

2017 Rule Changes Quick Reference

SHW103.3 Priority dates are a privilege, not a right, and therefore cannot be sold or transferred from one sponsoring body to another sponsoring body without notifying and being approved by the Affiliate and AQHA. A change of sponsorship does not make a show become a new show, unless AQHA and the affiliate are not notified in which case the show becomes a new show and is worked as such. A change in the sponsoring body can happen once in a 3 year time period. Violation of this rule could result in disciplinary action.

SHW103.7 A state can have up to 2(two), 6 pointed circuits per year and the affiliate must approve these. Any circuit of 6 points or more which was established prior to 2013 is grandfathered in.

SHW108.10.3 Unless expressly waived or relaxed by AQHA, introductory shows will adhere to all show rules and can only be single judged.

SHW110.4 With the exception of timed events, a show management team/entity that consists in whole or in part of:

(a) common individual(s) listed as show management; (b) common individual(s) involved in the actual management of a show (whether or not listed); (c) common individual(s) who are compensated by or have an ownership interest in a show management team/entity; or (d) immediate family members (spouse, parent, child or grandparent) May not hire a judge that has already judged three shows, or set of shows for that show management team/entity in that calendar year.

Regarding Level 1 eligibility

SHW245.3.5 won a total of \$5,000 in cash and prizes with any equine organization or association. If an exhibitor wins a class at the Level 1 Championships he/she is no longer eligible to compete in that class at any future Level 1 Championships; however, if an exhibitor is Level 1 eligible he/she may continue to show in that class in Level 1 competition. If an exhibitor has not reached any of the above achievements but has pointed out of level 1, the exhibitor can only return to level 1 in that particular class if the exhibitor has not earned any points in that class for 10 consecutive years and must meet eligibility requirements per Rule SHW245.3.

SHW252. ROOKIE LEVEL. Rookie eligibility is based on lifetime achievements of exhibitor and horse.

SHW252.1 For a horse or exhibitor to be eligible in a Rookie Level class, that horse or exhibitor must have earned fewer than ten lifetime points in that class in any division; open, amateur or youth. The horse may not have won \$1,000 or more in any equine organization or association by class. The exhibitor may not have won \$5,000 or more in any equine organization or association by class. Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Eligibility is from January 1 - December 31.

Regarding Western Prohibited Equipment

SHW307.5 Belly Bands, saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb straps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events.

SHW307.8 Tie-downs may not have a built in cavesson or noseband. Cavesson or noseband of any kind may not be used during competition.

Regarding English Equipment

SHW310.1 In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2" (40 mm). They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased, but must be smooth. Leather bits to be solid, smooth, rolled leather (15mm – 20mm) measured one inch from cheek with no port. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

Regarding Attire

SHW320.6 The judge will have the authority to disqualify the exhibitor for any piece of accoutrement or attire which in his or her opinion would tend to give a rider an unfair advantage.

SHW355.1 For purposes of this rule, the term "allowed lip cord" shall only mean:

SHW355.1.1 a round smooth soft/flexible nonabrasive cotton polyblend cord with a dense core that has an unsecured keeper with at least 3/4 inches of the cord outside of the halter before attachment of keeper or leather part of lead shank;

SHW355.1.2 is applied only over gum and not through mouth;

SHW355.1.3 with respect to the cord applied over the gum, is made up of cord having a diameter of at least 3/8 inches; cord applied over gum may not contain internal or external metal.

SHW355.1.4 no foreign substances or additional materials may be added to the lip cord

SHW355.2 Stallions 1 year of age and older may be shown with an allowed lip cord in open and amateur divisions; lip chains of any type are prohibited; all other types of lip cords that do not meet the definition of an allowed lip cord are prohibited.

SHW355.3 The following horses may not be shown with an allowed lip cord;

SHW355.3.1 weanlings;

SHW355.3.2 mares of any age;

SHW355.3.3 geldings of any age;

SHW355.3.4 any horse shown in a performance halter class; and

SHW355.3.5 any horse shown in a ranch horse conformation class.

SHW355.4 Applying excessive pressure on or excessive jerking of an allowed lip cord is prohibited.

Regarding Ranch Riding

SHW416.1 For horses three years of age and older, offered as a junior, senior or all-age open division class, and as an all age class for Level 1 youth, youth, Level 1 amateur, Select amateur and amateur.

SHW434. Presentation and Position of Exhibitor.

Appropriate western attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in disqualification.

Regarding Reining – addition to existing list:

SHW482.1 The following will result in a score of 0:

Exceeds great than one quarter of the circle out of order.

Regarding Boxing

SHW510.1.1 A youth rider is eligible for 13 and under, 14 – 18 and Level 1 youth boxing classes if they have never placed in the top ten in working cow horse (going down the fence class) at any AQHA world championship show or NRCHA major event. Also rider must have earned less than 25 points in working cow horse. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fencework classes at any judged classes or events.

SHW510.1.2 A rider is eligible for select, amateur and Level 1 amateur boxing classes if they have never placed in the top ten in working cow horse (going down the fence) at any AQHA world championship show or NRCHA major event. Also a rider must have earned less than 25 point in working cow horse. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fencework classes at any judged classes or events. Any amateur or select rider can fall back one time to the boxing. After they have returned to the boxing class, if that rider then shows down the fence one time they are permanently ineligible for the boxing class.

SHW510.1.3 If a rider is eligible to compete in boxing at the beginning of that calendar year, they will remain eligible for that calendar year. The rider will lose his or her eligibility to enter boxing if he or she shows three or more times down the fence in any judged class. Being entered in a class that includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence, regardless if the rider boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. There will be no cross entering (i.e. if you enter boxing, you cannot enter the corresponding working cow horse class at any show including world shows.

Regarding Team Penning

SHW544.2.6 Any part of the trash animal that crosses the line will invoke a no time.

Regarding Ranch Sorting

SHW547.9 The order of sorting is determined by the picking of a random number by the announcer/timer and then that cow must be sorted first. For instance, if 5 is drawn as the first number, 5 is sorted first, then cow 6 must be sorted, 7, 8, 9, 0, 1 and so on. A cow is considered sorted when the entire cow is completely across the start/foul line.

If two or more cows cross the line together as long as the nose of the correct number or numbers cross the line first the cattle are considered to be in order regardless of whether they finish crossing in that order.

SHW547.10 If there is a malfunction of the sorting pen or a numbered cow jumps any fence and either leaves the arena or ends up in the opposite pen, but did not pass through the gate, (assuming it was not caused by roughing of the cattle) at judge's discretion a re-ride or a no time can be given. All re-rides will occur immediately using the same numbered cattle starting at 0 cattle with a new clock. Time can also be given on sorted cattle at the time a numbered cow leaves the arena.

SHW547.11 Should a herd be numbered incorrectly or have too many non-numbered cattle, a rerun must be given immediately using the correct number within the same herd. If a duplicate number is called within the same set of cattle a re-ride will be given immediately upon point of discovery using the same set of cattle with any number that has not already been used. Those re-rides will begin at zero time and zero cows. Re-rides may also be given for official or mechanical errors or downed cattle. In these cases, contestants will be given the option to take their time on the number of cattle sorted when the run is stopped by the official or re-ride immediately with the same numbered cow beginning at a time of zero.

SHW547.12 Prior to a team crossing the start/foul line the team must notify the judge of any unnumbered, injured or unfit cattle. Once brought to the judge's attention the judge (not the contestants) will determine whether to correct the problem or proceed forward. No rerides will be given once a team has committed to the cattle by crossing the start/foul line. If at the judge's discretion, a re-ride is given because of unnumbered, injured or unfit cattle, the re-ride will occur immediately using the same numbered cattle once unnumbered, injured or unfit cattle are replaced.

SHW547.18 Spotting of cattle is permissible.

SHW555. ALL-AROUND VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE.

The title of All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse will be named in the open, cowboy, amateur, limited amateur and youth divisions for each show if earned. Each division is calculated independently for the number of horses competing in that division. Additional points based on the number of horses/exhibitors in that division competing for the All-Around will be awarded. To be eligible for points for the all-around versatility ranch horse title, one horse one rider must enter and show in a minimum of three categories. To qualify for the all-around versatility ranch horse, one cattle class must be included and the horse must also show in the conformation. One additional class from the two remaining categories must be entered and shown. Additional classes may be entered and shown and will also count toward the All-Around. In order to compile all-around points, all horses must be placed in each class.

SHW555.1 If there are ties in the final placing for the allaround versatility ranch horse they will be broken by the highest placing horse in the ranch cow work class, or limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division.

SHW557.3 No horse/rider team shall be disqualified except for illegal equipment, obvious lameness, inhumane treatment, fall of horse/rider, and or rider misconduct or disrespect. Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class but will not receive points.

SHW558.3 Exhibitors competing for the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse, shall have their class placing credits entered into the all-around tabulation. Credits from each class shall be added together for the overall placing for the event. Ties for the all-around versatile ranch horse are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, or the limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division. If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch trail and ranch riding.

SHW558.4 At the option of show management, when using two judges to determine one set of winners, the classes will first be placed under each judge and class placing points awarded and posted. One judge shall be designated as the "tie –breaker judge" before judging begins. The composite results (combined results used to determine an overall winner) shall be determined as follows: All class placing points will be added for each judge to determine an all-around winner. If there is a tie, the tie-breaker judge's class placing will determine the winner. Ties for the all-around winner are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, or the limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division.

SHW561.VRH RANCH TRAIL. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse.

Regarding VRH Ranch Trail

- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

Regarding VRH Ranch Reining

- 2 Point Penalties: Break of gait; freeze up in spins or rollbacks; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond strides but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.

- Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the rein hand is considered use of two hands and a penalty score of - 5 will be applied.

- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

Regarding VRH Ranch Cow Work

To rope the cow, the exhibitor must be carrying a rope when the run starts. The exhibitor may pull up after the fence work, take down the rope and proceed to rope and stop the cow. The exhibitor must then rope the cow and bring it to a stop. In the roping portion of the class, two throws are permitted and the horse will be judged on two maneuvers: tracking/rating and stopping the cow. It is not necessary that the exhibitor catch to receive a score in the roping portion. The catch is legal as long as the cow looks through the loop and the rope pulls tight on any part of the animal's body except the tail. The rope may be tied on or dallied. If the exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for rating and tracking and will be assessed a 2 point penalty. For shows conducted in international countries, the exhibitor has the option of circling the cow each direction instead of roping or breakaway roping and wearing traditional attire of the country.

- 2 Point Penalties: Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 20' from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 3 feet from the end fence before being turned; failure to catch if roping.

- Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider

SHW564. LIMITED RANCH COW WORK AMATEUR/YOUTH

SHW564.1 Content. Exhibitors in the limited ranch cow work cannot compete in both the ranch cow work and limited cow work class, at the same show with the same horse. Any amateur or select rider may fall back one time to the limited ranch cow work. Limited ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. When there is one minute left, the announcer will announce, one minute remaining. At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time. There are three parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn', rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

- Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

Regarding VRH Ranch Cutting

- Score – 0 – add to existing list:
fall of horse/rider

Regarding Hunt Seat Equitation on the Flat

SHW618.5 Appropriate English attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in a disqualification.

Regarding Working Hunter

SHW638.4 Minimum height for Level 1 and select will be two feet six inches (76 cm) with a maximum of two feet nine inches.

SHW769. HANDLER. Required for all independent exhibitor classes: one handler per entry to facilitate the safety of the exhibitor. The handler must be 16 years of age or older. The handler must have a lead line without a chain in their hand in case of safety issues.

SADDLE

Raised pommel

Raised cantle

Hard hand holds

Soft hand holds

Seat saver

Knee rolls/blocks

Thigh rolls/blocks

Padded saddle flaps

STIRRUPS

Rubber bands
around foot and
stirrup

Enclosed stirrups

Strap from|stirrup
leather to girth/
cinch

Strap from stirrup
to girth/cinch

No stirrups

One stirrup

BRIDLE/REINS

Looped rein/s

Connecting bar
reins

Bridging rein

Ladder reins

Rein guides (rein
through ring on sad-
dle)

Elastic insert in
reins

Side pulls

WHIPS

One or two whips

Strap attaching
whip to hand

RIDING ATTIRE

No boots if using
safety stirrups
(Peacock, S-shaped
irons or Devonshire
stirrups)

Modified riding
boots

Gaiters

Half chaps

Off set spurs

Safety vest

**POSTURE, POS-
TURAL SUPPORTS
& ORTHOSES**

L or R Arm sling

Neck collar

Ankle foot orthoses

Prosthesis

Wrist brace

Back support

Trunk support

Gait belt

OTHER AIDS

Commander using
sign language

Enlarged arena let-
ters

Audio Communica-
tions (for hearing
impaired)

Voice

Bareback Pads

Surcingles

Other equipment
will be considered
upon request

Regarding Judges

SHW912.12 With the exception of timed events, a judge may not judge for a show management team/entity that the judge has already judged three shows, or set of shows in a calendar year. A show management team/entity consists in whole or in part of:

(a) common individual(s) listed as show management;

(b) common individual(s) involved in the actual management of a show (whether or not listed);

(c) common individual(s) who are compensated by or have an ownership interest in a show management team/entity; or

(d) immediate family members (spouse, parent, child or grandparent)

SHW912.13 A judge may not solicit a show to judge after fulfilling their minimum show requirement.