

## PRCHA CLASS RULES

- Eligibility of Exhibitor: All owners and riders must be members in good standing of the PRCHA for the current year. The year runs from November 16th to November 17th of the current year. Membership in the NRCHA is required for any classes approved by that association. Membership to each association may be purchased at the shows. Non-Pro applications may be filed at the show.
- Eligibility of Horse: Stallions, mares and geldings of any breed (horses only) are eligible without discrimination except in Jr. (youth) classes where stallions are prohibited. All horses must be ridden astride.
- Non-Pro definition: A Non-Pro shall be defined as any person, regardless of age, who is not currently receiving remuneration directly or indirectly for showing, training, giving lessons, clinics or assisting in the training of a horse for remuneration- this does not include prize money. (see NRCHA rulebook for detailed information on Non-Pro exhibitors.)
- CLASSES: (NRCHA/ PRCHA APPROVED): Open Bridle, Limited Open Bridle, NonPro Bridle, Novice Non-Pro Bridle, Open Hackamore, Limited Open Hackamore, Open Two Rein, Non-Pro Hackamore, Non- Pro Two Rein, Non Pro Limited, Non Pro Beginning Fence Work, Youth Limited, Youth Bridle. \*\*Please refer to your current NRCHA rulebook for definitions and eligibility for these NRCHA approved classes. Any changes by NRCHA for the current year will be corrected in above definitions.
- Non Pro Limited class: Rider must be 18 years of age and over. At age 60, any Non Pro rider may “fall back” to limited classes, however they may not go down the fence again in any cow horse event and must remain in the limited class. (see current NRCHA rulebook)
- Non Pro Select: for riders 55 and over as of November 16 of the membership year
- Youth Limited and Youth Bridle: Classes designated for youth members who are 18 years and under as of January 1 of the current year. Junior or youth may not show stallions (see NRCHA rulebook)
- Youth 13 and Under (Boxing and Bridle Class): for riders 13 and under as of November 16 of the membership year

### **ADDITIONAL CLASSES “PRCHA ONLY” APPROVED:**

**PRCHA Green Horse:** This is a PRCHA-only approved “down the fence” class. This class is designed for horses being introduced to the cow horse event and entry fees have been lowered to encourage a schooling environment. This class is for horses of any age that have not earned three breed points or earned \$300 in any cow horse event as of January 1 of the current year, anytime or anywhere. Riders can be open or non-pro competitors. Exhibitor may ride any age horse, and any AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA legal bridle may be used.

**PRCHA Ranch Hand:** This is a PRCHA “down the fence” approved class. This class is designed for horses being introduced to the cow horse event and entry fees have been lowered to encourage a schooling environment. This class is for horses of any age and any AQHA or NRCHA legal bridle may be used regardless of the horse’s age, however, the rider must maintain their committed hand position from start to finish ie: if you enter the pen with split reins in a curb bit, the rider may ride two handed, but the rider may not switch back and forth. In this class, riders will have the option to rope and stop the cow or circle the cow each direction. If the rider chooses to rope the cow, they must dally, tying on is prohibited. The responsibility for determining the eligibility of the horse lies with the exhibitor.

**PRCHA \$500 Novice Rider:** This is a “down the fence class”. A “\$500 Novice Rider” is any rider (open or non-pro) who has not earned more than \$500 (lifetime) in any cow horse event as of January 1 of the current year. Exhibitor may ride any age horse in any AQHA, NRHA or NRCHA

legal bridle, one handed. Split reins may be used. Money won in this class will not go toward earnings in any other class. Money earned in the \$500 Novice Rider Class will be maintained and recorded by the PRCHA association secretary or their designated appointee.

**PRCHA Never Won a Buckle:** This is an “entry level Non-Pro class” designed to introduce the rider to the Limited “Boxing only” cow horse event to become acquainted with the basic reined cow horse skills in a competitive yet non- threatening environment. There are no restrictions placed upon horse ownership, breed, age, or training level. Riders may use any NRCHA, AQHA or NRHA approved bridle. Horses 5 years and under may be shown in a snaffle or hackamore and shown 2 handed. Bridle horses must be shown one handed. The standard “Boxing Only” score sheet will be used in this class and all judging rules that apply to Non Pro Limited apply to this class.

Equipment: Applies to all classes with exception of PRCHA-only classes where chaps may be omitted.

Appointments:

Riders must wear western hat or helmet

Riders must wear long sleeved shirt

Riders must wear chaps. (Exception, PRCHA-only classes)

Saddle: Horses must be shown astride in a stock saddle.

Bridle:

Bit: Spade or unbroken bar with 1 inch or higher port measured from bottom of the bar to the top of the port. Bit must have an operable cricket inside the port. Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in width. The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. Overall length of bit is no more than 8 ½ inches. Diameter of the bar must be a minimum of 5/16 inches. See NRCHA rule book for additional equipment requirements. Curb chains are permitted in PRCHA classes only where the class designates any AQHA or NRHA legal bridles may be used. Leather curb straps must be flat and at least ½ inch wide. Reins with romal are required in all bridle classes except PRCHA-only classes. Romal reins should be held in a “thumbs-up” position and no fingers between the reins.

Two-Rein: Bosals may be any size. Rider must use one hand on reins. Fingers between the reins are permitted. (see NRCHA rulebook)

Hackamore: Must be round in shape, constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather, and have non-metal flexible core. No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal. (see NRCHA)

Snaffle: D or ring type, with ring no larger than 4 inches on inside of the ring. They must have a broken 2 piece mouthpiece with minimum 5/16 inch in measuring 1 inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. Leather or woven chinstrap is to be used. Split or tied reins may be used. Latex wrapped mouthpiece is not acceptable. Applies to PRCHA Snaffle bit class.

Judging and scoring: Will follow NRCHA reining patterns and rules for judging.