

RRVHSA Rules 2023

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, animal and human, in a respectful manner.

*Entering a Class:

- Before entering a class, exhibitor must leave a signed check as payment or pay in cash or electronic (online) method for events.
- Choose an exhibitor number for the year. Numbers not reserved with membership dues one week before the start of the first show will be released.
- When filling out entry forms, 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.
 - Leadline: 6 and under and special needs any age
 - Children: 12 and under
 - Youth: 13-17
 - Adult: 18 and over

*Entry Fees:

- Leadline classes are \$2/class, Children, Youth, Adult, and Open classes are \$5/class. Jackpot classes are all Open Division, \$10/class with \$5 going to the club and \$5 per entry plus \$50 added money going toward payout down to 4th place.
- 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.
- There will be a charge imposed on a member with a non-sufficient funds check and the member will be restricted to a cash-only basis.
- Non-members will be charged a \$15/day fee.

*Exhibitor Rules:

- Children's events will be open so that any child may be allowed to ride any horse regardless of ownership. Children's performance classes will be walk/trot; Children's games may be ridden at any speed.
- A member can ride their horse only once per event. The horse can be used twice per event if ridden by another member.
- RRVHSA shall allow a person who has paid membership and entry fees to ride a horse belonging to another person. The non-owner rider will be able to place in that show and will be eligible for year-end awards.
- A rider may ride multiple horses in a single event and can place on both but can only collect points on the highest placing horse. Points will follow the placings.
- 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 one-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.
- 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 or 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.

***Social Media Policy:**

- The Red River Valley Horse Show Association, Inc. realizes the value and importance of social media for promotion and communication. The RRVHSA has implemented the following social media policy to help our participants understand and adhere to standard responsible social media practices, put in place to protect the board of directors, its members, sponsors, and the Red River Valley Horse Show Association, Inc. as a whole. Negative posts online in any form about or regarding the Red River Valley Horse Show Association Inc., its board of directors, members, or sponsors will not be tolerated.
- Violating this policy will result in disqualification, forfeiture of any and all fees, points, and membership.

***Stallions:**

- Stallions may be shown by any contestant 18 years of age and older.

***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, horse and rider will need to move to the center to await dismissal from the arena.

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 unless otherwise specified. Shows will start no later than 9 a.m. There should be an opening ceremony at the beginning of each show where the National Anthem and Flag is to be played/displayed. Game classes (egg and spoon and on) will start no earlier than 11 am or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the performance classes.

***Gate Rules:**

- The gate will be closed for performance classes when determined by the judge.
- There will be a gate alley, creating a safety zone for horses and people. The run may begin when the horse's shoulders are inside the alley made by the gate and panel.

***Timer:**

- The use of the electronic timer shall be mandatory at all RRVHSA approved shows.

***Rain-outs:**

- In case of rain or poor arena conditions, the board will have a back-up date set that will be used or if the backup date has been used, an alternative date will be selected.
- If no dates are available due to multiple weather cancellations, the show may need to be canceled at the boards determination.

Section 3 – Approved Classed for RRVHSA show bill:

1. Adult English Pleasure (18 and Over)
2. Youth English Pleasure (13-17)
3. Children’s English Pleasure (12 & Under)
4. Adult English Equitation (18 and Over)
5. Youth English Equitation (13-17)
6. Children’s English Equitation (12 & Under)
7. Open Halter
8. Adult Showmanship (18 and Over)
9. Youth Showmanship (13-17)
10. Children’s Showmanship (12 & Under)
11. Adult Trail (18 and Over)
12. Youth Trail (13-17)
13. Children’s Trail (12 & Under)
14. Adult Western Pleasure (18 and over)
15. Youth Western Pleasure (13-17)
16. Children’s Western Pleasure (12 & Under)
17. Adult Western Horsemanship (18 and Over)
18. Youth Western Horsemanship (13-17)
19. Children’s Western Horsemanship (12 & Under)
20. Leadline Western Pleasure (6 & Under)
21. Open Ranch Horse Pleasure
22. Leadline Egg and Spoon (6 & Under)
23. Adult Egg and Spoon (18 and Over)
24. Youth Egg and Spoon (13-17)
25. Children’s Egg and Spoon (12 & Under)
26. Adult Ring Race (18 and over)
27. Youth Ring Race (13-17)
28. Children’s Ring Race (12 and under)
29. Leadline Barrels (6 & Under)
30. Jackpot Barrels
31. Adult Barrels (18 and Over)
32. Youth Barrels (13-17)
33. Children’s Barrels (12 & Under)
34. Leadline Poles (6 & Under)
35. Jackpot Poles
36. Adult Poles (18 and Over)
37. Youth Poles (13-17)
38. Children’s Poles (12 & Under)
39. Adult Figure 8 (18 and over)
40. Youth Figure 8 (13-17)
41. Children’s Figure 8 (12 and under)
42. Adult Keyhole (18 and over)
43. Youth Keyhole (13-17)
44. Children’s Keyhole (12 and under)

RRVHSA approved shows will have events 1-44 listed above and additional non-approved events may be added.

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 of age or under as of January 1 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 gaits as prescribed by the judge.

***English Equitation:**

- A pattern class judged on the rider's ability to perform the patterns as prescribed by the judge. There will be no rail work.

***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, mailbox, and a side pass.
- It is suggested that the pattern include walking, trotting, or loping between obstacles. No loping in children's classes
- 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 and between the obstacles.
- Two 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 gaits as prescribed by the judge.

***Walk/Trot Horsemanship (Children's 12 & Under classes):**

- A pattern class, where the rider is judged on their ability to handle their horse at the prescribed gaits.

***Western Horsemanship:**

- A pattern class judged on the rider's ability to perform the pattern as prescribed by the judge. There will be no rail work.

***Egg & Spoon:**

- A rail class, directed by the judge or board's designee.
- Riders will be furnished an egg and a spoon.
- Rider must hold the spoon behind the bend of the spoon or will be disqualified.
- Whenever a gait transition is called, the exhibitor must do so immediately or they will be disqualified at the judge's or designee's discretion.

***Barrels:**

- A timed event using 55 gallon barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern.
- The first two barrels are set at least 20 feet from the time line and the point barrel shall be at least 45 feet from the first two barrels.
- The 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.
- A broken pattern results in a no-time.
- 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 21 feet and the distance between each additional pole shall be 21 feet.
- The 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.
- A broken pattern results in a no-time.
- Raking around the 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 at least 21 feet from the time line.
- The second two poles should be 5 feet behind the first two creating an alley width between the two sets of poles of 4 feet measured from the base.
- The horse must pass completely through the last set of poles before turning for home.
- Tipping a pole shall be a 5 second penalty
- A broken pattern results in a no-time.

Section 5 – General Rules:***Western Attire:**

- Contestants shall wear proper western attire in all events excluding games.
- Proper western attire shall constitute a western hat, western boots, and long-sleeved western shirt.
- Western attire for gaming will allow short sleeved western shirts . Club sponsored t-shirts,tank tops, or long-sleeve shirts may be worn during gaming.
- Use of proper western equipment in all western events is mandatory.
- In timed events, the contestant shall wear a western hat, a safety helmet, baseball cap, or be bareheaded.
- Members of the board of directors may disqualify contestants that do not comply with this rule.

***English Attire:**

- English helmet 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 ½ inch or larger curb straps 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 a bosal.
- Horses shall back on the rail.

***Judges:**

Judges for the RRVHSA approved shows must be considered qualified. A judge shall not work more than one show in any one show season. The judge's decision is final. The judge is not required to stay through the game classes on the show bill for the day. The judge must follow RRVHSA rules unless as stated in a safety issue.

***Awards:**

Ribbons will be available at the crows nest for first through sixth place. We recommend that participation ribbons be given to contestants that do not place in Leadline. Donated first place trophies may be given for Leadline and Children's classes.

***Requirements for a Board Member:** Board Member must be an active member, be readily accessible to the club, have to attend at least three meetings (general or board) in one season and has to assume general responsibilities for assisting with the coordination of the horse show under the direction of the President. Board members should notify the board if they will be unavailable to assist at any of the RRVHSA events

***Board Authority:** The Board of Directors has the authority to make changes to the rules when it affects the financial stability of the club or is a safety concern.

***Junior Board Members:** Run under the direction of the President.

***Show Results:** Two copies of the official show results must be made, one by the association Secretary/Treasurer and the other the association Vice President. Show results are to be made available within two weeks of a completed show.

Section 6 – General Information:

***Points:**

- The association Secretary/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 two weeks of a completed show. Points will be earned on the basis of a six point maximum for first place with each successive place earning one less point. A rider may only obtain points on the highest placing horse in any one class. Points are based on the rider only. For example, a rider may place on two horses but will only get points on the highest placing horse. Points will follow the placings.

***High-Point Show Pointed Classes:**

- High Point and Reserve High Point will be awarded at each show to adult, youth, and children's divisions in performance and games categories.
- Classes that count towards High Point and Reserve High Point Performance, for each age division (Adult, Youth, and Children's), include: English Pleasure, English Equitation, Showmanship, Trail, Western Pleasure, and Western Horsemanship.
- Classes that count towards High Point and Reserve High Point Games, for each age division, include: Egg and Spoon, Ring Race, Barrels, Figure 8, Poles, Keyhole.

***Year-End Awards:**

- Members may sign up for \$20 to earn points that go towards year-end prizes.
- All classes that count towards the high points and reserve high points will receive individual class awards for 1st-6th placings for year-end awards.
- Classes that count towards High Point and Reserve High Point Performance, for each age division (Adult, Youth, and Children's), include: English Pleasure, English Equitation, Showmanship, Trail, Western Pleasure, and Western Horsemanship.
- Classes that count towards High Point and Reserve High Point Games, for each age division, include: Egg and Spoon, Ring Race, Barrels, Figure 8, Poles, Keyhole.
- Points will be earned on the basis of a six point maximum for first place with each successive place earning one less point. A rider may only obtain points on the highest placing horse in any one class. Points are based on the rider only.

***Ties:**

- In case of a tie for daily high point and daily reserve high point the prize money will be split. For year-end awards it will be determined by the award going to the person that has attended the most shows. If that is also a tie, there will be a coin-flip.

***Annual Banquet:**

- An annual banquet\potluck\get-together is to be held each year after the completion of the horse show season. 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.