



2025 NIHSA SHOW RULES



1. Contestant's age is as of January 1.
2. Each exhibitor is required to have his/her own exhibitor's number. If someone is found to be using the number of another exhibitor or enters the arena with no exhibitor's number, they will be disqualified. Each exhibitor must have an exhibitor's number fastened to the exhibitor or saddle pad while showing, if not they will be disqualified from the class.
3. A stallion with an age of yearling or older must be shown by an exhibitor that is 18 years of age or older.
4. There will be NO REFUND of entry fees for any reason as long as the show continues, or the class is held. **If the class or show is canceled, refunds will be given.**
5. The same pony/rider combination may be used in one or all the following classes:
 - a. Leadline – Rider 8 & under
 - b. Pony Walk-Trot – Ponies 48" & Under – Rider 8 & Under
 - c. Youth Pony Pleasure – Ponies 48" & Under – Rider 10 & Under
 - d. Walk- Trot – Rider 12 & Under
 - e. Pony Walk Trot – Ponies over 48" & under 14.1 – Rider 14 & under
6. If a child participates in Leadline, they are **NOT** eligible to participate in any other youth pleasure class, with the exception of Youth Pony Pleasure.

MEASURING PONIES

7. All ponies under 14.1 hands must be measured at least two classes before their class and at least one-half hour before they enter the arena, or they are disqualified for the show.

BIT RULES

8. NIHSA will use the same rules for bits as AQHA. Anyone found using an illegal bit will be disqualified.

NOVICE CLASSES

9. A person that shows in Novice Walk Showmanship, Novice Walk Trot Horsemanship, Novice Walk –Trot or Novice Western Pleasure is **NOT** eligible to exhibit in any other showmanship/horsemanship/walk-trot/western pleasure classes, with the exception of youth pony pleasure.

PLEASURE CLASSES

10. The judge will be required to check the bit and hand placement on each horse that enters the arena for the 2- & 3-Year-Old Snaffle/Bit Bosal class. The judge has the option to check any other horse that they feel is using an unsafe bit.
11. A horse that competes in Ranch Horse Pleasure or Ranch Walk Trot class cannot compete in any other western pleasure class or Walk Trot class.

GAME CLASSES

12. NO slip-on spurs are allowed in the arena during the game classes. The strap-on spurs will be allowed. If someone enters the arena with slip-on spurs on, or in their pocket they will be disqualified. Everyone will be checked at the gate entering the arena.
13. If an exhibitor is riding two horses in the same game class; the horse that runs first will be considered the point horse. The exhibitor must designate on the entry card which horse they wish to have as their point horse.
14. Any participant in Miscellaneous Kid's class that is assisted in the running pattern will place below those that participated on their own.
15. No ponying of horses during any NIHSA scheduled break in the arena.
16. Dress Code Policy for game classes: Boots, jeans, sleeved shirts unaltered and the shirt must be tucked in when entering the arena.
17. If a check is given to a club that is returned for insufficient funds, the party that wrote the check has two weeks to cover the check. If after that time, there will be no year-end awards given to that family. A copy of the check will be posted at each show and the name printed in the newsletter as a violation of a specific NIHSA rule until the matter is resolved.

Good Luck and Enjoy your Day at the NIHSA Show!