

NVRHA MAJOR RULE CHANGES for 2014

(Effective Oct. 1, 2013)

For a complete review, consult the 2014 Edition of the NVRHA Official Handbook

1. Establishment of an Executive Advisory Board

¶I.F. Executive Advisory Board

A group of knowledgeable founding and multiple-term Board Members, chaired by a Past President, will function in a resource advisory capacity. Although their input should weigh heavily, decision-making will remain the responsibility of the sitting NVRHA Board of Directors. Members will be nominated by the Chairman and must be confirmed by a majority vote of the NVRHA Board of Directors. The principal charge of the Executive Advisory Board is as follows:

1. Preservation of historical knowledge, and understanding of founding principles of the NVRHA. The group would be charged with preserving the NVRHA mission.
2. Sharing of knowledge and thought processes involved in rule creation. What has worked and what hasn't. The group would have an understanding of the NVRHA evolutionary process and be able to guide others around pitfalls and issues that have been encountered in the past.
3. The Executive Advisory Board would act as a resource and rich source of knowledge and experience in NVRHA matters, defining and clarifying the goals of the association.
4. The Chairman of this Executive Advisory Board shall sit on the member NVRHA Board of Directors.

2. New Guidelines for holding Back-to-Back Schooling Competitions

¶IV.B. Back-to-Back Schooling Competitions

To hold Back-to-Back Schooling Competitions, the following conditions must be met:

- Must be a Level 2 Affiliate
- If the same two Judges are used for both days, they must be flip-flopped. Judge One judges cattle classes during first Schooling Competition, dry classes during second Schooling Competition. Judge Two judges dry classes during first Schooling Competition, cattle classes during second Schooling Competition. Conformation judged by a different judge at each Schooling Competition.
- Second Competition cannot begin until the first competition is completed.
- Each Level 2 Affiliate may not hold more than one Back-to-Back Competition per Event Year.

3. Clarification of "When a cow is Penned"

¶V.G.13. **The cow will be considered penned when the complete cow has entered the box portion of the pen with the tail past the wing.

4. Working Ranch Horse Time Limit Changed from 6 Minutes to 4 Minutes to complete the class.

¶V.H.b.**There is a four (4) minute time limit in the combined cow work and roping portion of the class (after the reining portion of the class has been completed). The clock will start when the gate is closed after the cow enters the arena. At the two (2) minute mark, there will be a two (2) minute warning. When the four (4) minute time limit has expired, the exhibitor will be required to exit the arena.

5. Working Ranch Horse – Judge Whistles for New Cow.

V.H.g. If time and number of cattle permit, the judge may, at his discretion, award new cattle, to enable the contestant to show his horse's ability on the cow, based on the following criteria:

- a. The cow won't or can't run
- b. The cow won't leave the end of the arena
- c. The cow is blind or won't yield to the horse
- d. The cow leaves the arena ~~in the all around~~

The clock will reset to 4 minutes after receiving new cow.

and

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7. Working Ranch Horse – Roping.

¶ V.H.3)l. Any catch in which the rope goes over the head (cow looks through the loop) and holds the cow, is a legal catch. **For a catch to be legal cow must look through loop.** The quality of the catch will be a factor considered by the Judge in assigning the maneuver score. A heal or leg catch (cow does not look through the loop) is an illegal catch but may be used to stop the cow.

8. Ranch Conformation will be judged individually one horse in the arena being judged one at a time with dismissal from the arena once the judge completes judging. The head-to-tail lineup of horses will no longer be used.

¶ V.I. A. Ranch Conformation

The purpose of this class is to select horses that are the most positive combination of form (balance, way of going and structure, substance/muscle, and conformation features) -to-function (as demonstrated in Ranch Cutting, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Trail, and Ranch Riding)

1. **Form: 60% of the Ranch Conformation Score will be evaluated by the judge individually. Balance, way of going and structure, substance/muscle, head and neck, shoulders/withers/heart girth, and hip/loin/back will be rated on a scale from below average to excellent. Credit can be earned for good conditioning, showmanship and manners.**
2. **Function:** The remaining 40% of the Ranch Conformation Score will be determined by the horse/rider team's performance in Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Cutting and Working Ranch Horse during the performance classes of the schooling competition. 10% of each class performance score will be added to the Structural Correctness and Balance Scores. The Total Ranch Conformation Score will be the addition of the Structural Correctness Score (legs) plus the Balance Score (form) and the Function Score (10% of Cutting-Working-Trail-Riding Scores).
3. **Grooming:** No hoof polish, braided manes, or tail extensions are allowed. Trimming inside the ear is discouraged. Trimming bridal paths, fetlocks or facial hair is allowed.
4. **Ranch Form Conformation Judging: All horses will be judged individually, one horse in the arena being judged**

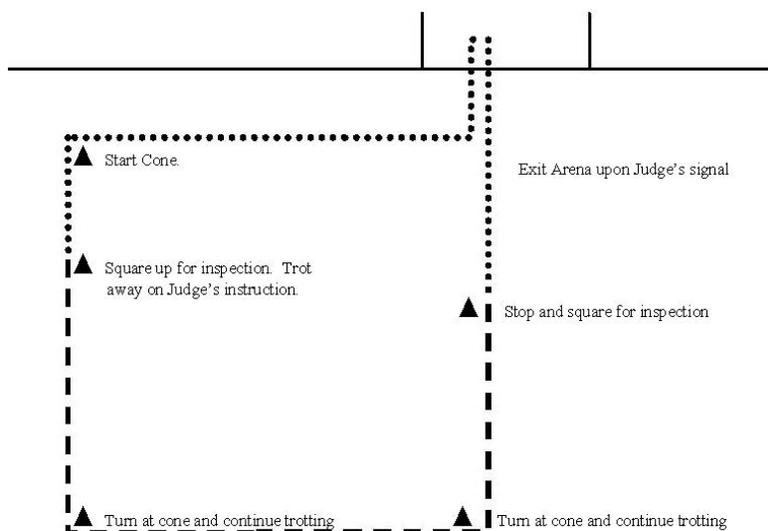
one at a time with dismissal from the arena once the judge completes judging. The exhibitor will walk the horse to the judge from the start cone, square the horse for inspection and maintain the horse both square and alert with balanced weight on all four legs during the judge's evaluation. Upon the judge's instruction, the exhibitor will trot the horse to a designated cone, turning 90° at the cone and continue trotting to a second cone, again turning 90° at the second cone and continue trotting to a third cone where he/she will stop and again square the horse for inspection. Upon the signal from the judge, the horse and exhibitor will be excused from the arena.

5. Credits

- a) **Conditioning:** Horses should be fit. They should be in proper weight and muscle tone with a healthy hair coat and proper shoeing. Judges may score from a -3 very poor to a +3 excellent for that element. Conditioning is an element that can be improved upon by the rider with proper attention and practice.
- b) **Showmanship:** Horse should be exhibited to the judge in a manner in which the judge can easily examine all conformation features. The walk to the Judge should be direct and straight. The Square for Examination should be accomplished quickly with all four feet as square as possible, with the horse alert with weight evenly distributed. The trot should be upon command and of even speed. The horse should be well mannered at all times. Judges may score from a -3 very poor to a +3 excellent for that element. Showmanship is an element that can be improved upon by the rider with proper attention and practice.

RANCH HORSE CONFORMATION JUDGING PATTERN

2014



6. Conformation can be judged at anytime during the weekend at event management discretion..

9. **Movement into and out of Limited Amateur Division has been relaxed.**

¶ VII.C. Limited Amateur Division

Moving INTO the Limited Division:

Inclusion in the Limited Division is open to any Amateur horse/rider team. The normal progression will be from Novice to Intermediate, but any current horse/rider teams with a permanent division assignment may opt to go to the Limited Division by submitting a statement in writing to the NVRHA office prior to competing in their first event as a Limited.

The Participant can move in and out of the Limited Division once in an Event/Season Year. Points will stay in the Division the participant earned them. The Participant must notify the NVRHA office, in writing, of the move either in or out prior to the first event in which he/she will participate in the new/changed Division. The Participant must notify an Event Manager at the Event if there is a Division change or no Points will be awarded.

Because a rider/horse team may remain in the Limited Division indefinitely, that team will be allowed to win the National Year-end Overall award only ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS. Championship points will continue to be earned as normal.

10. First Time Participants that do not attend a clinic may go into the Advanced or Limited Division and after two shows will get their permanent division assignment.

¶ VII.C. Limited Amateur Division, 6th paragraph:

If a horse/rider team has moved up to the Limited Division from the Novice Division, or **opted** directly into the Limited Division – they will move up to the Intermediate Division when electing to leave Limited. The average score of the first 2 events in the Intermediate Amateur division will determine their permanent division assignment. No **permanent division assigned** Limited Amateur horse/rider team will be allowed to move to the Novice division.

¶ VII.D. Youth and Amateur Division Placement

Should a first time eventer or new horse/rider team not attend the clinic prior to the Schooling Competition, he or she will be assigned to the Advanced Division or the Limited Division and be eligible for placement points and awards and NVRHA Championship points. During the Competition the Judge will whistle the rider off the cow should any unsafe situation be observed. Should the rider not attend the clinic prior to his or her second competition, he or she must remain in the Advanced Division **or the Limited Division**. If a clinic is attended prior to the second competition, the clinician will place the horse/rider team in the appropriate division. After the first two competitions have been completed, the average score will establish the permanent Division assignment for the remaining event year.

11. Application of the Register of Merit Rule use in calculation of Championship Points with examples.

¶ IX.C.

1. NVRHA Register of Merit

Any horse/rider team achieving 10 Champion Points in any specific class receives a Register of Merit (“ROM”) for that class. As a bonus to non-ROM horse/rider teams achieving Level of Achievement scores, a non-ROM horse/rider team placing one place below a ROM horse/rider team will be elevated to receive the same Champion Point(s) as the ROM horse/rider team above him/her.

EXAMPLE: (based on 15 horse\rider teams)

Rider\Horse	Score	Points
A) ROM Earner	78	3
B)	77	3*
C) ROM Earner	75	2
D)	73	2*
E)	71	1
F)	68	1/2

*Horse/Rider placing elevated - Register of Merit Rule

2. Breaking Champion Points Ties

Champion Points will be awarded after ties in Class Scores are broken based on a pre-determined set of tiebreakers.

EXAMPLE: Class based on 23 horse/rider teams of which all participated in all 5 classes.

Class Score	Champion Points
77	4
76	3
75	2
74	1
73	½
71	
70	
67	

Class Score	Champion Points
77	4
76 ROM	3
76	3
75	2
75	1
73ROM	½
70	½
70	

Class Score	Champion Points
77	4
76	3
75	2
74 ROM	1
73	1
71 ROM	½
70	½
67	

Class Score	Champion Points
77 ROM	4
73	4
71 ROM	3
69 ROM	2
69	2
69	1
62	½
62 ROM	

Class Score	Champion Points
77	4
73	3
71	2
69 ROM	1
67 ROM	½
63 ROM	
62	
58 ROM	

Class Score	Champion Points
80 ROM	4
79 ROM	3
76 ROM	2
75	2
75	1
73	½
70	
70	

12. The Award Year will be 1 Oct-15 September of the following year.

¶ IX.F. Award Year

The Award Year will be the 1st of October thru the 15th of September of the following year. September 15th is the year-end for NVRHA Championship Points and Placement Point accumulation for Year End Awards. All participants (rider/horse teams) will begin the new event year (1st of Oct) 1 with ZERO (0) Placement Points. Championship Points are cumulative and carry over from year to year. Division placements will be based upon the scores received in the previous year.

13. Horse substitution will be allowed at the National Championship

¶ XI.A. Eligibility

A horse/rider team must compete in two schooling competitions in all five classes during the preceding award year to be eligible to participate in the National Championship.

A rider having participated in two competitions during the event year may substitute any horse at the National Championship so long as the substituted horse has a Permanent Division assigned to the same rider. The substituted horse/rider will compete in their assigned division.

As of July 31st of each year, NVRHA will notify participants who are eligible to attend the National Championship event. However, you may continue to qualify through the 2nd week of September.

RANCH HORSE CONFORMATION

2014

Date:	Judge's Name:	Back No.
Rider's Name:	Horse's Name:	Horse ID No.

NVRHA Scoring Scale: Zero = Average, +1=Good, +2=Very Good, +3=Excellent, -1=Needs Improvement, -2=Poor, -3=Very Poor

FORM AND SHOWMANSHIP: *Note to Judge: Only a partial listing of features are listed. Write in additional features as required. Judges are encouraged to circle dominant features, either + or -.*

		SCORE
Front Legs, Feet	(+) Straight legs; Good bone; Well defined tendons; _____ (-) Toe in; Toe out; Base wide; Base narrow; Steep pasterns; _____	
Chest & Pectoral V	(+) Well muscled; Deep V; Good neck tie in; _____ (-) Insufficient muscle; Excessive muscle; _____	
Head	(+) Triangular, short & broad; Large, wide set, soft eye; Big nostrils; _____ (-) Parrot mouth; Under slung jaw; Roman nose; Pig eye; Oversize ears; _____	
Neck & Throat latch	(+) Clean, arching throat latch; Long neck; Good tie in; _____ (-) Thick neck; Short neck; Ewe neck; Crested neck; Low tie in; _____	
Shoulders & Withers	(+) Long, 45 degree shoulder; Prominent withers; Adequate muscle; _____ (-) Steep shoulder; Mutton withers; Withers lower than croup; _____	
Heart Girth & Barrel	(+) Deep, thick girth; Well sprung ribs; Long underline; _____ (-) Shallow girth; Narrow sprung ribs; Short underline; _____	
Back & Loin	(+) Short, strong, well muscled back; Short, strong loin; _____ (-) Long, weak back; Sway back; Weak muscling; _____	
Hip & Croup	(+) Long, sloping hip; Deep carry down; Smooth tie with hip; _____ (-) Short hip; Goose rump; Steep croup; Shallow hip carry down; _____	
Stifle & Gaskin	(+) Gaskin, strong muscle in/out; Stifle, wide bell from rear view; _____ (-) Inadequate muscling; Weak inside gaskin muscle; _____	
Hock, Hind Legs, Feet	(+) Good bone; Low hock; Good hock angularity; _____ (-) Base wide; Base narrow; Sickie hock; Cow hock; Post leg; _____	
Overall Muscling	(+) Well defined; Long; Smooth; Well attached; _____ (-) Inadequate muscling; Excessive muscling; _____	
Tracking	(+) Straight, true, long, swift elastic stride; Sound; _____ (-) Wing in; Paddling; Interfering; Pounding stride; _____	<i>Note to Scribe: Place X in box when Judge declares horse notably LAME</i>
Balance	(+) Good blend of all parts; Length of back = 1/2 bottom line; Smooth lines; Good bones; _____ (-) Unbalanced; Thick neck; Short neck; Steep wither; Shallow heart girth; Back/bottom line imbalance; Wither lower than croup; Short hip; Inadequate hip carry down; Overall too small; _____	***** <i>Note to Scribe: Enter Judge's Balance Score in all 3 boxes</i>
Fitness & Condition	(+) Good weight; Good muscle tone & fitness; Good grooming; _____ (-) Underweight; Poor hoof care; Unfit grooming; _____	
Participant Showmanship	(+) Good presentation; Professional appearance; _____ (-) Poor judge awareness; Poorly fitted halter; _____	
Horse Showmanship	(+) Willing, obedient; Leads straight; Sets up quickly; Trots well; _____ (-) Not set up square; Too stretched; Camped; Inattentive; _____	

FORM AND SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE'S SCORE: **TOTAL (1)**

TOTAL (1) _____ X .33 = _____ + 42 = _____ -- _____ **Major Penalty = FORM and SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE'S SCORE (2)

****Major Penalty:** A horse which exhibits notable lameness in the Conformation judging shall be penalized -10 points

FUNCTION SCORE:
 Ranch Cutting _____ + Ranch Riding _____ + Working Ranch _____ + Ranch Trail _____ = _____ (3) Function Total
Function Total (3) _____ X .10 = **FUNCTION SCORE (4)**

RANCH CONFORMATION SCORE:
Form and Showmanship
Judge's Score (2) _____ + Function Score (4) _____ = RANCH CONFORMATION SCORE