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INTERSCHOLASTIC EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

JUDGES GUIDELINES

REINING • HORSEMANSHIP • RANCH RIDING

**To be distributed to Judges and Show Officials for use
at IEA Western Draw-Based Competitions**

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JUDGES GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

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The purpose of the following guideline is to give judges additional information regarding draw-based format competition. There are several rules that are unique to IEA that conflict with standard breed show rulebooks and are highlighted in **red**. Please keep in mind that the purpose of our organization is to promote excellence in the skills of each young equestrian member. Judging should be based on rewarding the performance of the rider independently of the horse provided.



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JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

EXPECTATIONS and HORSES

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Judge's Responsibilities

- Monitor and adhere to the rules and regulations during competitor's rides.
- Attend Coaches Meeting prior to show (*if requested*) by show management.
- Give a standardized numerical score to each pattern.
- Remain on the grounds until released by show management after verification of scores.
- Be knowledgeable of IEA draw-based format judging rules and guidelines.

Expectations

- Wearing professional attire meeting AQHA, APHA, and NSBA rules is requested. You are asked to refrain from wearing clothing representing any institution, organization, or logos representing any equine corporation or ranch that may show favoritism in any way.
- Enforce honesty, sportsmanship and fair play. Stewards may warn and eliminate any person on the grounds not displaying proper sportsmanship.
- No conversations with coaches unless the steward is present.
- Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the actual start of competition unless requested by the host team to arrive earlier. Do not arrive late.
- Let the show host/host team know if you have any special needs during the competition. Host/scribe will be able to provide food or drinks during appropriate breaks. Plan to remain on the show grounds until dismissed by the show host.
- Provide valuable feedback to improve all IEA competitions.
- Please refrain from using your cell phone while in the show arena and make calls in private areas.
- Smoking should be confined to designated areas and alcohol is prohibited at IEA competitions.

Horses

- Horses are chosen by a random draw. Riders are not permitted a warm-up period.
- All horses should be safe and schooled previously in the competition area and well-suited for their specific event.
- No horse may be ridden in a competition more than 6-8 times **per day** including re-rides.
- Tack and aids are at the discretion of the horse provider. All tack will be considered legal unless it conflicts with IEA Rule 4506.7. The judge and the steward will make the final approval if there are concerns regarding non-regulation equipment.
- All horses should be identified by name on the saddle pad.
- All riders must adhere to the distributed horse list which details allowed spur options and types, one or two-hand options, lead changes, sliding plates etc. Deviations are the responsibility of the show steward.
- **In all events: Riders may ride with two hands in a curb bit if specified by horse provider. Proper two-handed placement is described as one hand on each rein, reins may be bridged or not, tails of reins must be crossed on opposite sides of the horse's neck. It is the show steward's responsibility to ensure that horses are ridden with either one or two hands as listed in the official horse description. This may change throughout the show and will be monitored by the show steward.**



SCORING & EVENT ROUTINE

APPEALS, SUBSTITUTIONS, ALTERNATES & RE-RIDES

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Scoring and Event Routine

- Judges may watch the horses being schooled by non-competing riders prior to the show. Judges are also encouraged to read the horse descriptions provided by the host team. Horses may have different abilities, therefore difficulty of horse should be taken into consideration when determining a score.
- A scribe will be provided.
- Scribes may communicate information from the horse description sheet prior to the beginning of each class concerning the patterns or horses but are not allowed to make personal remarks or opinions on riders or horses.
- At least one copy of each of the IEA, NRHA, IHSA and AQHA Rulebook are to be made available for use by the stewards/judges at all times.
- Judges are encouraged to comment in the comment area of score sheets in a positive manner yet include constructive criticism to encourage development of IEA exhibitors. Score sheets are customarily posted following reining and pattern classes.

Appeals, Substitutions, Alternates and Re-rides

- Only coaches may approach a steward for an appeal or re-ride.
- A judge may request a re-ride or change of horses if he/she feels that a fair assessment of skills cannot be made on a given mount.
- Stewards have the authority to grant or not grant re-rides at their own discretion including discussion with the judge.
- In the event of an extraordinary circumstance, the judge has the discretion to use their training and expertise to resolve the situation. If the resolution contradicts the IEA Rules then it must be noted in the Steward's report.
- **Judges shall continue to score all rides even in the event that a composite score of zero may be given to provide education for the exhibitor.**



When scoring **Horsemanship** classes, emphasis should be placed on a rider's overall effectiveness with consideration of both rail and pattern work. The definition of an effective rider can be found in IEA Rule #7101 which states: In equitation/horsemanship classes, only the rider is being judged, therefore no penalty should be assessed because of the horse's conformation, color, or way of going. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show the horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are **NOT** necessarily to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. A rider must be prepared to perform the tests appropriate for the class in which the rider is participating.

In IEA competition, rail work is done **prior** to any pattern work. Use of IEA score sheets is highly suggested.

- The AQHA scoring system will be used in all pattern classes. **Judge will use his/her discretion in determining if a horse causes a penalty that was beyond the rider's control. The judge is not required to impose penalties that are beyond a rider's control and may hold scores or penalties until the completion of the class.**
- It is the judge's responsibility to break all ties in scoring within a class.

HORSEMANSHIP PENALTIES are as follows:

3 - Point Penalties

- Break of gait at a walk or jog/trot up to 2 strides.
- Over or under turning 1/8 to 1/4 of a prescribed turn.
- Tick or hit of the cone.
- Obviously looking down to check leads.
- Flying lead change on a horse designated to complete simple lead changes.

5 - Point Penalties

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping when called for in the pattern within 10 feet (3 meters) of a designated area.
- Incorrect lead or break of gait at the lope (*except when correcting an incorrect lead*).
- Break of gait at walk, jog or trot for more than 2 strides.
- Loss of stirrup.
- Bottom of boot not touching pad of stirrup at all gaits including back.

10 - Point Penalties

- Loss of rein.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or on the rail.
- Holding saddle with either hand.
- Cueing with the end of the romel reins.
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking or rearing **if deemed to be clearly caused by the exhibitor.**
- Spurring in front of the cinch.
- Failure to drop or pick up stirrups where designated in pattern. Penalty will be assessed for every maneuver in which the rider fails to ride with or without stirrups as written in pattern.



While all NRHA reining guidelines apply, the judge must also consider the rider's skill as a horseman while executing the reining maneuvers. Judge is not required to impose penalties that are clearly the fault of the horse and beyond the rider's control. Current NRHA or IEA scoresheets are to be used for all patterns.

For horses listed as two hands, there are no regulations on how the rider holds or adjusts their reins during the pattern.

- Judges will give a visible signal to designate their readiness for the rider to start.
- Obvious horse errors do not result in a total score of zero. No rider may be given a total score of zero in the ways outlined in the current NRHA Rulebook, unless it was the rider's fault. It is the judge's discretion to determine if the rider or the horse was at fault for the error that would normally result in a zero score.
- Judges should score each maneuver to industry standard. Difficulty of the horse can/shall factor into maneuver score. A credit earning maneuver is only given when a rider is controlling the horse's every movement.
- It is the judge's responsibility to break all ties in scoring within the class.
- On a horse designated as a "simple change":
 - A 2-point penalty will be assessed if a rider does not complete a simple change of lead through the center where a lead change is called for.
 - A rider will not be penalized for a break of gait to complete a simple lead change to be on the correct lead.
 - A simple lead change must be completed within 3 strides or a 1-point penalty will be assessed.
 - The ideal simple change of lead is through the jog (*within 3 strides*). Any deviation from the ideal change that takes place in the lead change area as described by the Handbook would not incur a penalty but deserves less credit. In order of decreasing difficulty would be jogging, walking rather than jogging, stopping during the change and finally more than one attempt to execute the change.



REINING PENALTIES are as follows:

Zero (0) Score

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins.
- Use of two hands (*unless specified in horse description*) or changing hands.
- Use of romel reins other than as outlined in the AQHA Official handbook.
- Failure to complete pattern as written.
- Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order of exceeding greater than one quarter of the circle out of order.
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to:
 - Backing more than two (2) strides.
 - Turning more than ninety (90) degrees.
 - On run in patterns, once beginning a lope, a complete stop prior to reaching the first marker. (*Exception: a complete stop in the 1st quarter (1/4) of a circle after a lope departure is not to be considered an inclusion of maneuver; a two (2) point break of gait penalty will apply.*)
 - Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; such as dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion **with the exception of equipment malfunction. Keep in mind that exhibitors do not provide their tack so discretion and common sense should be exercised.**
 - Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed.
 - Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern.
 - Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena.
 - Overspins of more than ¼ turn.
 - Fall to the ground by horse or rider.
 - When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line.

5 - Point Penalties

- Spurring in front of the cinch.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- Holding saddle with either hand.
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking **if clearly caused by exhibitor.**
- Horse dropping to its knees or hocks.



2 - Point Penalties

- Break of gait.
 - Freeze up in spins or rollbacks.
 - On walk-in patterns, loping prior to reaching the center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure.
 - On run-in patterns, failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker or break of gait prior to the first marker.
 - If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.
- ➔ Starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows:
- Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to penalize by one point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will deduct one penalty point for each one quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse ½ point for a delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
 - Deduct ½ point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two strides. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than ½ circle or ½ the length of the arena, deduct two points.
 - Deduct ½ point for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn; deduct one point for over or under spinning 1/8 to ¼ turn. A horse can only be assessed one over or under spin penalty per maneuver.
- ➔ A ½ point penalty deduction will be given for the failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) from the side of the arena when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
- ➔ In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows:
- From the turn to the half-way position at end wall, one (1) point.
 - Beyond the half-way point to the beginning of the run down two (2) points.
- ➔ In a pattern requiring a run-around, there will be a one half (1/2) point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 10 feet from either side of the center of the arena; for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion.

***** 1 Point Penalty** - Specific to IEA- there will be a one-point penalty assessed per maneuver for lack of control or over-riding of a horse.



RANCH RIDING

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The **Ranch Riding** class will be run according to **AQHA rules and format**. Any deviation from those rules is listed in **red** below. Novice Ranch Riding is designed to evaluate a rider's ability to execute a series of maneuvers listed in an approved pattern. The rider should exhibit poise and confidence while maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct seat. The rider will be judged on ability and decision making as well as proper communications with their horse. It is the judge's responsibility to break all ties in scoring within the class.

RANCH RIDING PENALTIES are as follows:

Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently.

The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

1 – Point Penalty

- Too slow (*per gait*).
- Over-bridled (*per maneuver*).
- Out of frame (*per maneuver*).
- Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less.

3 – Point Penalties

- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides.
- Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead.
- Wrong lead or out of lead.
- Draped reins (*per maneuver*).
- Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads.
- Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.
- Severe disturbance of any obstacle.

5 – Point Penalties

- Blatant disobedience (*kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.*) for each refusal **if clearly caused by the rider**.

10 – Point Penalties – **Not Applicable in IEA.**

- **Unnatural ranch horse appearance (*Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried unnaturally.*)**

Off Pattern (OP) – Placed **below** horses performing all maneuvers.

- Eliminates or adds maneuver.
- Incomplete maneuver.
- Repeated blatant disobedience **if clearly caused by the rider**.
- Use of two hands, more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romel reins.

Zero Score – A penalty score of zero (*disqualification*) will be assessed for:

Willful abuse of the horse by the rider.

- Disrespectful behavior by the exhibitor.
- Leaving the arena prior to completion of the pattern.

No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs but deduction may be made in maneuver score.
No specific penalties will be incurred for over/ under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.



RANCH RIDING ATTIRE and TACK

- As IEA riders do not provide their own tack (saddles, bridles, etc.), judges should not penalize any rider who may be riding in tack containing silver or other embellishments that are not traditionally found in a ranch riding class.
- Per the IEA Rule 3000 under the Western Discipline:

Ranch Riding Attire:

Exhibitors are expected to wear traditional western attire reflecting the ranch lifestyle. Appropriate western attire includes a long-sleeved shirt with collar and cuffs that fasten at the wrists with buttons or snaps, well-fitting jeans, traditional western boots, and a crisp, well-shaped western hat or safety riding helmet. Adding ranch appropriate accessories (chaps, chinks, scarves, etc.) is acceptable and helps promote a true ranch horse look. Shirts with crystals, glitter or sequins are unnecessary and highly discouraged. Variations from defined Ranch Riding attire are discouraged but not cause for disqualification.
