



**INTERSCHOLASTIC
EQUESTRIANTM
ASSOCIATION**

IT'S YOUR FUTURE. TAKE THE REINS.

**Rules and Regulations of Membership
Western Discipline**

as Revised May 14, 2025

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WESTERN RULES SECTION

****The rules herein apply only to the western discipline and are supplemental to the general rules applying to all disciplines.****

These Rules and Regulations shall take precedence over all other rules and regulations of other similarly situated organizations. No IEA Region or Zone may adopt rules inconsistent herewith. However, if a topic is not covered by these Rules and Regulations, the following rules may be referenced as guidance in making an equitable decision under the circumstances:

- For the Western discipline: first the rules and regulations of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association ("IHSA") and then, if not resolved, the American Quarter Horse Association ("AQHA") and National Reining Horse Association ("NRHA");

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W3100 General - All Disciplines - Refer to Rule G3000 for additional general rules for classes and tests: rider placement and eligibility criteria.

W3200 Rider Classification and Class Eligibility

W3202 Initial Class Placement and Advancement for Western

W3202.1 Initial placement of western riders in horsemanship and reining/ranch riding classes are independent of one another. Initial placement in horsemanship classes must be based on class descriptions and eligibility criteria in Rule W3301. Initial placement in reining / ranch riding classes must be based on class descriptions and eligibility criteria in Rule W3302.

W3202.2 Returning western rider members are expected to compete as previously placed and must advance per IEA rules. Coaches who believe a rider is not properly placed or does not meet eligibility criteria for the desired class must file a petition PRIOR to the rider competing (Rules G2303.1.10, G2304.1.7, and G3201.1). Any rider placed through petition may not be selected as a team point rider (Rule G3203.2).

W3202.3 Western riders (new and returning) may compete in different divisions/class levels but those levels can only be one level above or below the other. Riders competing in novice ranch riding are NOT permitted to cross-enter in beginner level horsemanship classes. See also rules G3201.6 and G3204.5.

W3202.4 Crossover Riders

Open or Intermediate western riders may not be placed or compete lower than novice in any hunt seat or dressage class. Riders will progress per advancement criteria outlined in Rule G3200 with particular attention to Rule G3201.5. The rider's experience and skill set should determine whether or not they compete in the performance class (over fences, reining/ranch riding, dressage test) or just in the group flat/rail class (flat,

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horsemanship, DSE). Mandatory or voluntary advancement in a class/level in one discipline may also require advancement in a class/level in the crossover division.

W3202.5 Hunt seat or dressage riders crossing over into the western discipline must have a minimum of one year of professional instruction in reining before competing in an open or intermediate level reining class.

W3300 Western Discipline Class Descriptions

W3301 Western Horsemanship Classes

CLASS W1. Varsity Open Horsemanship: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of one year of professional instruction and are capable of performing western horsemanship tests 1 - 15 (Rule W3304). Riders will be required to perform at least two horsemanship tests listed in Rule W3304 at regular and post-season competitions.

Open riders:

1. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

IEA open horsemanship eligibility excludes experience in speed/timed events, halter, showmanship, reining, ranch riding, western pleasure, walk/trot events, and 10 & Under. Hunt seat classes (with the exception of hunt seat equitation on the flat) are also excluded.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes, riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes, riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open horsemanship classes during the regular season.

CLASS W3. Varsity Intermediate Horsemanship: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of one year of professional instruction and are capable of performing western horsemanship tests 1 - 12 (Rule W3304).

Riders exceeding any one or more of the numbered criteria for intermediate horsemanship **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

Intermediate riders:

1. Have NOT exceeded Level 1 Youth/Novice eligibility in section 1 organizations (e.g. AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or Select level eligibility for AHA, in any age group in any western mounted pattern class and/or hunt seat equitation on the flat. See section 1 competitions/Rule G3101;

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2. Have NOT placed in the top ten (10) in a 14-18 western mounted pattern class (including Level 1 Youth/Novice) and/or hunt seat equitation on the flat in any section 1 nationally recognized championship or world show competition (e.g. AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or 15-18 AHA (including Select level). See section 1 competitions / Rule G3101;
3. Have NOT placed within the top three (3) in 13 and Under in a western mounted pattern class including in horsemanship, western riding, trail, and/or hunt seat equitation on the flat at a section 1 nationally recognized championship or world show competition (e.g AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or 14 & Under AHA. See section 1 competitions / Rule G3101;
4. Have NOT placed in the top ten (10) national rankings for year end results in section 1 organizations in a western mounted pattern class in horsemanship, western riding, trail, and/or hunt seat equitation on the flat. See section 1 competitions / Rule 3101;
5. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

IEA intermediate horsemanship eligibility excludes experience in halter, showmanship, speed/timed events, walk/trot, and 10 & Under.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate horsemanship classes during the regular season.

CLASS W5. Junior Varsity Novice Horsemanship: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of one year of professional instruction and are capable of performing western horsemanship tests 1 - 10 (Rule W3304).

Riders exceeding any one or more of the numbered criteria for novice horsemanship **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

Novice riders:

1. Have NOT accumulated 10 or more points in any one mounted class (including Level 1 Youth/Novice, 14-18, or 13 & Under) in any section 1 nationally recognized association (e.g AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or 30 or more points in any one mounted class (including Select level, 15-18, or 14 & Under) for AHA. See section 1 competitions / Rule G3101;
2. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

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IEA novice horsemanship eligibility excludes experience in halter, showmanship, walk/trot, and 10 & Under.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice horsemanship classes during the regular season.

CLASS W7. Junior Varsity Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog/Lope: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of six months of professional instruction and are capable of performing western horsemanship tests 1 - 7 (Rule W3304). Riders must be proficient at the jog and have the ability to compete in a group at a lope on a variety of unfamiliar horses. Riders are not allowed to cross-enter into Class W8 or Class W14 Beginner W/J.

Riders exceeding any one or more of the numbered criteria for beginner horsemanship walk/jog/lope **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

JV Beginner Walk/Jog/Lope riders:

1. Have NOT competed more than twelve (12) times / individual performances at a lope or canter in section 1 or section 2 competitions / Rule W3101;
2. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

IEA beginner horsemanship walk/jog/lope eligibility excludes experience in IEA classes at the canter in a different discipline at the beginner or novice level. See Initial Placements & Crossover Riders / Rule Section G3202.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) beginner walk/jog/lope horsemanship classes during the regular season.

CLASS W7x / W8x. Junior Varsity Beginner Horsemanship - Walk/Jog Warm-Up: Optional offering that can combine with Future Class W13x / W14x. Open only to riders competing at that competition in Class W7 or Class W8. No individual or team points will be awarded.

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CLASS W8. Junior Varsity Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of six months of professional instruction and are capable of performing western horsemanship tests 1 - 6 (Rule W3304). Riders must be proficient at the jog and lope at home and have the ability to compete in a group on a variety of unfamiliar horses at the walk and jog. Riders are not allowed to cross-enter into Class W7 or Class W13 Beginner W/J/L.

Riders exceeding the numbered criteria for beginner horsemanship walk/jog **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

JV Beginner Walk/Jog riders:

1. Have NOT competed more than six (6) times / individual performances at a lope or canter in section 1, section 2, or section 3 competitions / Rule W3101.

IEA beginner horsemanship walk/jog eligibility excludes experience in IEA classes at the canter in a different discipline at the beginner level. See Initial Placements & Crossover Riders / Rule Section G3202.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes riders must have accumulated the required points.

No team points will be awarded in Class W8 or Class W14 Beginner Walk/Jog during regular or post-season shows.

CLASS W9. Future Intermediate Horsemanship: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W1 Varsity Open Horsemanship or Class W3 Varsity Intermediate Horsemanship.

CLASS W11. Future Novice Horsemanship: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W5 Junior Varsity Novice Horsemanship.

CLASS W13. Future Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog/Lope: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W7 Junior Varsity Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog/Lope.

CLASS W13x / W14x. Future Beginner Horsemanship - Walk/Jog Warm-Up: Optional offering that can combine with JV Class W7x / W8x. Open to riders competing in Class W13 or Class W14. No individual or team points will be awarded.

CLASS W14. Future Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W8 Junior Varsity Beginner Horsemanship Walk/Jog.

W3302 Western Reining / Ranch Riding Classes

CLASS W2. Varsity Open Reining: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of one year of professional reining instruction. Riders participating in varsity open reining are

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expected to compete throughout the regular season in horsemanship at the varsity open or intermediate level. Open riders:

1. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

IEA open reining eligibility excludes experience in horsemanship, western riding, trail, speed/timed events, halter, showmanship, western pleasure, walk/trot, 10 & Under, hunt seat, and saddle seat classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes, riders must have accumulated the required reining points **and** participated in two (2) open or two (2) intermediate horsemanship classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes, riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) open reining classes **and** two (2) open or two (2) intermediate horsemanship classes. during the regular season.

Open reining patterns: In addition to IEA modified reining patterns for open, riders should be prepared to perform official NRHA / AQHA / IHSA reining patterns.

CLASS W4. Varsity Intermediate Reining: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of six months of professional reining instruction. Riders participating in varsity intermediate reining are expected to compete throughout the regular season in horsemanship at the varsity open, intermediate, or novice level.

Riders exceeding any one or more of the numbered criteria for intermediate reining **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

Intermediate riders:

1. Have NOT exceeded AQHA, APHA, or NSBA Level 1 Youth/Novice eligibility or AHA Select level eligibility in any age group in any reining or ranch riding class;
2. Have NOT exceeded eligibility requirements for NRHA Green Reiner 1;
3. Have NOT placed in the top ten (10) in a 14-18 reining or ranch riding class (including Level 1 Youth/Novice) in any section 1 nationally recognized championship or world show competition (e.g. NRHA, AQHA, APHA, or NSBA) or 15-18 AHA (including Select level). See section 1 competitions / Rule G3101;
4. Have NOT placed within the top three (3) in a 13 & Under reining or ranch riding class (including Level 1 Youth/Novice) in any section 1 nationally recognized championship or world show competition (e.g. NRHA, AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or 14 & Under AHA (including Select level). See section 1 competitions / Rule 3101;
5. Have NOT placed in the top ten (10) national rankings for year end results in NRHA, AQHA, APHA, or AHA in reining or ranch riding;

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6. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.5 (national finals).

IEA intermediate reining eligibility excludes experience in speed/timed events, halter, showmanship, walk/trot, and 10 & Under.

To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes, riders must have accumulated the required reining points **and** participated in two (2) open, intermediate, or novice horsemanship classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes, riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) intermediate reining classes **and** two open, intermediate, or novice horsemanship classes during the regular season.

Intermediate reining patterns: In addition to IEA modified reining patterns for intermediate, riders should be prepared to perform official NRHA short stirrup / IHSA reining patterns.

CLASS W6. Junior Varsity Novice Ranch Riding: Open to riders in grades 9-12 who have a minimum of six months of professional reining or ranch riding instruction and ability to perform patterns on a variety of horses at the jog and lope. Riders participating in novice ranch riding are expected to compete throughout the regular season in horsemanship at the intermediate, or novice level and are **NOT permitted to cross-enter in Class W7 or Class W13 Beginner W/J/L or Class W8 or Class W14 Beginner W/J.**

Riders exceeding any one or more of the numbered criteria for novice ranch riding **must** be placed at a higher level or petition for alternate placement **prior** to competing.

Novice riders:

1. Have NOT accumulated ten (10) or more points in any one mounted class (including Level 1 Youth/Novice, 14-18 or 13 & Under) in any section 1 nationally recognized association (e.g. NRHA, AQHA, APHA, NSBA) or 30 or more points in any one mounted class (including Select level, 15-18, or 14 & Under) for AHA. See section 1 competitions / Rule G3101.1;
2. Are NOT eligible for a lower level placement or have advanced per IEA Rules G3204.1 (two years at one level), G3204.2 (pointed out), or G3204.4 (national finals).

IEA novice ranch riding eligibility excludes experience in speed/timed events, halter, showmanship, walk/trot, and 10 & Under.

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To be eligible for post-season competition in individual classes, riders must have accumulated the required ranch riding points **and** participated in two (2) intermediate, or novice horsemanship classes.

To be eligible for post-season competition in team classes, riders must have participated in a minimum of two (2) novice ranch riding classes **and** two intermediate, or novice horsemanship classes during the regular season.

CLASS W10. Future Intermediate Reining: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W2 Varsity Open Reining or Class W4 Varsity Intermediate Reining.

CLASS W12. Future Novice Ranch Riding: Open to riders in grades 4-8 who meet the class description and numbered criteria for Class W6 Junior Varsity Novice Horsemanship.

W3303 Western Leading Rider Award

Presented at regular season shows to the high point open rider with the greatest total combined points from Class W1 Varsity Open Horsemanship and Class W2 Varsity Open Reining. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the higher individual reining score in class W2. If the test scores are tied, refer to western rule W4600.

W3304 Western Horsemanship Tests and Patterns

W3304.1 Prior to the completion of a class, ~~After having riders work at appropriate gaits in both directions on the rail,~~ a judge **must use two or more** horsemanship tests 1 - 14 in Class W1 Varsity Open Horsemanship. For all other levels of horsemanship a judge **may use one or more tests** using tests 1 - 6 for beginner W/J riders, tests 1 - 7 for beginner W/J/L riders, tests 1 - 10 for novice riders, tests 1 - 12 for intermediate riders, and tests 1 - 14 for open riders. Any one or combination of appropriate ~~or equivalent~~ tests may be used.

When Horsemanship patterns are used, additional Horsemanship Tests are not required .

Tests 1 - 6 (Beginner Walk/Jog)

1. Individual performance on the rail ~~or level appropriate horsemanship pattern from the IEA Pattern Addendum~~
2. Halt and/or back
3. Figure eight at the walk or jog
4. Change horses
5. 180 degree turn on the haunches
6. **Extend the jog/trot**

Tests 1 - 7 (Beginner Walk/Jog/Lope)

7. Lope on a specific lead and halt

Tests 1 - 10 (Novice)

8. 360 degree turn on the haunches
9. Ride without stirrups at the walk or jog

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10. Simple change of leads through the walk, jog, or halt as specified by the judge

Tests 1 - 12 (Intermediate)

11. Flying change of lead (should the competition horses allow)

12. Figure eight at the lope, demonstrating a change of lead through the walk, jog, or flying change (should competition horses allow) as specified by the judge

Tests 1 - 14 (Open)

13. Ride without stirrups at the lope

14. Counter canter

15. IEA or non-IEA horsemanship pattern using any of Tests 1 - 14 (above).

W3304.2 Patterns in horsemanship classes at the beginner level are not required and not standard at national finals. If horsemanship patterns are used during regular season shows, they must be selected from the IEA Pattern Addendum for the appropriate level. All riders in the class must be given the opportunity to perform the designated pattern. ~~or additional testing.~~

W3304.3 Patterns in horsemanship classes at the novice and intermediate levels are recommended and must be selected from the IEA Pattern Addendum for the appropriate level. All riders in the class must be given the opportunity to perform the designated pattern. ~~or additional testing.~~

W3304.4 Patterns in horsemanship classes at the open level are encouraged and may be selected from the IEA Pattern Addendum or any non-IEA pattern using the maneuvers defined in Rule W3304 - Tests 1 - 14. All riders in the class must be given the opportunity to perform the designated pattern. ~~or additional testing.~~

RULE W4000: REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS - REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - Refer to G4000 regarding regular season competitions: requirements, procedures, and responsibilities

W4400 Show Routine

W4402 Western Schooling Procedures (see also Rule G4402)

W4402.4 Western horses may be schooled in the manner that best prepares them for the class. It is not mandatory to switch to a non-roweled spur for schooling purposes.

W4402.5 Horsemanship horses must be schooled a minimum of one lap at each gait in each direction.

W4411 Western Tack and Aids (see also Rule G4411)

W4411.11 Traditional leather all-around saddles are preferred, but synthetic all-around saddles are acceptable.

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- W4411.12** Full western headstalls with shank bits and split reins are preferred. Romal reins, snaffle bits and hackamores are acceptable. Horses are to be ridden as bridled.
- W4411.13** Headstalls without nosebands are preferred. Nosebands/cavessons are acceptable if recommended by the horse provider.
- W4411.14** Professionally manufactured martingales with rein guards (running) are allowed if necessary and recommended by the horse provider. Rein stops are mandatory when a martingale is used. Training forks, tie downs, standing martingales, and homemade tack items are not permitted.
- W4411.15** Riders in the beginner walk/jog and beginner walk/jog/lope classes are allowed to wear spurs when indicated in the horse description, but only ball (non-roweled) spurs are permitted. Beginner riders who use roweled spurs will be eliminated.
- W4411.16** Riders in horsemanship and reining classes may use a ball (non-roweled) spur when indicated in the horse description. If the horse provider feels the horse would perform better in a non-ball spur (roweled), the type and size must be specified in the horse description. If use of a spur is noted but the type is not specified, only a ball (non-roweled) spur may be used. Riders in beginner classes may only use ball (non-roweled) spurs.
- W4411.17** Riders should be prepared to provide their own ball (non-roweled) or roweled spurs.
- W4411.18** Coaches and riders are responsible for using only the approved aids as listed in the horse description paying particular attention to the type of spur (non-roweled or roweled) noted. Any variance will have to be approved by the show steward in conjunction with the horse provider. Riders using anything other than what is noted in the horse description or pre-approved by the show steward will be eliminated.

W4412 Dress and Headgear - Proper Show Attire - Western

- W4412.9 Western Hats and Helmets** - Safety riding helmets are encouraged in western divisions at every level. At all times while mounted, all western riders in grades 4-5, as well as middle and upper school riders competing in the beginner level western classes (classes, 7, 8, 13, or 14), must wear a harnessed and fully fastened protective ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet for equestrian use. In all cases in which safety riding helmets are required, a rider whose safety helmet becomes lost or unfastened while in the show ring will be disqualified and immediately excused from the ring. Helmet and chin straps must be fitted properly according to manufacturer's instructions.

Riders in grades 6-12 competing in novice, intermediate, and open divisions (classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, or 12) have the option of competing in western hats or safety helmets as long as they follow all local / state guidelines and laws pertaining to safety riding helmets (Rule G4412.3). In reining and horsemanship classes, loss of a western hat is not cause for disqualification. Riders who wear a safety riding helmet must do so

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properly and if the safety helmet becomes lost or unfastened while in the show ring the rider will be disqualified.

W4412.10 Western Attire - Riders are expected to wear appropriate western attire while showing. Appropriate attire includes a long sleeve shirt, boots, and western hat or safety helmet as defined in Rule G4412.3. Variations from defined western attire are discouraged but not cause for disqualification. Using position aids and wearing attire with team identifying logos or promotional logos in the competition ring are causes for disqualification (Rules G4412.5 and G4412.6).

Ranch Riding Attire - Riders 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 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, scarves, etc.) is acceptable and helps to 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.

W4600 Tie Breaker Rules

W4601 At all shows, including post-season, for all placings, team ties shall be broken in consultation with the show steward, first by the total number of first (1st) place finishes, then by total number of second (2nd) place finishes, then by total number of third (3rd) place finishes, then by the total number of fourth (4th) place finishes, then by total number fifth (5th) place finishes. If a tie still exists, then it shall be broken by the highest combined total of points from performance classes (western reining / ranch riding). Designated team point rider scores are the only scores to be considered when breaking team placement ties.

W4602 If the tie still cannot be broken, the show steward, in consultation with the judge, shall decide upon a ride-off, question provided by the judge, or a coin toss to determine the tie-break. Any one of these three methods selected shall determine both title and awards at all shows except national finals. This selected method shall determine the distribution of awards at national finals, but national titles shall be shared.

W4603 For ties in a two-judge system of western horsemanship classes, see Rule W7301.4.

W4604 Reining Tie Breaker Rules

W4604.1 All reining ties during **regular and post-season shows**, (with the exception of ties for first (1st) place at national finals or ties for any qualifying spots for national finals), will be broken in the following manner:

1. Fewest number of penalty points;
2. The highest score on a predetermined maneuver other than a spin or slide, chosen by the designated judge, before the start of the reining competition;
3. If the tie still cannot be broken, a coin toss will determine the winner.

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W4604.2 First (1st) place reining ties at **national finals or any post-season individual class determining qualifying spot for national finals** will be broken in the following manner:

1. Fewest number of penalty points;
2. The highest score on a predetermined maneuver other than a spin or slide, chosen by the designated judge, before the start of the reining competition;
3. A ride-off - riders will switch horses and ride IEA Pattern 10. If both riders were on the same horse they will use predetermined alternate horses chosen by the stewards.
4. If the tie still cannot be broken in an individual class, the riders will remain tied in points / title / qualification. If a tie still cannot be broken in a team class, the tie remains and full points will be awarded to both riders. In both individual and team classes, if a tie remains after steps 1-3 are completed, a coin toss will be used to determine who retains what prizes. The winner of the toss takes all prizes for the higher level, and the other rider gets the prizes designated for the next lower award level. When riders remain tied, the next placing skips a spot and then resumes. (e.g., tie for 2nd can't be broken; riders remain tied so no one is placed 3rd; the next placing awarded is 4th)

RULE W7000: JUDGING REQUIREMENTS - Refer to G7000 regarding general judging requirements

W7200 Western Judging Requirements and Guidelines

W7201 Hands

W7201.1 The upper arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow.

W7201.2 Some movement of the arms is permissible, but excessive pumping will be penalized.

W7201.3 The position of the hand not holding the reins is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment, and held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body straight at all times.

W7201.4 The hand is to be around the reins at all times.

W7201.5 No more than one finger is permitted between the reins when split reins are used, but none with romal reins. Rider may hold the romal in the free hand, provided it is at least 16" from the rein hand.

W7201.6 Rein hand to be carried immediately above or slightly ahead of the horn of the saddle.

W7201.7 Bracing against the horn will be penalized.

W7201.8 Reins should be carried so as to have light contact with the horse's mouth.

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W7201.9 Two hands may be used only on horses designated by the show committee. It is recommended that these horses be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore.

W7202 Basic Rider Position

W7202.1 Riders shall sit in the saddle with legs hanging underneath.

W7202.2 The stirrup should be just short enough to allow the heels to be lower than the toes.

W7202.3 The body should always appear comfortable, relaxed, and flexible.

W7202.4 Feet should be placed in the stirrups with the weight on the ball of the foot.

W7300 Western Class Routine

W7301 All Western Classes (**Horsemanship, Reining, and Ranch Riding**) should adhere to the following routines:

W7301.1 All patterns (Horsemanship, Reining, and Ranch Riding) will be posted not less than thirty (30) minutes before the class.

W7301.2 Riders are judged individually upon entering the ring and judging ends upon completion of the final maneuver. A judge's decision is final.

W7301.3 A judge may change riders from any horse to any other horse in the same class.

W7301.4 When two judges are used, a tie-breaker judge for each class must be designated before the start of the competition.

W7301.5 Two hands may be used only on horses designated as such by the show committee and listed in the horse description chart. It is recommended that these horses be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore.

W7302 Horsemanship Class Routine

W7302.1 Riders shall enter the ring and show collectively on the rail at all required gaits in both directions. ~~prior to any individual testing or patterns. The order to reverse should be executed away from the rail. Riders shall line up on command.~~

W7302.2 A judge must use tests 1-14, as appropriate for the given class (see rule W3304.1) to test riders collectively or individually prior to the completion of the class. A judge may also request additional testing of any rider, following the completion of the rail work, individually as appropriate for the given class (see rule W3304.1). If needed, additional level appropriate testing using tests 1-14 of a subset of riders may also occur at the judge's discretion.

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W7302.3 When a pattern is designated to be part of a Horsemanship class, all riders will perform that pattern after completing rail work in both directions. See W3304.2 ~~If a pattern is used or additional testing is required by the judge(s), all riders must be given the opportunity to ride the pattern or test.~~

W7302.4 When patterns are used in Intermediate, Novice, and Beginner horsemanship classes, they must be level appropriate and selected from the IEA Pattern Addendum. Open Horsemanship classes may use patterns selected from the IEA Pattern Addendum or any non-IEA pattern using Tests 1-14 defined in Rule W3304.

W7302.5 In Horsemanship classes when additional testing and/or patterns are used, all riders must perform the additional tests and/or pattern.

W7302.6 During **REGULAR SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **OPEN, INTERMEDIATE, NOVICE, and BEGINNER HORSEMANSHIP** classes will not be disqualified but will be considered OP (e.g. knocking over a cone, wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over/under turning more than 1/4 turn than designated). **OP riders must always place lower than those exhibitors on pattern.**

During **POST SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **OPEN and INTERMEDIATE HORSEMANSHIP** classes will be disqualified (DQ) and cannot place or advance.

During **POST SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **NOVICE and BEGINNER HORSEMANSHIP** classes will not be disqualified but will be considered OP (e.g. knocking over a cone, wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over/under turning more than 1/4 turn than designated...). **OP riders must always place lower than those exhibitors on pattern.**

W7303 Ranch Riding Class Routine

W7303.1 Riders are to perform individually before the judge(s). Riders should be prepared to perform IEA modified patterns for novice ranch riding from the IEA Pattern Addendum.

W7303.2 All riders in the same class will be asked to perform the same pre-assigned pattern.

W7303.3 Ranch Riding Specifics - Novice ranch riding is designated 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 communication with their horse. This class serves as a bridge between traditional horsemanship patterns and reining, and is meant to provide a rider with opportunities to gradually gain skill in the show arena.

W7303.4 During **REGULAR SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **NOVICE RANCH RIDING** classes will not be disqualified (DQ) but will be considered OP (e.g. knocking

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over a cone, wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over/under turning more than 1/4 turn than designated). **OP riders must always place lower than those exhibitors on pattern.**

During **POST SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **NOVICE RANCH RIDING classes will not be disqualified but will be considered OP** (e.g. knocking over a cone, wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or over/under turning more than 1/4 turn than designated). **OP riders must always place lower than those exhibitors on pattern.**

W7304 Reining Class Routine

W7304.1 Riders are to perform individually before the judge(s). Three markers will be placed on the left and right rail, respectively, consisting of a center marker and two end markers spaced appropriately to the size of the arena to allow easy passage beyond the markers.

W7304.2 All riders in the same class will be asked to perform the same pre-assigned pattern. Patterns will be selected from official NRHA / AQHA / IHSA patterns or IEA modified patterns for the current competition season. In the event horses are not capable of flying lead changes or four (4) spins, patterns may require simple lead changes and/or one (1) or two (2) spins.

W7304.3 Riders will be judged on symmetry of figures; properly placed variations of speed, direction, and sizes of circles; proper technical application of natural aids in obtaining lead changes, stops, and turns; and reasonable working horsemanship. Emphasis is on precision, technical application, and the ability to show an unfamiliar horse in a pre-assigned pattern. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT necessarily to be considered more important than the methods used by the rider in obtaining them.

W7304.4 During **REGULAR SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **OPEN and INTERMEDIATE REINING classes will not be disqualified but will be considered OP** (e.g. over/under spins, backing in excess of 4 steps, performing circle sizes out of order...). **OP riders must always place lower than those exhibitors on pattern.**

During **POST SEASON** shows, riders going off pattern (OP) in **OPEN and INTERMEDIATE REINING** classes **will be disqualified (DQ) and cannot place or advance.**

During REGULAR SEASON and POST SEASON shows for riders going off pattern (OP) in NOVICE RANCH RIDING classes, refer to W7303.

W7400 Reining Pattern Requirements

W7401 All riders in the same class will be asked to perform the same pre-assigned pattern.

W7402 All patterns will be posted not less than thirty (30) minutes before the class.

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W7403 Patterns will be selected from official NRHA / AQHA / IHSA patterns or IEA modified patterns for the current competition season.

W7404 In the event horses are not capable of flying lead changes or four (4) spins, patterns may require one (1) or two (2) spins and/or simple lead changes. See IEA modified patterns for the current competition season.

W7405 Riders are judged individually upon entering the ring and judging ends upon completion of the final maneuver. A judge's decision is final.

W7406 For riders going off pattern (OP) in reining classes (over/under spins, backing in excess of 4 steps, performing circle sizes out of order...), refer to W7304.4.

For riders going off patten (OP) in ranch riding classes, refer to W7303.4.

W7407 Two hands may be used only on horses designated as such by the show committee and listed in the horse description chart. It is recommended that these horses be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore.

W7408 Speed variation is required. **Any rider exhibiting excessive speed will be assigned a penalty 1 score per maneuver.**

RULE W8000: POINTS, SCORING AND POST SEASON QUALIFICATION

W8200 Western Post-Season Qualification - refer to Rule G8200 for general qualification rules.

W8206 Points to Qualify

W8206.1 Western teams qualify for region finals by accumulating twenty (20) team points during the regular season.

W8206.2 Western riders qualify for individual classes at region finals by accumulating a minimum of fifteen (15) points in that class during the competition year.

W8300 Western Region Finals - refer to Rule G8300 for general rules.

W8302 Region finals will consist of only teams and riders that have qualified for post-season under Rule W8200 in zones that have been divided into regions. Each region will send an allotted number of teams and individual riders to western national finals. Allotment numbers will be posted on the IEA website.

W8303 Region finals will be held at least twenty (20) business days before western national finals.

W8304 A minimum of six (6) ribbons will be awarded in each class.

W8500 Western National Finals - refer to Rule G8500 for general rules.

W8502 Class Specifications - Team Competition

W8502.4 There will be no more than twelve (12) teams at western national finals.

W8502.5 See annual Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines on the IEA website for post-season allotments. All post season allotments that are based upon membership populations will use statistics as of December 1st of the current season.

W8502.6 Each qualified team may send one (1) rider for each team class offered at national finals.

W8503 Class Specifications - Individual Rider Competition

W8503.3 There will be no more than twelve (12) riders per class at western national finals.

W8503.4 See annual Zone Requirements and Split Guidelines on the IEA website for post season allotments. All post season allotments that are based upon membership populations will use statistics as of December 1st of the current season.

W8503.5 Myron Leff IEA National Leading Rider Award

Presented at national finals to the high point-open rider with the greatest total combined points from Class W1i Varsity Open Horsemanship and Class W2i Varsity Open Reining. In case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the higher individual reining placement in class W2i.