NRCHA Equipment rules 5.1 to 5.7.

Attire: Riders shall wear protective headgear or western hats, long-sleeved shirts with a collar and western boots. Western boots shall include typical cowboy boots and lace-up ropers. All other footwear is prohibited. The use of spurs and chaps or chinks shall be optional. Clothing should fit appropriately.

The TNSHA Board will evaluate individual requests from challenged riders with documented handicaps regarding the use of aids when exhibiting upon request and with timely notice. Use of illegal equipment is prohibited anywhere on the event grounds. Hobbles may be carried and used as appropriate.

A – When exhibitor equipment failure causes a delay or a run to be discontinued, the judge will disqualify the entry.

1 – Reruns will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure.

B – In any approved class, the judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his opinion, would tend to give a horse an unfair advantage or which he believes to be inhumane.

C – The use of earplugs or cotton in the horse's ears is acceptable.

D – All inhumane/prohibited equipment listed is illegal for use at any time on the grounds at an TNSHA-approved event

E – Any question on equipment that is not disclosed in TNSHA Rulebook, refer first to AQHA Equipment rule SHW300 and if not addressed in previous rules then refer to NRCHA Equipment rules 5.1 to 5.7.

F – Any horse found to have blood present on the mouth or anywhere else on its body may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

G – A judge may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed to be inhumane.

3601 Legal Equipment

A – Hackamore

If the horse is shown in a hackamore, the bosal must be made of braided rawhide or braided leather and will be a maximum of 3/4 inch at the cheek. There must be a minimum of two finger widths, approximately 1 1/2 inch, between the bosal and the nose. Absolutely no metal under the jaw or on the noseband in connection with the bosal is allowed.

1 – It is legal for any horse of any age and any rider in any division to ride in a hackamore

B – Snaffle Bit

If the horse is shown in a snaffle bit, it shall be "D" or "O" ring type, no larger than 4 inches and no smaller than 2 inches in diameter on the inside of the ring. There shall be no prong(s) or protruding metal on the inside of the cheek piece of the bit. It must have a broken, two or three-piece mouthpiece, a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch from the inside of the ring, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped and made of smooth, unwrapped metal. No twisted-wire mouthpieces may be used. A leather or fabric woven chinstrap may be used. No iron, chain or other metal may be used. Horses ridden in a snaffle must use either split reins or mecate reins.

1 – It is legal for any horse of any age and any rider in any division to ride in a snaffle bit.

C – Curb Bit

Bit means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. The description of a legal, standard western bit includes: 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured from top of the purchase to the bottom of the shank. 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" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. 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" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable; a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" (10 mm) diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks; the port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard; a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin.

D – Two Rein

The bosalita piece of the two-rein rig is not considered a noseband or bosal. Hackamore must be made of rawhide and have no metal parts. If the horse is shown in the two-rein or bridle/ curb bit, the mouthpiece must be at least 5/16 inch and not more than 3/4 inch in diameter measured 1 inch from the cheek and must be smooth (no chain bits). Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as extensions or prongs including upward prongs. Romal reins shall be used with bridle/curb bits. Curb straps are required and may be leather or flat chain, must be at least 1/2 inch in width, and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Horses shown in the bridle/curb bit must be exhibited one-handed. Any number of fingers are allowed between the romal and hackamore reins, but the use of two hands will result in an Off Pattern.

1 – It is legal for any horse of any age and any rider in any division to ride in a Two Rein, but it is recommended for use as a transitional bridle from hackamore to curb.

E – Rein Holds

Except when riding in a hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins, however, the index finger only is permitted between split reins.

Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands and a OP (off-pattern penalty) will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern.

In all other classes, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein. In all classes, excess rein(s) may be straightened or disentangled anytime during the class, provided the rider's free hand used to straighten or disentangle remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to rein hand is to be considered use of two hands and an OP (off-pattern penalty) will be applied.

1 – It is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle in ranch trail and ranch riding.

2 – When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time.

3 – Violation of this rule will result in an automatic OP (off-pattern penalty).

a – An example of violation for this rule would be riding with two hands on the reins in a curb bit.

3602 Optional Equipment

- Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.
- Hobbles attached to the saddle.
- Get-down rope
- Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages in any class

3603 Prohibited Equipment

Some equipment is prohibited to protect the welfare of the horse or the traditions of ranching. The use of prohibited equipment in a class will result in an immediate DQ (Disqualification).

- Hoof polish, or hoof black
- Braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions
- Slip or gag bits
- Caveson (legal for use in training/schooling only)
- Martingale (legal for use in training/schooling only)
- Draw reins (legal for use in training/schooling only)
- Tie-Down / Bonnets
- Mechanical hackamore
- Donut and flat polo mouthpieces
- Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets
- Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch.
- Twisted wire mouthpieces, any non-smooth mouthpiece.
- Tack collars
- Belly bands
- War bridle
- Fenders or stirrups may not be connected by string or any other material.
- Riders may not be attached to the saddle by velcro, rope, or any other material.
- Saw tooth bits
- Hock hobbles
- Tack curb straps or tack hackamores
- Whips
- Riding in a curb bit without a curb strap
- Wire cavesson
- Wire or cable tie-downs
- Metal bosals (no matter how padded)
- Chambons
- Headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded)
- Twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head
- Jerk lines

A – Cavesons used for training/schooling must be constructed of leather, rawhide or fabric material. No wire/metal caveson is allowed on the grounds at a TNSHA approved event.

B – Martingales used for training/schooling used with a curb bit must have rein stops.

C – Draw reins used for training/schooling cannot be attached between the horses legs or below the horse's elbow.

D – Trimming inside ears is discouraged but not illegal.

E – Trimming bridle path, fetlocks and/or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.

F – Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

G – It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

3700 CONDUCT AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY Environment Policy

At the Tennessee Stock Horse Association (TNSHA), we are committed to fostering a welcoming atmosphere for all participants, families, and spectators. As a community-oriented organization, we hold ourselves to high standards of conduct, ensuring that every event is enjoyable, respectful, and safe for everyone.

Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the event or membership suspension. We thank you for your cooperation in creating a positive, family-friendly environment that reflects the core values of TNSHA.

All members, competitors, and attendees are expected to:

A – Treat Others with Respect: Show courtesy and respect to fellow participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators. Bullying, harassment, or any form of discrimination will not be tolerated.

B – Use Appropriate Language and Behavior: Maintain a family-friendly demeanor at all times. Refrain from using profane language, engaging in inappropriate discussions, or displaying behavior unsuitable for a family environment.

C – Promote Sportsmanship: Demonstrate good sportsmanship in and out of the arena. Celebrate the success of others and uphold the integrity of our sport.

D – Follow Event Rules: Abide by all TNSHA rules, as well as any policies and procedures specific to the venues where our events are held.

E – Ensure Safety and Responsibility: Supervise children and minors appropriately, and take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all attendees, including animals.

Glossary of Terms

Amateur

A competitor who meets the eligibility requirements for the Amateur Division as outlined by TNSHA. Amateurs cannot receive remuneration for training, showing, or instructing horses and must adhere to specific guidelines to maintain their amateur status.

Back Number

A number assigned to each exhibitor for identification during competition.

Class

A specific event within a show in which exhibitors compete. Common classes in TNSHA competitions include:

- **Ranch Riding**
- **Ranch Trail**
- **Ranch Reining**
- **Ranch Cutting**
- **Working Cow Horse**
- **Conformation**

Colt

A male horse under four years of age that has not been gelded.

Disqualification (DQ)

The removal of a competitor from a class or event due to rule violations, unsportsmanlike conduct, or failure to meet eligibility or equipment requirements.

Division

Categories that group exhibitors based on their skill level, age, or other qualifications:

- **Youth: Riders 18 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current competition year.**
- **Novice: Riders with limited experience in competition. Eligibility is based on points or winnings.**
- **Amateur: Riders who qualify under TNSHA amateur guidelines and do not receive payment for training or teaching.**

- **Open:** A division open to all exhibitors, regardless of age or experience. Often includes professional riders.

Exhibitor

The individual riding or showing the horse in a class.

Extension of Gait

An increase in the length of a horse's stride while maintaining the same gait, such as an extended trot or extended lope.

Judge

An individual certified by TNSHA or a recognized affiliate to evaluate and score classes based on TNSHA rules and standards.

Lead Change

A maneuver where the horse changes the leading front and hind legs during the lope.

- **Simple Lead Change:** Transitioning down to a lower gait before switching leads.
- **Flying Lead Change:** Changing leads without breaking gait.

Novice

A division for less-experienced riders who meet the eligibility criteria based on previous competition experience and points earned.

Open

A division open to all exhibitors, including professionals, amateurs, and youth.

Pattern Class

A class in which exhibitors perform a specific series of maneuvers in a set pattern, such as Ranch Riding or Reining.

Penalty Points

Points deducted from a competitor's score for mistakes or rule infractions, such as knocking over an obstacle or incorrect lead.

Points

Credits awarded based on class placement. Points accumulate toward year-end awards, championships, or eligibility for higher-level competitions.

Ranch Riding

A class that evaluates the horse's ability to perform various gaits and maneuvers in a pattern, demonstrating versatility and smoothness.

Ranch Trail

A class that tests the horse's ability to navigate obstacles typically encountered on a ranch, such as gates, bridges, and ground poles.

Reins

Straps attached to the bit, used by the rider to direct the horse.

Run-In Pattern

A reining maneuver where the horse enters the arena at a controlled gallop and transitions into the pattern without stopping.

Show Office

The administrative center at a TNSHA event where exhibitors register, submit entry forms, and receive information.

Soundness

A horse's physical condition indicating it is free from injury, lameness, or illness that would prevent safe competition.

Spur

A metal tool worn on the rider's boot heel, used to aid in communication with the horse. Spurs must meet TNSHA-approved guidelines.

Tack

The equipment used on a horse during riding or competition. Common tack includes:

- **Saddle:** A seat for the rider. Ranch-style saddles are typically used.
- **Bridle:** The headgear used to control the horse, consisting of a bit, reins, and headstall.
- **Saddle Pad:** A cushioned pad placed between the horse and the saddle for comfort and protection.
- **Breast Collar:** A strap that helps keep the saddle in place.

Transition

A change in gait or speed, such as moving from a walk to a trot or from a lope to a stop.

Turnout

The presentation of the horse and rider, including cleanliness, grooming, and appropriate tack and attire.

Walk, Trot, Lope

The primary gaits evaluated in TNSHA competitions:

- **Walk:** A slow, four-beat gait.
- **Trot:** A two-beat gait where diagonal pairs of legs move together.
- **Lope:** A three-beat gait, similar to a canter.

Working Cow Horse

A class that evaluates a horse's ability to control and work with cattle, demonstrating agility, speed, and cow sense.

Youth

A competitor 18 years of age or younger as of January 1 of the current competition year.