

COW HORSE CLASS NOTES

SCORE SHEETS

AHA has adapted the NRCHA score sheets which can be found on the AHA website at this link: <https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/>

WORKING/REINED/LIMITED COW HORSE – General

1. It is the intent of the Arabian Horse Association to comply with the National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) rules. Refer to Chapter 6 Broken Equipment, Chapter 15 Self Adjusted Monitor System, Chapter 18 Scoring, Chapter 19 Judging, Chapter 20 Patterns & Markers, Chapter 21 Pattern Descriptions (Maneuvers) and Chapter 22 Judges Score Sheet regarding working cow classes held at licensed competitions. For further information regarding the conduct of Working Cow competitions, contact the NRCHA, 13181 US Highway 77, Byars, OK 74831; (580) 759-4949 phone; www.nrcha.com.

2. **The Working Cow Horse** class consists of only the cow work.

a. See AR209 for scoring Working Cow horse classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties.

3. **Reined Cow Horse** class consists of two mandatory phases, the reined work and the cow work. Each phase has equal bearing and final placing determined by the total of both scores (exception, Limited Reined Cow Horse)

a. See AR209 for scoring Reined Cow Horse classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties

4. Limited Reined Cow Horse class introduces rider to boxing phase of cow work. Judging begins when contestant enters the arena; schooling not permitted between completion of rein work and cow work, or between cows if new cow is awarded. Penalty is a score of zero. Contestant is to hold cow on the prescribed end of arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating ability of horse and rider to control cow; time begins when gate closes behind the cow after being let into arena. Legal to hold reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) when boxing the cow. Announcer or judge signals completion of 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. Horse scored using the "limited cow work scoring guidelines."

a. See AR209 for scoring Limited Reined Cow Horse classes with more than one go-round and for breaking ties

5. **Appointments.** See AR144 Arabian Western Pleasure

6. **Inhumane treatment and undue stress.** See AR105.6

7. **New Cow.** Exhibitors in Cow Horse classes held in the Arabian Division have twenty (20) seconds after the close of the gate to signal for a new cow, or shall work the assigned cow with the exception that the judge decides if the exhibitor warrants a new cow.

Excerpts from NRCHA Rulebook

Definition of fall of horse: When the horses shoulder and hip are on the ground and all four feet are facing in one direction. Fall of horse in any event receives a score of -0-.

Definition of fall of rider: Rider is no longer astride the horse. Fall of rider receives a score of -0-.

6. Broken Equipment

If at any time during a performance a piece of equipment breaks, the rider may continue provided the broken equipment does not pose a hazard to the rider and/or is not cruel to the horse. In the event that the fence work immediately follows the rein work or if a new cow is awarded during the fence work, broken equipment may be repaired within a 1 minute time period. Rider may dismount if necessary to make the repair or pick up lost equipment or attire. Horse and rider may not leave the arena and may not receive physical assistance or equipment from outside the arena. If the rider is unable to continue because of the broken equipment, the rider will be excused with a score of zero.

15. Self Adjusted Monitor System

15.1 Definition: A self-adjusted monitor system may be used at NRCHA Approved and AHA approved Shows. When there is a major penalty marked by at least one judge, and at least one of the other judges did not mark it, a review of the penalty is mandatory. A major penalty is defined as a 2 point penalty or greater in the rein and cow work and a 3 point penalty or greater in the herd work.

18. Scoring

18.1 General Description

Credit must always be given when applicable, even when there is a penalty involved. When the judge is in doubt, benefit always goes to the contestant. The scoring system is based on 60-80 points. Half-points may be used. The contestant is judged from the time that he/she enters the arena until he/she completes the pattern. The judge is instructed to pay particular attention to any suspected attempts to alter the tail and score accordingly.

18.2 Horses are judged on performance only.

18.3 Scoring System - The scoring system for NRCHA approved Equine classes/events is based on a 60-80 point system. The lowest score possible is 60 points and the highest score possible is 80. The average score for a typical work is 70 points.

18.4-18.9 See NRCHA Rulebook

19. Judging

19.2 Reined Work

Horses shall work individually. Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. There will be no schooling from the time the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs terminating in well-balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a back-up of a reasonable distance with slight hesitations denoting each maneuver. NRCHA Rein Work Patterns found in this book are required for any approved NRCHA Event. The judge may deviate from traditional order of performance and he/she may also deviate from the exact printed pattern due to arena conditions. The judging ends when the rider indicates he/she is finished by coming to a complete stop. Praising or rewarding of the horse is only allowed after the reining pattern is complete and before the exhibitor calls for a cow.

See NRCHA 19.2 for additional description of maneuvers and penalties.

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19.3 Cow Work: *“The most important point when working a cow is for the horse to have the advantage or be in control of the cow. At the same time, the horse should exhibit a smooth willingness to do his job. He should respond to a light rein and show good manners in his face and body” – Bobby Ingersoll.* Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and cow work when the cow work immediately follows the rein work; the penalty for this will be a zero. At the start of the work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for a sufficient time to demonstrate the ability of the horse to contain the cow at that end.

After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall take the cow down the fence, making at least one turn each way on the fence. Then the contestant shall take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle the animal at least once in each direction. The required pattern for the cow work is: boxing, fence turns, and circles, in that order.

See NRCHA 19.3 for additional description of maneuvers and penalties.

19.4 Limited Class Cow Work Guidelines – The goal of this class is to introduce the rider to the “boxing” phase of the cow work. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena. There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty for this is -0-. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. It is legal to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. The horse will be scored using the “limited cow work scoring guidelines”.

See NRCHA 19.4 for additional description of maneuvers and penalties.

20. Patterns

20.1 The use of the patterns in the following section at NRCHA approved events is required. The following patterns are to be worked as stated, not as drawn. The drawn pattern is just to give the general idea of what the pattern will look like in the arena.

20.2 Markers are mandatory for all patterns. Markers will be placed on the wall or fence of both sides of the arena to the approval of the judges with the following as a guideline: See NRCHA 20.2 for guidelines

21. Pattern Descriptions (Maneuvers)

See this section in NRCHA Rule Book for drawings of patterns & description of maneuvers.

COW WORK SCORING GUIDELINES

75 & higher	Total control, excellent form & position on animal, high degree of difficulty, excellent eye appeal
73-74	Good form & position on animal, good control of animal, high degree of difficulty with good eye appeal
71-72	A credit earning run with correct form and position, better than average control of animal with some degree of difficulty and eye appeal.
70	Control, correct form, average degree of difficulty
68-69	Slight loss of form or position on animal. Average degree of difficulty and eye appeal. Good work with a major penalty (3 or 5) or average work with 1 point penalties.
66-67	Trouble controlling animal and/or rider/horse is out of position. Loss of eye appeal.
65 & below	Incurs major penalties, loss of control and position. Total lack of credit.
NE	Failure of an exhibitor to attempt to complete the work.

Complete NRCHA Rulebook:

<http://nrchadata.com/pdf/news/2017/2017NRCHARuleBook-web.pdf>

FALL: Event Rules 6.5e When a contestant is thrown from a horse, or falls off a horse, or horse falls to ground, the work is terminated and a score of zero will be given for that part of the run. If a rider is thrown from a horse during the rein work, he or she may re-mount to complete the cow work portion of the event for a score.

SCHOOLING: Schooling is defined as gaining an advantage by excessive pulling, turning, stopping or backing or failure to immediately pull up when a new cow is accepted.