

# Canadian Western Horse Association (CWhA) Rulebook

## **Section 1 – General Show Rules**

- 1-1 In the event that questions should arise regarding rules and regulations not addressed in the CWhA rulebook, the current American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations shall be referenced. All Reining patterns are selected from the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) pattern book. The CWhA refers to the NRHA Rules for Judging as a guideline for judging Reining patterns.
- 1-2 Riders under 18 years of age must wear a CSA approved helmet in all events. Helmets are optional for those 18 years of age and older, but they are encouraged to be worn by all riders regardless of age.
- 1-3 Whenever ‘horse’ is used, it also denotes ‘pony’.
- 1-4 No horse will be allowed to be shown more than once in any class in the same age group.
- 1-5 No cross entry between age groups, leadline or walk/jog classes.
- 1-6 Horses aged two (2) years old or under are not to be shown in riding classes before July 1 of the year in which they turn two.
- 1-7 No cross entry between same horse being entered in Western Pleasure and in Ranch Rail.
- 1-8 Every horse shall at all times be treated humanely, with dignity, respect and compassion. Refer to VIOLATIONS in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.
- 1-9 All competitors are required to have a Manitoba Horse Council membership for insurance protection. Competitors must have a CWhA membership and a Manitoba Horse Council membership to qualify for year-end awards. Points towards year-end awards will not accumulate for a competitor until they have paid for a membership and the competitor/horse combination must attend the minimum amount shows as set out in the rulebook.

## **Section 2 – Mandatory Classes**

- 2-1 Open Classes
  - Halter Mares All Ages
  - Halter Geldings and Stallions All Ages
  - Yearling Lunge Line
- 2-2 Midget Classes (Age 13 years of age or under as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Showmanship
  - Hunter Under Saddle
  - Hunt Seat Equitation
  - Trail
  - Western Pleasure
  - Western Horsemanship
  - Barrels
  - Poles
  - Keyhole

2-3 Junior Classes (Age 14 – 18 years if age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Showmanship
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Trail
- Western Pleasure
- Western Horsemanship
- Ranch Rail
- Ranch Riding
- Barrels
- Poles
- Keyhole

2-4 Senior Classes (Age 19 years or over as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Showmanship
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Trail
- Western Pleasure
- Western Horsemanship
- Ranch Rail
- Ranch Riding
- Barrels
- Poles
- Keyhole

2-5 Walk/Jog Youth Classes (Age 18 & Under as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Hunter Under Saddle
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Pleasure
- Trail
- Western Horsemanship

2-6 Walk/Jog Senior Classes (Age 19 years or over as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Hunter Under Saddle
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Pleasure
- Trail
- Western Horsemanship

2-7 Please note – when less than 3 competitors in a designated age division, divisions will be combined.

**Section 3 - Optional Classes**

3-1 Lead Line (no age limit, no cross entry with Walk/Trot)

3-2 Open (classes at discretion of show committee)

- Costume Class
- Other fun Class

## **Section 4 – Ribbons and Points**

4-1 The following schedule of ribbons is recommended. Each class must be placed through to the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) horse and ribbons awarded to sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) place as applicable.

4-2 Points will be awarded as follows:

- 1st place – 6 points
- 2nd place – 5 points
- 3rd place – 4 points
- 4th place – 3 points
- 5th place – 2 points
- 6th place – 1 point

Exception being: if there are less than six (6) horses in the class. The first place horse receives as many points as there are horses in the class and so on through the placing.

## **Section 5 – High Point Awards**

5-1 All points go towards the horse except:

- Showmanship
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Horsemanship

5-2 In case of injury, death or sickness of a competitor's horse, there may be one replacement horse allowed as long as a Veterinarians Certificate is presented for each show.

5-3 Only one horse/one rider combination may be used in each of the age divisions.

5-4 If a rider other than the owner is to show a horse, such rider must be designated before the horse is shown and must not change for the competition year.

5-5 Points may not be collected until the membership for the current year is paid. Points earned at shows before the membership was paid will not count.  
No points will be awarded to a disqualified exhibitor or horse regardless of the number of entries.

5-6 In case of a tie in year end award points, the award will be shared.

5-7 All classes will be run as scheduled and require a minimum of three entries to proceed. Classes may be split/combined at the discretion of the Show Secretary when there are three (3) or less entries in a class. If there are less than three (3) exhibitors in a class, the class will be deleted or combined with another age group where possible. Only one set of prize money will be paid out.

5-8 In order for a high point award to be provided for annual competition, the class must be run in at least 50% of the shows for that year.

5-9 A minimum of four (4) points must be won in a class in order for a year end award to be given for that class.

## **Section 6 – High Point Awards – Divisions**

- 6-1 High Point Year End Awards are given to the horse in each age category (Midget, Junior, Senior) in each of the mandatory classes.
- 6-2 High Point Horse Division Awards in each age group (Midget, Junior and Senior). The following classes count for points:
- Open Halter Mares or Geldings/Stallions
  - Hunter Under Saddle
  - Trail
  - Western Pleasure
  - Ranch Rail
  - Ranch Riding
  - Barrels
  - Poles
  - Keyhole
  - Walk Jog classes
- 6-3 Overall High Point Exhibitor. All qualified horses shown by the same exhibitor will count towards the High Point Exhibitor award. All events count towards High Point Exhibitor including:
- Showmanship
  - Hunt Seat Equitation
  - Western Horsemanship

## **Section 7 – Show Officials**

- 7-1 The CWAH refers to Section SHOW (SHW), in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations as a guideline for judging and managing events. Refer to Show Officials, Show Manager, Show Secretary and Ring Steward in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.
- 7-2 The CWAH recognizes that not all the above mentioned positions will be able to be performed by separate individuals at all shows due to the clubs limited resources. In an effort to ensure that all show management duties are met a minimum of three (3) persons will be named; with their roles identified and posted in multiple locations around the show venue, at each show.

## **Section 8 – Judges**

- 8-1 The CWAH refers to the AQHA Section IV Show Rules and Regulations as a guideline for judging and managing events. Refer to SHOW (SHW) 910 – 914 Judges in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

## **Section 9 – Tack and Personal Appointments – Western**

- 9-1 No exhibitor may be tied, buckled or fastened in the saddle in any manner or any means during competition. Elastic bands on stirrups are permitted in Barrels and Poles.

- 9-2 Appropriate Western attire is required in Western classes, which includes: pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.), long sleeve top with a collar (band, tuxedo, stand-up, etc.), Western hat or CSA approved helmet and Western boots. Chaps and spurs are optional.
- 9-3 Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather related conditions.
- 9-4 Midget and Junior competitors are allowed to ride with two (2) hands, regardless of the bit used, in Reining.

### **Section 10 – Tack and Personal Appointments – English**

- 10-2 In all English classes, riders should wear Hunt coats of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, grey, black or brown. Maroon and red are improper. Breeches or jodhpurs are to be of traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light grey or rust, with English boots or paddock boots in black or brown. Black, navy blue or brown hard hat (with safety harness for youth). Only spurs of non-rowell type and crops or bats are optional. Hair must be neat and contained (as in a net or braid).
- 10-2 Judges, at their discretion, may penalize contestants who do not conform.

### **Section 11 – Walk/Jog Classes**

- 11-1 Contestants may ride in either English or Western tack.
- 11-2 Walk/Jog riders may not cross enter other lope/canter classes. Any walk/jog exhibitors entering the speed events must use the same horse for both the walk/jog classes and speed events. The walk/jog division (youth and adult) senior horses will be allowed to be ridden two handed in a snaffle bit as per AQHA ruling SHW401.1 which states “Horses regardless of their age may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by AQHA equipment rules or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under AQHA equipment rules.”