

# EAST COAST STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

January 2016

### Dress Code and Equipment

The East Coast Stock Horse Association (ECSHA) follows all American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) rules pertaining to Dress Code and Equipment with the exception that in any ECSHA class, horses of any age may be ridden with two hands when using a snaffle bit or bosal.

1. Boots, cowboy hat or helmet, and a long sleeve western shirt are required. The wearing of leggings, chinks, chaps, kerchief/bolo, spurs, gloves, vest, jacket, etc. is at the rider's discretion.
2. Saddles: Entries are to be shown in a Western saddle with neat and serviceable working tack. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
3. Horse Shoes: Any shoes are legal.
4. Bridles and Bits:

Standard snaffle bits are permitted in any class on any age horse. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center-joined single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal, as measured from ring to 1" inward from the ring along the mouthpiece, with a gradual decrease to the center of the mouthpiece. The ring diameter may measure from 2" to 4" and be loose, egg butt, or D-ring in type. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

Hackamores or bosals are permitted in any class on any age horse. A hackamore includes a bosal, rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather, and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., metal or chains (exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable).

A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch from the shank. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and cover acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spade bits are standard and acceptable. Slip or gag bits, rigid doughnut mouthpieces, and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited.

Curb chains and leather chinstraps may be used but must be flat and, at least, 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used as part of the leather chinstrap or curb chains.

Except for horses ridden in hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed.

Contestants will not be allowed to use tie downs, mechanical hackamores, quick stops, martingales, gag bits, wire on the curb device or any part of the headstall. Nothing may be around the horse's nose. Bits must be free of any mechanical device. Nothing may extend below the bars of the bits.

## **Horses**

The ECSHA Shows are open to all breeds of horses. Horses must be sound and in good condition. The judge and Association officers have the right to eliminate any contestant if a horse does not appear to be sound, in good condition, or if the contestant is abusive to their horse.

## **Divisions**

**Open:** Any horse or rider may compete in classes in this division.

**Amateur:** An Amateur shall be defined as any person, regardless of age, who in the last three years has not shown, ridden, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration, either directly or indirectly; not received remuneration for instructing another person in riding, driving or instructing another person in showing a horse in competition. An individual may not have accepted remuneration in the previous three years for having conducted seminars, clinics, given instruction in equitation or horse training or judging. Premium money won is not considered remuneration.

**Youth:** A youth competitor shall be defined as any person who is age 18 or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the show year.

## **Year End Awards**

To qualify for *Year End Awards* contestants must be members of the ECSHA. Points only count from the date of membership forward for the show season. A contestant must show in at least three of the year's scheduled shows where points are awarded. Point accumulations for awards will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. A year end award is presented for each ECSHA class.

For the *Versatility Award*, a contestant must compete in all five of the Ranch Horse classes in their division at each show, Open, Amateur, or Youth. The Ranch Horse classes are Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Ranch Cutting, and Ranch Roping.

For the *Versatility Horse of the Year Award*, points are accumulated on the horse in the Open and Amateur Ranch Horse Classes. The horse must be entered in at least one Open and one Amateur class at the same show, in at least three of the year's scheduled shows.

In addition to attending the minimum number of shows, to receive any of the Versatility awards a contestant must earn a minimum of 30 points, and for the individual classes a minimum of 10 points must be earned.

## Classes

**For all classes, a horse may only be ridden once in a class, with the exception of the Cattle Drive class. In the Amateur and Youth divisions, points accumulate per horse/rider combination per class. In the Open division, points accumulate for the horse only. A rider may ride more than one horse per class.**

### **Stock Horse Classes**

All of the *Stock Horse classes* intend to display the working ability of a horse suitable for ranch work.

The *Open, Amateur, and Youth Stock Horse classes* will be judged according to the AQHA Working Cow Horse class rules. The Stock Horse class consists of a reining pattern and single cow work (boxing, turns, and circles). For ideal cow work, each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold the cow, demonstrate control of the cow, and contain it on the prescribed end of the arena (boxing). After a reasonable amount of time, the contestant shall take the cow down the fence and make at least one turn each way on the fence (turns). The contestant shall then take the cow to an open part of the arena and circle it at least once in each direction (circles). The required pattern for cow work is boxing, fence turns, and circles, in that order.

The *Amateur and Youth Boxing classes* will be judged according to the AQHA Boxing class rules. Boxing consists of a reining pattern and single cow work (boxing) on the end of the arena. 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. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow.

In the case of a tie, the cow work portion of the class will determine the winner.

Classes with three or more entries will pay back entry fee to 1<sup>st</sup> place.

### **Ranch Horse Classes**

All of the *Ranch Horse classes* will include *Open, Amateur, and Youth divisions*. The ranch horse is a horse that one would choose to do a day's work – willing, able, and smooth at his job, capable of performing different tasks when asked with a good attitude. Scoring for all Ranch Horse Classes will be on the basis of 60 to 80 points, with 70 points denoting an average performance.

**Ranch Riding:** The Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; the extended trot and extended lope, at least, one direction; as well as stopping and backing. The optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform. The class will be judged according to AQHA rules unless otherwise noted.

**Ranch Trail:** The Ranch Trail class contains a course with multiple obstacles and is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during a normal day's ranch work. The class will be judged according to AQHA rules unless otherwise noted.

**Ranch Reining:** A pattern will be assigned that contains circles, straight lines, stops, spins, rollbacks, lead changes, and back-ups. The reining ranch horse should be willfully guided with no apparent resistance. Ranch Reining class maneuvers should reflect those performed on a ranch during normal work. Each maneuver may receive plus points or penalty points. Going off pattern will result in disqualification. The class will be judged according to AQHA rules unless otherwise noted.

**Ranch Cutting:** This class has a two-and-a-half minute time limit. One cow will be cut from the herd and held for a reasonable time to show control, and then penned at the far end of the arena. Two herd holders are permitted. They may not be on the back fence. No assistance from the herd holders is allowed after committing to taking the cow to the pen. Once committed to a cow, a contestant must continue to use only that cow. The Ranch Cutting class is judged according to AQHA rules with the addition that failure to pen the cow results in a five-point penalty.

**Ranch Roping:** This class has a two-and-a-half minute time limit. A breakaway lariat must be used. The contestant will enter the herd quietly, rope a cow and drive the cow across the cattle line, without breaking the honda. Once the cow is across the time line, the contestant must dally and break the honda. Three attempts to rope the cow are allowed. If the honda breaks as a result of another cow running through the rope, the contestant will be allowed to rebuild their loop, and that will be counted as one of their three loops. If the contestant has dallied to the horn or holds tension on the rope resulting in the honda breaking prior to the cow crossing the line, that will count as a catch, and the run is complete. The rope must be thrown. Any attempt by the exhibitor to trap, snare, or collar a cow by holding on to the loop will be cause for disqualification.

Ranch Horse classes with three or more entries will pay back entry fee to 1<sup>st</sup> place.

## **Other Classes**

**Jackpot Cattle Drive:** This is a judged class with a one-minute time limit for each obstacle. Teams of two horses and riders will cut out two head of cattle from a holding pen, and then control and correctly maneuver cattle through a set of obstacles. Cattle should be kept as calm as possible. Excessive running or rushing of cattle will not be tolerated, and may result in teams being disqualified. One horse/rider must follow the cattle completely through each obstacle. Cattle must be re-penned after completing obstacles. Scoring on each obstacle will be based on a scale of 0 to 10. Riders may enter with multiple partners.

**Ranch Rail Pleasure:** Horses are to be shown in a group, on the rail, at a walk, jog, and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint. Horses must work, as announced, both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk and the jog, one or both ways of the ring. The extended jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of the stride, covering more ground. Cadence and balance with smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.