

Northern Stock Horse Organization

By-Laws and Rule Book

2026 Edition

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Northern Stock Horse Organization

Established January 2014

Revision 2023

NSHO BYLAWS

Article I

Name

The association shall be called the “Northern Stock Horse Organization” (NSHO).

Article II

Purpose

NSHO is a nonprofit organization founded to provide opportunities for fun, safe, economical competition with a focus on membership growth.

Article III

Place of Business

Business may be carried out within Minnesota or Wisconsin with special consideration to being centrally located around the Twin Cities Metro Area (East Central Minnesota and West Central Wisconsin).

Article IV

Membership

Membership runs from January 1st through Dec 31st of each calendar year and can be obtained any one of four ways:

- I) Compete or own a horse entered in any class at any NSHO run show (does not include premiere events).
- II) Be elected as an NSHO officer (membership is automatic during term served).
- III) Volunteer at any NSHO run show in an assigned position by the Board of Directors.
- IV) Be an individual NSHO Booster by donating \$25 for the current calendar year.
 - a. Booster memberships are intended for persons who choose not to compete at NSHO events but who would like to support NSHO.
 - b. Booster memberships for companies/organizations/other groups (sponsorships) will be reviewed by the board of directors on a case by case basis.

Article V

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall meet twice a year and any other time deemed necessary. The Board of Directors shall have power and authority to make, amend, enforce, and repeal the rules and regulations of NSHO. Motions and proposals may be made by general membership but all governing decisions are made by Board of Director votes. This Board shall regulate the auditing of accounts, books, or records. They shall set up rulings of all NSHO activities and functions.

The Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) standing members including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two elected Board Members At Large.

The immediate past president may choose to occupy a seat on the board at the expiration of their presidency bringing the total number of board members to seven (7). The past president vote equals one-half (1/2) of a vote.

61% of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum to conduct business at a Board of Directors meeting.

Board meetings require a minimum of a 48 hour notification to all members of the Board of Directors.

If any vote of the Board ends in an unbreakable tie, the vote must be tabled until a later date where the motion can be made and voted upon again.

All Board of Director positions shall be elected by the general membership to a two season term . Elections to occur between seasons meaning sometime between the last show of one year and the first show the following year. The Vice President, Secretary, and one Member at large position to be elected to take over in the “odd years” and the President, Treasurer, and Member At Large to be elected to take over in the “even” years. Elections of said officers will occur every two years thereafter.

No office is to be held for more than two consecutive terms. Newly elected officers will take office prior to the first show of the coming season.

An elected member of the Board may be removed upon unanimous vote of remaining board members for cause or resignation. Replacement of the member will be determined by the Board.

Officers and Board Members must be 18 years of age or older.

NSHO shall operate on the fiscal year of January 1st through December 31st.

Article VI

Duties of Officers on the Board of Directors

The affairs of this organization are to be managed by its elected Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT- The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and shall perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

VICE-PRESIDENT- The Vice-President shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties and shall officiate in the absence of the President.

SECRETARY- The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to maintain all files concerning NSHO including meeting minutes and competition results.

TREASURER- The Treasurer will collect and disburse the funds of the organization. This office shall be responsible for the money and shall give written financial reports at each meeting. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate and legible bookkeeping system. The Treasurer is authorized to disburse funds under the direction of the Board of Directors.

In the event that the Treasurer is unable to exercise this responsibility, the President will be authorized to do so.

Article VII

Meetings

Section 1 – NSHO will meet for the annual membership meeting after the conclusion of the last show of the preceding season and the first show of the following season at a place designated by Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Board meetings will be held twice annually, more if needed. Any person may request to attend a Board meeting or be invited.

Section 3 – The President or acting President shall conduct business and maintain order at all General and Special meetings as follows:

- A – Call to Order and Officer Roll Call
- B – Reading of Minutes
- C – Reports (Secretary and Treasurer)
- D – Unfinished Business
- E – New Business
- F – Adjournment

Article VIII

Audits

There shall be an annual audit to the financial status of this organization made during the first quarter of each year by at least two members appointed by the Board and assisted by the Treasurer unless the use of an accounting or professional finance firm is hired.

Article IX

Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by anyone in the general membership to the Board of Directors. Amendments will be voted and acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Article X

Dissolution

At dissolution of the Northern Stock Horse Organization, all bills are to be paid by the Board of Directors. The board will then donate any funds remaining to any regional equestrian organization as determined by a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors with special consideration for associations promoting youth in stock horse type events.

NSHO RULEBOOK

NSHO Event Policies

- NSHO Code of Conduct
 - Persons at any NSHO event (participating, spectating, volunteering, or otherwise) will conduct themselves per the NSHO Code of Conduct. **Failure to act according to the code of conduct may result with your removal from the event.**
 - Be **Safe**
 - Be **Respectful**
 - Act with **Integrity**
 - Be **Honest**
 - Be **Helpful**
 - **Have Fun**
- Bio-Security
 - All horses must be checked in at the show office or with the hosting facility representative prior to unloading any stock.
 - Every horse on the show grounds requires proof of a negative Coggins test result, at a minimum meeting the legal requirements of the state where the event is being held. A copy of the coggins test result is required to be supplied to NSHO regardless of any boarding/training agreements already in place with the host facility.
 - Additional bio-security measures may be required as defined by NSHO or the facility hosting the event.
 - **Failure to comply with any of the bio-security or documentation requirements is grounds for dismissal from the event.**
- NSHO Event Operations
 - Register or scratch classes early as possible to help maintain the smooth operation of the show.
 - Scratching or adding entries to classes late is grounds for a financial penalty of \$10 per instance.

- A class scratch is considered 'late' if the class number two prior to the class being scratched has already started. Example, if a person wants to scratch class number 12 and class 10 has already started, the late scratch penalty applies.
 - A class addition is considered 'late' if the class immediately before the addition has already started. Example, if a person wants to enter class number 12 and class 11 has already started, the late add penalty applies.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Music Policy
 - It is allowable and preferred to have music in the show arena at a reasonable volume provided the music is not vulgar or profane.
- Identification / Social Media / Internet Policy
 - Attendees at any NSHO event (owners, competitors, or spectators) may have their photo taken intentionally or otherwise which may be used on the website, Face Book group page, or on a flier by a member of the NSHO Board of Directors. Any concerns should be addressed in writing to the BOD and each case will be evaluated individually.
 - NSHO is not liable in any way for non-board of director persons who may make public any image of anyone present at any NSHO event.
 - Competitor's names and horse names will be made public by the posting of results.
 - NSHO will not sell or provide any private information to any other organization or person(s) for profit or otherwise unless summoned by a legal request.
- NSHO Animal Welfare Policy
 - At no time will abuse of any animal (equine, bovine, or canine or other) be tolerated at any NSHO sponsored event. Complaints regarding animal welfare are to be made in writing to the Board of Directors and each case will be evaluated individually. Any person(s) found to be in violation of the NSHO Animal Welfare Policy may be removed from the event and consideration for permanent removal from any future NSHO events.

- Any equine as identified by the judge as lame or injured will be excused from the class and the event.
- Drug Policy
 - No drug listed in Class I or II of ARCI's Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances, Revised Edition, February 14, 1995 is ever allowed under any circumstance. These drugs are primarily hard narcotics and have no therapeutic use in the horse.
 - Other drugs and medications used for therapeutic purposes may be given under a very stringent set of conditions. Part of those conditions are the filing of a medication report and the horse being withdrawn or kept out of competition for a minimum of 24 hours. The administration of a conditionally permitted therapeutic medication for the purpose of transport, grooming, training, etc., is not therapeutic under this authorization rule.
- Safety
 - At no time is anyone under the age of 18 years old allowed to handle, show, or be in control of a stud of any age at any NSHO events.

Placings and Point System of NSHO

NSHO Point System:

Every NSHO Member as a contestant will receive at least one point for participating in a class. The judge will be required to place the top six (6) horses in each class regardless of the number of entries.

The following point system is used to determine how many points will be awarded by placing: the number of horses in the class will determine the amount of points earned by the placed horses, with all other horses in the class receiving one point. Exception: any class over 15 entries will be capped out at 15 maximum points earned per class.

Example 1:

In a class of thirty horses, the first place horse will receive 15 points; second place will receive 14 points, and so on until the sixth place horse receives 10 points. The remaining twenty-four horses will receive one point.

Example 2:

In a class of four horses, the first place horse will receive 4 points, second place will receive 3 points, third place will receive 2 points, and the fourth place horse will receive 1 point.

NSHO Awards

NSHO Award Eligibility Requirements:

- To be eligible the horse/rider combination in the **Non-Pro**, **Novice**, and **Youth** divisions and the horse (regardless of competitor) for the **Open** division, must have competed in excess of 61% of all NSHO run events for the applicable show season.

Divisional High Point Awards:

Upon completion of the show season, NSHO will award year end High Point and Reserve High Point awards for the following divisions, based on NSHO point totals for the horse/rider combination (no horse or rider substitutions allowed):

- Non-Pro
- Novice
- Youth

A High Point and Reserve High Point award will be awarded to the top two point earning horses in the open division regardless of the competitor(s).

Event Honor Roll Awards:

Each year, in each division, an Honor Roll list will be generated to recognize highest NSHO point earning horse/rider combination for each event in the **Non-Pro**, **Novice**, and **Youth** divisions.

The Event Honor Roll for the **Open** division will be awarded to the horse regardless of the competitor(s).

NSHO Core Classes

- Trail
- Reining
- Ranch Roping
- Boxing
- Ranch Riding
- Ranch Horse Pleasure
- Box Drive
- Ranch Cutting

NSHO Exhibition Classes (Do not apply for year end points)

- Walk Trot
- Cattle Driving

Divisions

- Open
- Non-Pro
- Novice
- Youth

Open Division

Eligible: Open for any competitors.

Awards:

- No individual show High Point awards are to be given in this division.
- Year-end high point and Event Honor Roll Awards are awarded to the horse (owner) only.

Non-Pro

Eligible: Has not shown, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration, monetary or otherwise.

Awards:

- All High Point and Event Honor Roll Awards are calculated on the horse/rider combination.

Novice

Eligible: Has not shown, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration, monetary or otherwise. Riders may ride in each class one or two handed using any legal bit. A person who is eligible for the novice division at the start of the year maintains that eligibility for that entire season. Eligibility for the novice division is as of the first date of each year that a competitor competes with NSHO.

If the rider has won the year end High Point award with NSHO (as of 2026) they are no longer eligible to ride in the Novice division.

Novice competitors are defined as having zero (0) breed association points in any non-timed, judged performance events.

The breed/national associations included in this rule are as follows:

- AQHA
- APHA
- ApHC
- PtHA
- AHA
- ARHA

Novice competitors must have zero (\$0) lifetime earnings in any of the following associations to be eligible to ride in the novice division.

- NRHA
- NRCHA
- NCHA

Awards:

- All High Point and Event Honor Roll Awards are calculated on the horse/rider combination.

Youth

Eligible: Must be 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. Riders may ride in each class one or two handed using any legal bit.

Awards:

- All High Point and Event Honor Roll Awards are calculated on the horse/rider combination.

Equipment

Western equipment is required for all classes including western stock saddle, cinch, and western headstall. Optional equipment includes rear cinch, breast collar, and protective equine boots.

Training equipment is not allowed in any division which includes any martingale, draw reins, mechanical hackamore, tie downs, etc. Use of this equipment is grounds for disqualification for that class.

Riders with disabilities which require the use of additional equipment (non-standard western equipment) need to notify the office of the equipment to be used. This may require review from the judge prior to competing to prevent an unintentional disqualification under the 'no training equipment' rule. Handicapped competitors and special needs riders are welcome to ride with NSHO.

Bits

Horses five (5) years of age and under (junior horses) may be ridden in a snaffle bit or a hackamore and are to be ridden two handed when using this equipment. (Horses five years and under also have the option to be shown one handed in a leverage bit. See the senior horse bit rules for descriptions).

- Snaffle bits are to have a maximum ring diameter of four (4) inches, with no wrapped metal (no twisted wires), and a minimum mouthpiece diameter of 5/16 of an inch when measured one (1) inch from the headstall at either end.
- A hackamore is a flexible, braided rawhide, leather, or rope bosal with a flexible core. A mecate rein must be used.
- All mechanical hackamores are prohibited.

Horses six (6) years of age and over (senior horses) are to be ridden one handed in a leverage bit with either split reins or a set of romels.

- Maximum shank length is 8.5 inches from center of headstall ring to center of rein ring.
- Ports may not exceed 1.5 inches.
- No bit feature may extend lower than the mouth piece.
- Curb straps may be leather or double link flat chain only and must be wider than 3/8 of an inch thick.
- An NRCHA two-rein setup is acceptable for use for a maximum of one show season expiring each year on December 31st.

Attire

Western attire is required including a long-sleeved collared shirt, long pants, heeled riding boots, and a western hat or equine approved helmet (no ball caps). Chaps, chinks, and spurs are optional.

NSHO Core Classes:

Trail

The trail class is judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles with emphasis on manner, attitude, and response to the rider. Credit is to be given to horses negotiating obstacles with style and demonstrating a willing response to the rider's cues.

Required obstacles include: bridge, trot over logs, and a backing obstacle.

The trail class must include three forward moving gaits (walk, trot, and lope).

Penalties:

3 Point Penalty:

- Each individual refusal at an obstacle

Score of Zero (0):

- Fall to ground of Horse or Rider
- Two (2) separate incomplete obstacles

Reining

Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse in the confines of a show arena. In reining competition, contestants are required to run a predetermined pattern. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

Scoring and penalties will be the same for Reining and Reined Cow Horse classes, scoring each maneuver with an average score equaling a 70.

Reining patterns will be posted no later than the morning of the show and will come from the **current year AQHA rule book for VRH and RHC ranch reining patterns .**

Penalties:

½ Point Penalties:

- Not changing leads simultaneously
- Jogging first two strides

1 Point Penalties

- Out of Lead
- Over or under spinning by ¼ turn
- Slipping rein in the bridle
- Out of lead each ¼ circle
- Scotching or anticipating stop
- Excessive whipping or spurring

2 Point Penalties

- Lead missed around end of arena past second corner
- Not ever changing leads in patterns where there is only ½ circle
- Failure to run by marker before stop is initiated
- Failure to go beyond markers
- Freezing up in turn
- Breaking gait
- Jogging beyond two strides
- On trot in patterns, failure to stop before executing a lope departure
- A stop in the first ¼ of the circle, after a lope departure, is a break of gait.

5 Point Penalties

- Spurring in front of the cinch
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, and striking or obviously insubordinate

-0- Score

- Failure to complete the pattern as given

- Two hands on the reins in a bridle or two rein class (excludes the Novice and Youth divisions)
- Fingers between the reins in a bridle class when using romels, except in the two rein class
- Horse balking
- Bloody mouth (inside)
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving the working area before pattern is complete
- Fall of horse or rider
- Backing more than 2 strides when no back up is called for in the pattern
- Jogging in excess of ½ circle or ½ the length of the arena
- Improper Western Attire

Ranch Roping

The idea of this class is to demonstrate the ability of the horse and rider's skill of roping a single cow as if they were doctoring injured or sick cattle. Cattle should be handled as calmly and slowly as possible. The judge should judge this class as if the cattle belonged to him or her. At no time should there be excessive running or disruption of the herd. Up to two loops (but no more than two) may be attempted within the 90 second time limit. The loop must go over the head of the intended cow, rope dallied, and honda split within 90 seconds to complete the class and receive a judged score. Credit is given for quietness, rope handling skills (including catch), and the ability of the horse to work in partnership with the rider to accomplish the roping task.

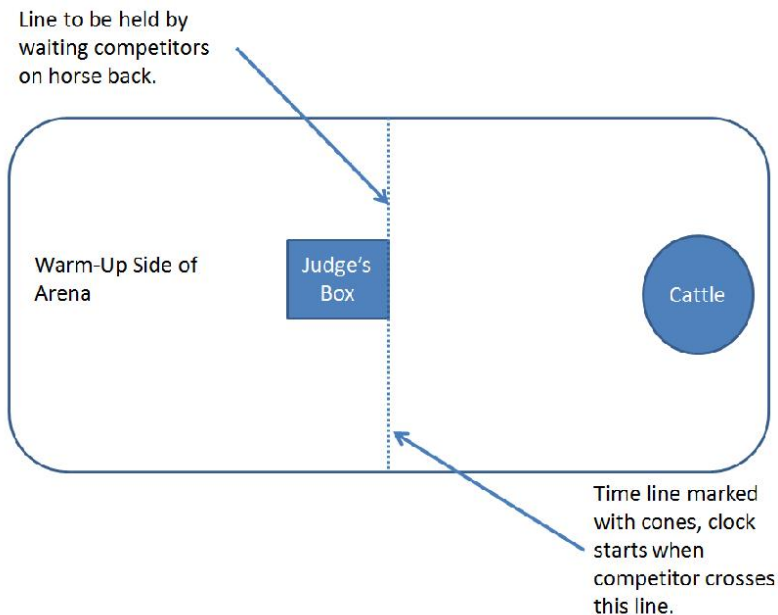
For the Open and Non-Pro Divisions only: If the second loop thrown by a competitor catches an animal determined by the judge not to be the original animal targeted for the first throw, the score will be zero for the run.

For the Novice and Youth divisions only: A competitor who misses an animal with their first loop may target a different animal with additional loops and receive a score if one of the additional loops makes a legal catch.

Requirements

- Event to be conducted utilizing half of a full arena per diagram.
- Minimum of 6 cows in the herd.
- 90 second time limit.

- One turn back rider to assist with herd holding during the run.



Penalties:

3 Point Penalty

- Excessive herd disturbance
- Missed Loop

Score of Zero (0)

- Fall to ground of horse or rider

Score of 60

- Failure to make a legal catch after two attempts
- Expiration of time without a legal catch

Ranch Rail Pleasure

The Ranch Rail Pleasure horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and represent that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horses shall not be shown on full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Horses will work at the rail as a full class, both ways of the arena, and at all three gates (except the walk/trot class which excludes the lope).

Minimum Class Requirements:

- Walk
- Trot
- Extended Trot (minimum one way of the arena including walk/trot class).
- Lope
- Back

Optional maneuvers to be dictated by the judge as necessary to separate horses may include but are not limited to:

- Side Passing
- Counter Cantering
- Two Tracking
- Turn on the hind quarters
- Turn on the front quarters

Box Drive

Part One - Box: At the start of the work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end. 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 fence.

Part Two - Drive: After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall set up and drive/rate the cow down the fence, opposite fence of the judges, to the opposite end of the arena. When coming out of the corner, the horse shall be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of arena. Upon reaching the opposite end of the arena, the rider will then stop the horse square or parallel to the fence, without making a fence turn, and release the cow.

Part Three – Box: Move horse toward center of the arena to set the cow up for boxing. Again, box the cow for sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end. 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 fence.

Part Four – Drive: After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall set up and drive/rate the cow down the fence, opposite fence of the judges, to the opposite end of the arena. When coming out of the corner, the horse shall be close enough to the cow to demonstrate control with the cow against the fence. This distance and control should be maintained past the center marker and continue until the judge signifies the completion of the run or time expires. The rider will then stop the horse square or parallel to the fence, without making a fence turn, and release the cow.

Each contestant is allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the four-part cow work pattern.

Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 seconds remaining and at one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time.

Judging ends when exhibitor drives the cow past the middle marker the second time, judge ends the run with a whistle/horn or the allotted time ends, whichever occurs first.

Penalties:

1 Point Penalties

- Loss of working advantage
- Working out of position
- Changing sides on the second drive/rate
- on the first drive, failure to drive past the middle marker

3 Point Penalties

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

5 Point Penalties

- Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at any time or excessively whipping or spurring the horse
- Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or obviously insubordinate
- Running the cow into the back fence with force

Score of zero (0)

- Turn tail
- Using 2 hands on the reins when using a bridle or two rein (except for Novice and Youth divisions)
- Balking
- Extremely out of control
- Bloody mouth
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving the work area before the pattern or work is complete
- Fall of horse or rider
- Schooling the horse between cows, if a new cow is awarded
- Abuse
- Lameness of the horse

- On the first drive down the fence, failure to drive the cow past the middle marker after two attempts

Boxing

Boxing consists of single cow work on the short end of the arena. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena shall hold that cow on the prescribed short end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded or a cattle score of zero (0) will be given.

Scoring and penalties will be the same as for Box Drive (as applicable).

Ranch Horse Riding

The Ranch Horse Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of the working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Competitors will complete the class individually.

Patterns for all divisions will come from the current year AQHA rulebook.

Each maneuver will be scored from -1.5 to +1.5 in ½ point increments. A score of 70 denotes an average performance.

Penalties

1 Point Penalties

- Too slow/per gait
- Over-bridled
- Out of frame
- Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
- Split log at lope
- Hit the pole

3 Point Penalties

- Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- Break of gait at lope
- Wrong lead or out of lead
- Draped reins

5 Point Penalties

- Blatant disobedience

Score of Zero (0)

- Illegal equipment
- Willful abuse
- Major disobedience or schooling

Ranch Cutting

Shall be judged with VRH Ranch Cutting rules. Objective is to cut two cows from the herd and work the cow(s) with the assistance of two turn-back riders and two herd holders. There is a 2 minute limit for all divisions.

Judging will begin at the time line. The contestant shall approach the herd with no hesitation, weaving or reluctance on the part of the horse to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show his ability to make a cut. The horse shall work quietly, but alertly, causing very little disturbance to the herd or the animal brought out. Credit will be given for driving cattle, clearing the herd by a sufficient distance and setting up a cow while holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible. The degree of difficulty, eye appeal and the amount of courage in staying on a tough cow will be taken into consideration. The amount of time actually spent working cattle in the 2 minute period will have a positive effect on the total score. The horse should show a great deal of expression but no ill will toward the animal. Judging will end at the whistle.

1 Point Penalties:

- (Miss) Loss of working advantage; Definition: When a horse goes by or misses to the degree that he loses his position to maintain control of the cow.
- Noise directed by the contestant toward cattle; Definition: Any noise directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized 1 point for each time.
- Working out of position; Definition: The position of the horse in relation to the cow being worked, being either too long or too short while working to control the cow.
- Toe, foot, or stirrup on shoulder; Definition: A 1 point penalty will be charged each time the toe, foot or stirrup actually touches the horse's shoulder.

3 Point Penalties:

- Hot quit; Definition: A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, is obviously behind the turnback horses and turn back horses are behind the time line. A Penalty of 3 points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstance.
- Cattle picked up / running into or scattering herd; Definition: Each time a horse runs into the herd or scatters the herd while working or picking up cattle through fault of the horse, he will be penalized 3 points. The entire cow must enter the working area of the horse (Working area of the horse is defined as an imaginary line paralleling a straight line connecting the outer limits of the back fence and being in front of the horse's head.)
- Failure to make a deep cut; Definition: Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show his ability to make a cut. One such deep cut will satisfy the rule. Note: It is more important for the judge to consider the depth and route taken by the cutter than it is to count the number of cattle that move around his horse. It is necessary, however, for the cutter to actually get behind some cattle before this rule is to be satisfied.
- Back fence; Definition: The horse will be penalized each time the back fence actually stops or turns the animal being worked within one step (3 feet) of the fence. The back fence markers are considered part of the back fence.

5 Point Penalties:

- Horse quitting a cow; Definition: When the horse refuses to stop or turn around with the cow.
- Losing a cow; Definition: When the horse lets the animal that he is working get back to the herd. Note: at the buzzer, loss of cow occurs at the moment the horse can no longer regain his working position and the cow leaves the working area of the horse.
- Changing cattle after a specific commitment; Definition: When the rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow.
- Failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd; Definition: When the horse clears the herd with two or more cattle and fails to separate a single animal before quitting. No penalty if time expires. This rule only applies when making a cut.
- Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or obviously insubordinate.
- Spurring or hitting in front of the cinch at any time; Definition: Spurs, reins or rider must actually make contact with the horse, in front of the cinch, for this rule to apply.

0- Zero Score:

- Horse turns tail; Definition: If the horse turns the wrong way with tail toward the animal being worked.

- Using two hands on the reins in a bridle (does not apply to youth or novice divisions)
Definition: If the hand holding the reins touches the other rein it is considered two hands on the reins.
- Illegal equipment
- Fingers between the reins (applies to romal reins only).
- Leaving working area before time expires; Definition: Any rider who allows his horse to quit working or leave the working area before time expires.
- Fall of horse or rider; Definition: A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the hip and shoulder are touching the ground and all four feet are extended in the same direction. Rider has fallen when he or she is no longer astride the horse.
- Bloody mouth (inside).
- Improper Western Attire.
- Failure to work in the proper working order.

Note: a judge may blow the whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that time.

No Score:

- Lameness of the horse
- Abuse

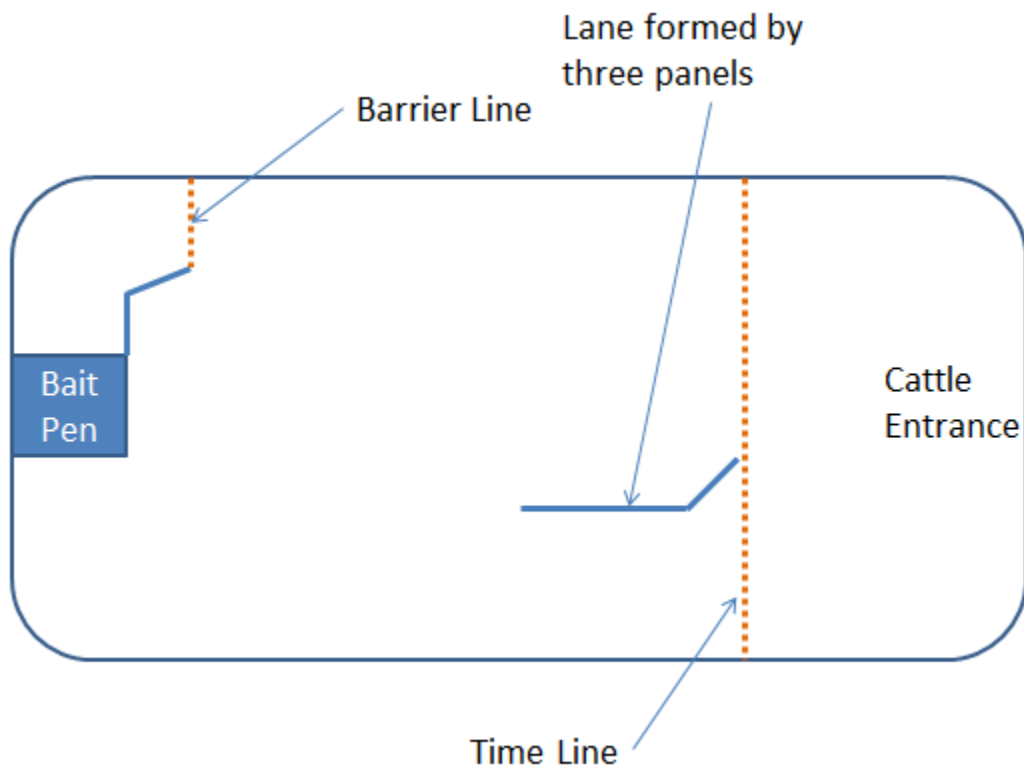
Exhibition Only Classes

Cattle Driving (Does Not Apply to Team Cattle Driving)

Class is to be judged on the horse's natural cow ability, response to the rider's cues, and the rider's stockmanship. The objective is to drive a single cow through a lane and put it in a pen at the opposite end of the arena as if moving a cow in a stock yard. The class is evaluated as if the judge owns the cattle and they are being shipped to market. Excessive speed and stress as a result of the horse's or rider's methods equates to weight loss of the cattle and will result in lower scores. Calm, quiet, and pragmatic work on the cow while demonstrating cow sense by the horse and stock sense by the rider is to be credited.

- The class has a time limit of 90 seconds.
- Time starts when the rider crosses the timeline
- Time ends when the cow enters the barrier of the pen (the horse does not need to break the plane of the pen).
- Time ends and whistle is blown if cow crosses back across the timeline.
- The Bait pen is to hold between 1 and 5 cows. The quantity of bait cows is to be determined between the stock contractor and the show committee and may be adjusted between divisions but never adjusted within the course of one single class.

- Scores will start at 70 and be adjusted up or down from there based on run content and penalties as applicable.
- The entry will be evaluated on the following:
 - o The Pickup – The process of engaging the cow released into the arena in preparation to drive it down the lane.
 - o The Drive – The connection and rate of the entry with respect to the cow being worked.
 - o The Penning – The process of putting the cow into the designated pen.
 - o Eye Appeal – The entry's demonstration of sound stock handling methods with a focus on low cattle stress.
 - o Degree of Difficulty – The degree of difficulty of the cow being worked.



Penalties:

1 Point Penalty

- Gapping mouth when reined
- Excessive spurring or cuing

5 Point Penalty

- ___ Excessive stress on cattle including biting or pawing at cattle.
- ___ Failure to drive the cow up the lane.
- ___ Spurring or hitting in front of the cinch

Score of Zero (0)

- Fall to ground of horse or rider
- Failure to pen the cow within the time allotted.
- Return of the cow back across the timeline – whistle will blow and the run is over.

Turn tail is undesirable but not a score of 0.

Walk Trot

The Walk Trot horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and represent that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horses shall not be shown on full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Horses will work at the rail as a full class, both ways of the arena. **Any youth that enters a restricted (RSTD) class is not allowed to enter a class that requires a lope.**

Minimum Class Requirements:

- Walk
- Trot
- Extended Trot (minimum one way of the arena including walk/trot class).
- Back

Optional maneuvers to be dictated by the judge as necessary to separate horses may include but are not limited to:

- Side Passing
- Two Tracking
- Turn on the hind quarters
- Turn on the front quarters

Ranch Riding Limited Age Event (Spring Show Only)

- The Main Event at the Spring NSHO Event showcasing the area's best 3-5 year old horses.
- Held Saturday Evening after the day classes, not to start before 6:30pm.
 - Schedule
 - Open Ranch Riding Futurity
 - Non-Pro Ranch Riding Futurity
 - Open Ranch Riding Derby
 - Non-Pro Ranch Riding Derby
- Futurity classes are open to any 3-year-old horses.
- Derby classes are open to any 4 and 5-year-old horses.
- Trophy buckle to the champion in each division and other great prizes awarded for second through fourth place in each class. There is no payback, prizes only.
- Copies of horse's registration (or other age verifying document for grade horses) must be provided at the time of entry.
- Competitors in the Non-Pro classes must meet the Non-Pro eligibility requirements as defined by the NSHO Rulebook.
- There are no horse ownership requirements for the Non-Pro classes.
- There are no horse breed, color, registration, or ownership requirements to compete.
- A rider may only compete in one division during the entire Ranch Riding Limited Age Event.
 - In individual rider may only ride in the Open Division Futurity and Open Derby or only in the Non-Pro Futurity and Non-Pro Derby.

- For example, the same rider may **NOT** ride in both the Open Futurity and the Non-Pro Futurity.
 - Note: the horse can compete in both classes but requires different riders for each division.
- The same rider who signs up for the Non-Pro Futurity may **NOT** ride in the Open Derby.
- Each entry is a total of \$50 per class.
- **Pre-registration is required and due by noon Saturday of the Spring Show.**
 - Horses entered after the deadline will be assessed an additional \$30 late fee.
- A horse may only be rode once in each class.
- Class will be judged based on the current AQHA rule book and score sheets.
- Judge's decisions are final.
- Each class will be a single-go round unless the entries for a single class exceed 20 at which time the top five preliminary runs will be called back for a clean slate finals round running the same pattern as the preliminary round.
 - An additional finalist will be added for every four additional entries within one class.
 - 20 preliminary round entries = 5 finalists
 - 24 preliminary round entries = 6 finalists
 - 28 preliminary round entries = 7 finalists and so on.
 - The final round (if required) will be tabulated and a random draw will occur for order to run the final round prior to the next class.

Team Ride for the Brand Challenge (Fall Show Only)

Premise:

Horse showing started generations ago, when families and ranches got together to develop family friendly events to compete in. These social events were sought after with great anticipation from the hardworking families who used the horses and cattle to make a living day in and day out.

The Ride for the Brand Challenge is a throwback to the old Fashioned-Family Style-Stock Horse competition to crown the best stock working team at the NSHO Fall Show.

What you need to know:

- Teams consist of three horse rider combinations, one assigned for each Division listed below who will ride in the Ranch Roping and Ranch Horse Riding for each of their

assigned divisions. All three team members will work together for the Team Cattle Driving event.

- The team which earns the most NSHO points in their assigned classes wins the Ride for the Brand Challenge.
- A horse or rider can only be on one team and only the points earned in the classes for their nominated individual divisions count towards the Ride for the Brand Challenge.
- The Ride for the Brand Challenge runs concurrent with the regular class numbers and NSHO points earned also count towards individual year end awards.
- Cost to sign up a team is \$60 plus each competitor is responsible for their individual entry costs.
- Horses or riders may still enter other classes in other divisions but only points earned in the designated classes count towards the Ride for the Brand Challenge.

FAQ's:

- 1) I am a novice rider, can I participate?
 - a. Absolutely! As a novice rider (19 years of age and older) you are also eligible to ride in the Non-Pro or Open Divisions. So go ahead and pick a team and choose one of those divisions. Also, you can still ride in the novice classes to earn points towards high point and honor roll titles in the novice division classes, but those points will not count towards the Ride for the Brand Challenge.
- 2) Can I ride on more than one team if I ride in a different division?
 - a. No, a person may only be on one team.
- 3) Can my horse be used for multiple teams?
 - a. No, horse may only be signed up for one team.
- 4) If I am the non-pro member of my team, do I have to ride in all three non-pro classes, or can I only ride in the Non-Pro Ranch Roping?
 - a. You are encouraged to ride in all three classes in your division but if you opt out of a class or two your team is still eligible. Remember that for every entry you do receive a minimum of 1 NSHO point (more if you place) which helps your team.

