



Lavaca Reined Cow Horse Association (LRCHA) 2026 Rule Book

Adopted: 2025 • Affiliate of the NRCHA

LRCHA Rule Book

1. Mission & Purpose

The Lavaca Reined Cow Horse Association (LRCHA) promotes excellence in the Reined Cow Horse discipline through fair competition, education, and sportsmanship.

This Rule Book governs all LRCHA-produced events and any affiliate shows operated under LRCHA authority.

2. Governance & Authority

LRCHA adopts and follows National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) competition rules.

In any rule conflict, the NRCHA rule shall prevail for cow horse classes. Local LRCHA rules clarify entry, eligibility, class structure, and show operations.

3. Membership & Eligibility

Membership is mandatory for Exhibitors to compete. Owner(s) of the horse competing must also be members in good standing.

Horses must comply with identification and eligibility requirements. Age of horse and rider divisions are determined by NRCHA standards as of January 1st of the show year.

4. Divisions & Class Descriptions

Open/Bridle class

Open to any rider. This class is a fence and circle class. Designed for horses that are showing in a bridle (one hand, horse is in a bridle bit). For LRCHA ONLY horses may be shown in a correction bit with a leather chin strap. NO chain, prong, tie down, martingales, or nose bands of any kind may be used

Limited Open/Box Drive Box class

Open to any rider who has not won more than \$2,500.00 in any cow horse event. Has not gone down the fence and circled in any cow horse event. This is a Box Drive Box class. Any headstall is permitted, Snaffle, Hackamore, and or Bridle. NO chain, prong, tie down, martingales, or nose bands of any kind may be used

Non-Pro/ Bridle and Box class

Open to non professional riders who does not receive remuneration for horse training and/or showing and meets the Non-Pro requirements as defined by NRCHA. The bridle class is a fence and circle class. Designed for horses that are showing in a bridle (one hand, horse is in a bridle bit). For LRCHA ONLY horses may be shown in a correction bit with a leather chin strap. Box class, rider is to boxing at one end of the arena for 50 seconds. Any headstall is permitted, Snaffle, Hackamore, and or Bridle. NO chain, prong, tie down, martingales, or nose bands of any kind may be used

Limited Non Pro/Boxing class

Open to any non professional rider who does not receive remuneration for horse training and/or showing and meets the Non-Pro requirements as defined by NRCHA. Can not have won over \$1,500.00 in any cow horse event. Limited Non Pro is a boxing class only.

Youth/ Cow Horse/Boxing class

Youth riders as defined by age for the show year; 18 and under as of January 1st of current year. Protective headgear strongly encouraged. Youth cow horse is a fence and circle class. Youth box is a boxing only class.

Green Horse/Box Drive Box class

For horses of any age in their first year of showing. Only good for one year. Can not have won over \$500 in any discipline. Green Horse is a Box Drive Box class.

Green Rider/ Boxing class

For any non professional rider that is new to showing and in their first year of showing. Only good for one year. This is a boxing only class. You must hold your cow at one end of the arena for 50 seconds.

5. Classes

5.3 NRCHA Cow Horse (Herd, Rein, Fence/Box-Drive-Box/Boxing)

- **Cow Work:** control of a single cow demonstrating courage, rate, and cow sense.

Fence classes require turns on the fence and circle both directions.

Box Drive Box class requires boxing at one end of the arena, drive and rate down the fence, box at the other end of the arena, drive and rate back down the same side. Time allotted 1 minute 45 seconds

Boxing classes (non-fence) hold cow at one end of the arena by driving and stopping for 50 seconds.

- **Herd Work:** quiet, efficient cow selection and controlled work with minimal disturbance. Cut 3 cows 2 minute 30 seconds.
- **Rein Work:** per NRCHA patterns; same scoring standard as reining.

6. Scoring & Penalties

LRCHA uses official NRCHA scoring and penalty structures. Each maneuver is scored from a base of 70 with maneuver credits/debits and applicable penalties.

Zero/No-Score and disqualification criteria follow NRCHA.

Ties will be broken per class specifications (work-off, coin toss, or high fence score, as posted on class sheet).

7. Show Sanctioning & Judging

LRCHA events are sanctioned with NRCHA. Judges must hold appropriate NRCHA card for the classes judged.

Show management will publish class lists, entry closing times, and ground rules prior to each event.

All complaints and protests must be submitted in writing to show management within the posted timeframe.

8. Exhibitor Handbook (Quick Guide)

- Arrive early for check-in; verify patterns and class times.
- Equipment check: humane bits/tack only; refer to NRCHA diagrams for legality.
- Arena etiquette: announce when entering/exiting; yield to working exhibitors.
- Safety first: helmets encouraged for all riders.
- Scoring sheets: available at the show office after class posting per policy.
- Sportsmanship: respectful conduct toward cattle, horses, humans, and officials is mandatory.

9. Code of Conduct & Animal Welfare

Humane treatment of horses and cattle is paramount. Abuse leads to immediate disqualification and potential suspension.

Unsportsmanlike behavior toward officials, staff, or exhibitors may result in penalties up to removal from the grounds.

10. Awards

Each show will have High Score All Around awards in each division. To be eligible for the All Around, same rider/horse team must compete in all 3 events, Herd Work, Rein/Cow. All NRCHA and LRCHA classes are money earning. Special sponsored awards may be presented when applicable. Checks are mailed within 14 days of the close of show. Checks will be in the horse owner's name unless a release of winnings form is signed.

11. Entries, Fees & Refunds

Entry deadlines and fees will be posted per event. Post entries may incur a fee. No refunds will be given after the class draw is posted.

After the entry deadline no cattle fees will be refunded. Credit Cards are required for every entry; your credit card will only be charged if you do not pay your fees upon arrival at the event.

LRCHA Rule Book

All entries MUST be paid or an open check may be put on file at time of arrival.

Stall and shavings must be pre paid at time of reservation. If unable to attend the event you will be refunded for the stall(s)/tack stall(s), shavings will only be refunded if we receive your cancellation by Thursday morning at 9:00am prior to event arrival.

12. Equipment & Attire

Western attire required unless otherwise stated: long-sleeve shirt, boots, hat/helmet, chaps per class norms.

During Herd Work those in the arena must be in proper dress; cowboy hat/helmet, jeans, boots, and long sleeve shirt.

Tack must be humane and legal per NRCHA. Equipment checks will be conducted at any time. Please refer to the NRHCA rule book for equipment reference. Bit checks will be required at the end of your run. The back gate ring steward will check all bits to make sure they are legal.

13. Protests & Appeals

Written protest must be filed with a fee of \$50 within the posted time from class results. Decisions by the show committee are final subject to NRCHA procedures.

14. Contact & Governance

LRCHA contacts and committee lists will be published annually on www.lavacacowhorse.com.

Official communications: lavacacowhorse@gmail.com.

Current Officers:

Show Manager: Carie Patrick- lavacowhorse@gmail.com

Show Secretary: Megan Perez- Perezmeg86@gmail.com

Show Announcer: Jeff Patrick- jeff.patrick0@gmail.com

LRCHA Rule Book

Show Ring Steward: Jackie Titus- jackie@vandykerankin.com

Show Arena Manager: Jay Finn- finnperfhorses@gmail.com

NRCHA Show Representative: Troy Koehl -

LRCHA Show Representative: Christina Reed

Social Media and Merchandise: Kaylynn Martin -kaylynnmartin146@gmail.com

Show Photographer: Alana Miles – alanamilesequineservices.com