

Red River Valley Horse Show Association Rules

The purpose of the RRVHSA shall be to promote horsemanship and related horse activities and to encourage better understanding, good horsemanship and cooperation among owners of all breeds of horses through the promotion of horse shows and other horse related activities.

Section 1 - General Show Rules:

Showing: It is expected of all members to treat others, equine and human, in a respectful manner.

❖ Entering a class:

- Membership dues must be paid before being allowed to enter a class.
- Must show a negative Coggins test dated the current show season year.
- Before entering a class, exhibitor must fill out an open check form, leaving a signed check as payment or pay in cash for events.
- Choose an exhibitor number for the year. Numbers not reserved with membership dues by the first show will be released to the membership.
- When filling out entry cards, entrants should be consistent with a horse's name, e.g. if you use a nickname, please use it consistently.
- Contestants must show in their appropriate age groups, age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Absolutely no deviations are allowed.
 - Children 12 and under
 - Youth 13 – 17
 - Adult 18 and over
- Entry Fees:
 - Children's Events - \$4/class
 - Youth Events - \$4/class
 - Adult and Open Events - \$4/class
- Credit for fees paid to the office during a show, which is cancelled due to weather, will be determined by the executive board.
- There will be a forfeiture of member's fees due to lameness, broken equipment, scratching a class or disqualification.
- Credit for fees arising due to injury to a horse or rider during a show will be determined by the executive board on a case-by-case basis.

❖ Exhibitor Rules:

- Children's events will be open so that any child may be allowed to ride any horse regardless of ownership.
- A member can ride their horse only once per event. The horse can be used twice per event if ridden by another member.
- Horses must be owned or leased and shown by members of the immediate family to count towards year-end awards. Leases must be presented to the club secretary before the member shows to earn points for year-end. Failure to present the leases will result in forfeiture of points earned during events.
- RRVHSA shall allow a person who has paid membership and entry fees to ride a horse of another person. The non-owner rider will be able to place in that show but will not be eligible for year-end awards.
- A rider may ride two horses in a single event and can place on both.
- Broken equipment shall not qualify a contestant for a re-ride in any event.
- Tack Changes will be allowed between classes provided the announcer is informed of the hold prior to the class where the tack change is needed. Broken equipment does not constitute a tack change. A maximum of five minutes will be allowed.
- There will be a three minute gate call for all classes. Contestants that are not in the arena or ready at the gate within the three minute time frame will be subject to disqualification.
- Ties: In the case of a tie in a timed event, a rerun shall be held. If the first contestant is penalized or disqualified, the second contestant must complete the event within 2 seconds of the original time or both will rerun the event again.
- A rail class with over 20 entrants will be split for safety reasons.

❖ Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

- The show judge has the right to disqualify any rider from the show in progress for unsportsmanlike conduct. No fees will be refunded and the determination of the judge shall be final and cannot be appealed.
- Discussion with the judge is not allowed until after you are done showing. You may make a request through the ring steward to discuss an issue with a judge following a class. The judge may discuss with you at their convenience.
- No verbal abuse directed at the judge is allowed and you will be dismissed from the show with no refund of paid entry fees. The executive board shall have the right to remove any individual for disruptive or disrespectful behavior at a club function.

❖ Complaints:

- Any member in good standing shall be entitled to file a complaint concerning rule violations. The complaint must be written and delivered to a member of the executive board on the same day of the show in question. The executive board shall review the complaint and issue a ruling within 48 hours.

❖ **Stallions:**

- Stallions may be shown by any contestant 13 years of age and older.
- No one under the age of 13 will be permitted to show a stallion.

❖ **Unruly Horses:**

- Should any horse become unruly during an event, the horse and rider shall be excused from the event upon the request of the judge. When motioned to by the judge you will need to move to the center to await dismissal from the arena.

❖ **Ponies:**

- Ponies shall be any horse that is 52 inches or less. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to have the pony measured by two executive board members before being shown for the first time each year.

Section 2 - Show Arena and Show Grounds:

Adequate restroom facilities and water for horses shall be available on the grounds. Shows are to be held at the arena located at the Grand Forks County Fairgrounds. Shows with more than 20 events must start no later than 9 a.m.

❖ **Gate Rules:**

- The gate will be closed during all events.
- During timed events, the arena set up will have two panels (the gate and an extra panel) outside the arena entrance. If a horse starts its run before it is fully within the panels it will be disqualified.
- No horse can begin to run until its full body is within these two panels outside the arena entrance.
- A rider may also choose to enter the arena before starting their run.

❖ **Timer:**

- The use of the electronic timer shall be mandatory at all RRVSA approved shows. A stopwatch should be used as a back-up timer and should be run by the judge or the judge's designate.

❖ **Rain-outs:**

- If a show is postponed or called off due to inclement weather, the next available rain date will be used.

Section 3 - Approved Classes for RRVHSA show bill:

1. Lead line (6 & under)
2. Walk & Trot Horsemanship 10 & under (over 52")
3. Walk & Trot Horsemanship 10 & under (under 52")
4. Open Halter 2yrs & under
5. Open Halter 3yrs & over – Mares
6. Open Halter 3yrs & over – Geldings/Stallions
7. English Pleasure – 17 & under, 18 & over
8. English Equitation – 17 & under, 18 & over
9. Children's Showmanship
10. Youth Showmanship
11. Adult Showmanship
12. Children's Horsemanship (over 52")
13. Children's Western Pleasure
14. Youth Western Pleasure
15. Adult Western Pleasure
16. Open Western Pleasure
17. Open Junior Horse (5 & under) Western Pleasure
18. Trail (12 & under)
19. Trail 13 & over
20. Western Horsemanship – 13 thru 17, 18 & over
21. Children's Barrels
22. Youth Barrels
23. Adult Barrels
24. Children's Poles
25. Youth Poles
26. Adult Poles
27. Open Keyhole

RRVHSA approved shows will have events 1-27 and additional non-approved events may be added. A member must show in the same event three times during the current show season to be eligible for year-end awards. See year-end approved class section for specific classes that count for year-end awards.

Section 4 - Event Rules

❖ **Halter:** Horses to be judged on conformation and ability to perform prescribed gaits.

- Halter points are kept on the horse not the exhibitor.
- Anyone may show a horse in halter regardless of ownership.

❖ **Leadline:** Contestants must be 6 years and under as of January 1st of the current show season.

- Either Western or English attire and tack may be used.
- Member will be judged on their ability to ride their horse.

- ❖ **Showmanship:** A pattern class judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show the horse at halter.
 - The horse is a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the horse by the exhibitor.
- ❖ **English Pleasure:** A rail class where horses are to be judged on their ability to perform prescribed gaits: walk, posting trot and canter.
- ❖ **English Equitation:** A pattern class judged on the rider's ability to perform the patterns as prescribed by the judge. Rail work is optional.
- ❖ **Trail:** The trail class should consist of at least six obstacles. Required obstacles shall be at least three of the following: a gate, ride over logs or poles, a bridge, a back through and a side pass.
 - It is suggested that the pattern include walking, trotting or loping between obstacles.
 - It shall be illegal to use ground tying, live animals, jumps, tires or any other obstacle that may pose a risk to horse and rider.
 - The trail class will be judged on the performance and responsiveness of the horse over the obstacles.
 - 2 refusal limit per obstacle, if the exhibitor exceeds the limit, they will be asked to move on.
- ❖ **Western Pleasure:** A rail class where horses are to be judged on their ability to perform prescribed gaits: walk, jog and lope.
- ❖ **Walk/Trot Horsemanship (Children's classes):** A pattern class where the rider is judged on their ability to handle their horse at the prescribed gaits. Rail work is optional.
- ❖ **Western Horsemanship:** A pattern class judged on the rider's ability to perform the patterns as prescribed by the judge. Rail work is optional.
- ❖ **Walk/Trot Pleasure:** A rail class where horses are to be judged on their ability to perform prescribed gaits: walk and jog or trot.
 - Western or English tack is allowed.
- ❖ **Egg & Spoon:** A rail class directed by the judge.
 - Riders will be furnished an egg and a spoon.
 - Rider must hold the spoon behind the black mark.
 - Class is run at the judge's discretion.
 - Whenever a gait transition is called the exhibitor must do so immediately or they will be disqualified at the judge's discretion.
- ❖ **Barrels:** A timed event using 55-gallon barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern.
 - The first two barrels are set 20 feet from the time line and the point barrel shall be at least 45 yards from the first two barrels.
 - Pattern may be started either to the right or to the left.
 - Tipping a barrel shall have a 5 second penalty.
 - Touching a barrel is permitted.
 - Raking around the barrels is permitted as needed to maintain safety.
- ❖ **Poles:** A timed event consisting of 6 poles set in a straight line.
 - Distance from the time line and the first pole shall be 20 feet and the distance between each additional pole shall be 21 feet.
 - Pattern may be started either to the right or to the left.
 - Run down to the last pole from the time line, weave down the poles, turn, weave back up to the last pole and turn to run for home.
 - Tipping a pole shall have a 5 second penalty.
 - Touching a pole is permitted.
 - Raking around the end of poles is permitted as needed to maintain safety.
- ❖ **Keyhole:** A timed event consisting of 4 poles forming a keyhole pattern.
 - The first two poles will be set opposite each other on a line perpendicular and 20 feet from the time line. The second two should be 6 feet behind the first two creating an alley width between the two sets of poles of 4 feet.
 - The horse must pass completely through the last set of poles before turning for home.
 - Tipping a pole shall be a 5 second penalty.

Section 5 - General Rules:

- ❖ **Western Attire:** Contestants shall wear proper western attire in all events.
 - It shall constitute western hat, western boots and long-sleeve western shirt.
 - Use of proper western equipment in all western events is mandatory.
 - In timed events the contestant shall wear a western hat, a safety helmet or be bareheaded; no baseball caps. Short sleeved western shirts are allowed. Club sponsored t-shirts may be worn during gaming, no alterations allowed.
 - The judge or members of the executive board may disqualify contestants that do not comply with this rule.
- ❖ **English Attire:** Hard-hat and English boots are required.
 - Coats of dark colors or tweeds are allowed but not mandatory.
 - Proper English tack is required.
- ❖ **Horsemanship and Western Pleasure:**
 - Only leather or flat 1/2 inch or larger curb chains are permissible.
 - No tie downs or mechanical hackamores will be allowed.

- All horses shall be ridden with one hand with the exception that horses 5 years and under may be ridden with two hands when using a snaffle bit or bosal.
- Horses shall back on the rail.
- ❖ **Age of Horse:** The age of a horse is advanced as of January 1 of the current show year. For example, a horse born 4/9/04 will be considered 2 years old as of January 1, 2006 regardless of the actual date foaled.
- ❖ **Junior Horse:** A horse is considered a junior horse if it is 5 years of age or younger as defined above. A junior horse may be ridden two-handed with a snaffle bit or bosal or may be ridden with one hand in a regular bit.
- ❖ **Judges:** Judges for the RRVHSA approved shows must be considered qualified. A judge shall not work more than two shows in any one show season and these shows shall not be consecutive. The judge's decision is final.
- ❖ **Awards:** A trophy or equivalent prize for first place and ribbons for second through sixth place shall be awarded in each class. We recommend that participation ribbons be given to contestants that do not place in Lead Line or Walk and Trot.
- ❖ **Requirements for a Board Member:** Board Member must be an active member, be readily accessible to the club, have to attend three meetings (general or board) in one season and has to assume general responsibilities for the coordination of one horse show under the direction of the President, otherwise the board has the option of drafting a letter asking for resignation.
- ❖ **Show Results:** Two copies of the official show results must be made, with one by the association Secretary and the other by the association Treasurer. Results to be made available within 2 weeks of a completed show.
- ❖ **Benefit Horse Show:** Each year the RRVHSA shall sponsor a horse show where the club will have only ribbons as prizes for the events. This show will be our last scheduled horse show and must have all RRVHSA approved events.

Section 6 - Awards, Annual Banquet:

- ❖ **Points:** The association Secretary and Treasurer shall be the official point recorders. Points earned in RRVHSA shows in approved events will be recorded and tallied by the point recorders, results to be available within 2 weeks of a completed show. Points will be earned on the basis of a six point maximum for first place, to be determined by the number of riders in the class, with each successive place earning one less point. For example; With 6 riders the 1st place rider gets 6 points, 2nd place 5 points, 3rd place 4 points, 4th place 3 points, 5th place 2 points and 6th place 1 point. With 3 riders the first place gets 3 points, 2nd gets 2 points and 3rd place gets 1 point. If a rider places and is not a member of the club, the rest of the member's points will still match their placing.
- ❖ **The Year-end Approved Classes:** Lead line (6 & under), Walk/Trot Horsemanship 52" and under (children 10 and under), Children's Showmanship, Youth Showmanship, Children's Horsemanship over 52", Children's Barrels, Children's Poles, Walk/Trot Horsemanship 52" and over (children 10 and under), Children's Western Pleasure, Egg & Spoon 12 & under, Youth Western Pleasure, Youth Barrels, Youth Poles, Adult Western Pleasure, Adult Barrels, Adult Poles, Egg & Spoon 13 & over, English Equitation (17 & under, 18 & over), English Pleasure (17 & under, 18 & over), Keyhole, Trail (13 and older), Trail (12 and under), Western Horsemanship (13-17, 18 & over), Adult Showmanship, Open Halter (2years and under), Open Halter(3 years and older, mares/geldings/stallions), Open Junior Horse (5 & under) Western Pleasure.
Awards will be awarded to the top six members in each approved event provided they have participated in a minimum of three shows in the same event and are members in good standing. A total of six awards will be given unless there is a tie for sixth place.
- ❖ **Hi-Point Year-End Awards:** Hi-Point prizes will be given as a year-end award to riders. The rider must participate in a minimum of three shows per season and show in a respective class three times. Hi Point prizes will be awarded at the end of the year RRVHSA banquet.
The following awards will be offered:
 - Performance hi-point and reserve hi-point on multi-horse/one rider combination in Adult, Youth and Children's divisions. The classes that count for the Adult awards are: Adult Showmanship, Adult Western Pleasure, English Pleasure (18 & over), English Equitation (18 & over), Horsemanship (18and over), and Trail (13 and over). The classes that count for the Youth awards are: Youth Showmanship, Youth Western Pleasure, English Pleasure (17 & under), English Equitation (17 & under), Trail (13 and over) and Horsemanship (13 - 17). The classes that count for Children's awards are: Children's Showmanship, Children's Western Pleasure, Children's Horsemanship over 52", English Pleasure (17 & under), English Equitation (17 & under) and Trail (12 and under).
 - All around gaming hi-point and reserve on multi horse / one rider combination in Adult, Youth and Children's divisions. The classes that count for Adult awards are: Egg & Spoon (13+), Adult Poles, Adult Barrels, and Keyhole. The classes that count for Youth awards are: Egg & Spoon (13+), Youth Poles, Youth Barrels and Keyhole. The classes that count for Children's awards are: Egg & Spoon (12 and under), Children's Poles, Children's Barrels and Keyhole.
- ❖ **Ties:** Will be broken by awarding the win to the horse/rider combination who have placed above the most number of competitors, the 2nd tie breaker will be awarded to the combination who rode the most times in a class and for the third we will flip a coin.
- ❖ **Annual Banquet:** An annual banquet / potluck / get-together is to be held each year after completion of the horse show season held the 4th weekend in October. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board and the Banquet Committee to set the date of and make all arrangements for the annual banquet.