



## **Our Mission . . .**

USA Reining is the recognized national governance organization for the western horse sport of Reining within United States Equestrian (USE), the national governing body for equestrian sports. USA Reining provides an access point from youth and amateur activities to open competition, interested fans and athletes to promote, educate and develop the sport in the United States of America and to actively support the success of US teams.

## **I. GENERAL**

- A. The ideal Reining horse is guided through every movement of every maneuver. The best Reining horses should exude a willing disposition with no indication of resistance. The overall impression of a superior horse and rider team in the sport of Reining is one of complete harmony in communication and effort, showing a forward expression, with exciting bursts of power and speed tempered by quiet moments of peacefulness and above all, an obvious demonstration of athleticism in honor of the ranching origins of the sport. A movement on the horse's own is considered a rider's lack of control. A deviation from the pattern will be considered a lack of control or temporary loss of control and therefore must be marked down according to the established scoring system. After deducting all faults, set in the included scoring system, and considering the horse and rider's overall performance, credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the sport more exciting and pleasing to watch to an audience. The scoring system and outline for judging shall be specified in the Judges Guide.

## **II. BYLAWS**

- A. The bylaws of the organization can be found on the official website at [www.USAREining.us](http://www.USAREining.us).
- B. Should any member in good standing wish to amend bylaws or submit a request for changes to the organization's bylaws, such requests must be submitted no later than July 1st of any given calendar year so that the proposed bylaw change can be reviewed by the USA Reining, Inc. Board of Directors or delegated committee of the organization. Bylaw changes require committee, board of directors and executive committee approval in order to be considered for change in the official bylaws for the following calendar year.

## **III. MODIFICATIONS**

- A. From time to time, the Board of Directors of USA Reining, Inc. may allow for extraordinary changes to either the bylaws of USA Reining, Inc. or the Rules and



Regulations for the sport of Reining. In such case, USA Reining will update and mark the changes or modifications to the bylaws or rules for the balance of the calendar year, those modifications will become part of the permanent record at the start of the next competition year.

#### **IV. ACCESS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. USA Reining will publish its Rules and Regulations for sport in digital format and present the available download on its official website at [www.USAREining.us](http://www.USAREining.us). Members are encouraged to refer and use the digital version of the Rules and Regulations or to print their own copy. The organization will not print an annual rulebook in hard copy.

#### **V. WELFARE OF THE HORSE**

- A. USA Reining considers the welfare of the equine athletes competing in our sport as the paramount concern. USA Reining will adhere to all USE Rules, Regulations and Policies pertaining to welfare and treatment of the horse, drug rules and regulations, state and local laws pertaining to the proper care, use and management of the horses.
- B. All regulatory, oversight and discipline issues related to the welfare of the horse shall be referred to the USE and USA Reining will rely solely on the USE Rules for these matters. USA Reining will cooperate with USE on matters of welfare of the horse.

#### **VI. ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. USA Reining will in all ways actively work to represent its athletes and members of the Reining industry who are members in good standing of USA Reining in the best possible way, including but not limited to judicious study of any claims, representation of athletes in the media, and access for enthusiasts to our horses and riders. In return, USA Reining asks each of its members to adhere to the USE Code of Conduct for equestrians. USA Reining cannot protect its members when conduct and representation of your sport is breached. It is vital that all members become aware of the USE Code of Conduct and adhere to its principles.

#### **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Membership in USA Reining is a privilege, not a right. Application, which shall be made by procedures prescribed by USA Reining, Inc. membership or application therefore, may be terminated or rejected by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors for causes detrimental to the interest of USA Reining, Inc., its programs, policies objectives and harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Termination of application rejection



proceedings under this rule shall be conducted under USA Reining's referral to USE disciplinary procedures or upon majority opinion of the USA Reining, Inc. Executive Committee for notice, hearing and temporary suspension.

B. General privileges and responsibilities of members and non-members are as follows:

1. Members in good standing have equal rights, interests and responsibilities with respect to USA Reining and its property; shall obey and be bound by all Bylaws, rules and regulations, decisions or actions of the Board of Directors; have the right to vote by personal attendance at the membership meetings; and have the right to hold office and committee assignments, except as otherwise limited.
2. Member in good standing means an individual or other legal entity who has paid the requisite membership fee; is not under current suspension by the Board of Directors; or does not owe a delinquent financial obligation to USA Reining for fees or other account payable for which written notice of suspension of membership or participation privileges has been sent.
3. USA Reining reserves the right to reject documents submitted by non-members of the organization who have engaged in acts detrimental to the humane treatment of horses or have engaged in acts detrimental to the intent and purposes of USA Reining, its programs, policies and objectives of the harmonious relations of its members

C. Every member of USA Reining, or non-member, by purchasing USA Reining products or services, filing applications or other documents with USA Reining or participating in approved events does agree:

1. If unsuccessful in an attempt to overturn USA Reining decisions actions, rules or regulations, to reimburse USA Reining for its reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses in defense of such suit;
2. He/she will not commence any action, whether in law or equity, against USA Reining in any courts other than those Federal and State Courts located in McClain County, Okla.;
3. As reciprocal assistance to USA Reining for the privilege of membership, participation in approved events and registration of horses, USA Reining may use any photograph or other form of voice, image or likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner or their horses and registered names to promote USA Reining's objectives and activities including but not limited to use by a third party with authorization from USA Reining. Members also agree that USA Reining may provide mailing list information to third parties (like corporate sponsors) for use with authorization from USA Reining.

- D. For information about USA Reining's four membership divisions (open, amateur, youth and Para) and eligibility for each, please refer to the USE Rules for Reining (found at the end of this document), which dually serve as the USA Reining rules for events and showing.
- E. The USA Reining membership fee for an annual membership for the 2017 competition year is \$55, with all fees payable in US funds.
- F. Voting privileges are bestowed on members in good standing and equate to one vote per membership at membership meetings, annual or special, regardless of the number of individual or joint memberships he or she holds. For a person to vote the membership of a bona fide artificial legal entity, he or she may not qualify to vote as an individual, joint, assumed or trade name membership, and in addition, upon request, shall provide USA Reining with written authorization and substantiate the existence of the entity.
- G. Upon receipt by USA Reining, Inc. of notice of criminal conviction of a member or non-member, the Executive Committee shall determine whether or not such conviction pertains to matters constituting violation of the mission and goals of USA Reining. Whereupon if the conviction does so pertain, it shall also constitute a presumption of violation of USA Reining rules, that the individual may rebut at a hearing before the Executive Committee in good standing with the USE disciplinary procedures as outlined by USE.

## **VIII. RECORDS**

- A. Material accuracy of records furnished by USA Reining either as hard copy or lone service, is warranted by USA Reining only to the extent of using its best efforts in the compilation thereof, and then solely for the benefit of the member or party pertains the record who may, as exclusive remedy, receive reimbursement for expense of the record upon showing material inaccuracy thereof. Consequential damages are expressly excluded. No warranties, express or implied, arise from records issuance, other than as stated herein, as the purchaser receives this record on an "as is" basis.

## **IX. VIOLATIONS**

- A. No person shall treat any horse in a cruel or inhumane manner. Cruel or inhumane treatment shall include, but not be limited to items outlined by the USE. Please refer to USE rules on animal welfare and fair sport.
- B. USA Reining may accept the conviction of an individual or judicial confiscation of a horse under state, federal, provincial or international laws, for an offense of cruelty to or inhumane treatment of a horse, whether or not a Reining horse is involved, as a



presumptive violation of this rule, the effect of that is to automatically suspend the individual from USA Reining membership privileges for a period of no less than two (2) years after USA Reining receives notice of the conviction or judicial confiscation. After the expiration of the two-year suspension, the individual may apply for reinstatement.

- C. USA Reining may accept suspension rulings pertaining to cruel or inhumane treatment of horses from other recognized equine related associations and state racing commissions, the effect of that is to automatically suspend the individual from USA Reining membership privileges, or deny such privileges, for a length of time equal to the suspension for that reciprocity is given.
- D. No person shall refuse to assist USA Reining or the USE, its officers, committees or agents in locating, identifying and inspecting, or to answer promptly and truthfully any inquiry concerning a horse or an ancestor thereof, that has been registered with USA Reining, or for that application to register has been made. No person shall refuse to assist USA Reining, its officers, committees or agents, or to promptly and truthfully give information, in form requested, concerning any USA Reining matter of that the person has or may have knowledge.
- E. Ownership of an issued registration remains with USA Reining; it is issued in reliance on a written application submitted and attested by the owner at time of competing and upon the express condition that USA Reining has the privilege to correct and/or cancel the registration for cause under its rules and regulations. No person shall refuse an USA Reining request for the return of a registration, either before, after or pending hearing to determine registration or participation privilege in USA Reining-approved events. USA Reining may retain possession of a registration until resolution of the matter for that the reinstatement of the registration was requested.
- F. In the furtherance of their official duties, all USA Reining representatives shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
- G. A member may be suspended and denied USA Reining privileges and any nonmember may be denied USA Reining privileges by USA Reining's Executive Director for:
  - 1. Failure to pay when due any obligation owing to:
    - i. USA Reining;
    - ii. A USA Reining-approved event;



- iii. Giving a NSF check for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, or any other fees or charge including bank charges for returned check connected with the exhibition of horses. Prior to a suspension or denial of privileges pursuant to this section, USA Reining will provide written notification to the member or non-member of their outstanding obligation. Unless within 31 days after receipt of such notice, the member or non-member disputes the validity of the obligation or any portion thereof, USA Reining will assume the obligation to be valid and may proceed with a suspension or denial of USA Reining privileges. If within 31 days of receipt of such notice, a member or non-member notifies USA Reining in writing that the obligation or a portion thereof is disputed, USA Reining will obtain a verification of the obligation, and USA Reining will mail to the member or non-member a copy of such verification. If the member or nonmember does not fully pay the obligation within 15 days of receiving such verification of the obligation, USA Reining will assume the obligation to be valid and may proceed with a suspension or denial of USA Reining privileges.
2. Any suspension and/or denial of USA Reining privileges under this section shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due.
- H. A member or non-member shall not conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate USA Reining rules, or to knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons, either by affirmative action or inaction, violate USA Reining rules:
1. An owner or lessee of a horse is responsible for the actions of all third parties in whose care the owner or lessee places his horse, including, but not limited to, trainer or exhibitor. When such third party is convicted of a violation of USE rules involving owner's or lessee's horse, or if an owner or lessee acquires personal knowledge of such rule violation by the third party, the owner or lessee is responsible to take such prompt and reasonable action as to protect his horse and USA Reining from repeat offenses. Failure by the owner or lessee to take such action, or repeat offenses by such third parties involving the owner's or lessee's horse or horses, constitutes the owner or lessee eligible for inclusion in enhancement of penalty under USE disciplinary rules.
- I. No person shall represent, by advertisement, claim or otherwise, that a horse registered or recorded with USA Reining has earned or is entitled to any official USA Reining designation or honors prior to actual recording of such designation or honor in the records of USA Reining.

## **X. FRAUDULENT PRACTICES**



- A. No person shall represent any horse owned or managed by him to be USA Reining recorded unless the same is registered in the official USA Reining database.
- B. All information furnished as a basis for any action by USA Reining or any of its officers shall be true and correct.
- C. No person, firm or corporation shall issue, sell, exchange, give away or receive, or offer a false or fraudulent certificate, representing the same to be a genuine official certificate issued by USA Reining.
- D. No person shall advertise or enter in any USA Reining event or competition any USA Reining recorded horse by a name other than that by which the horse is registered.
- E. No person shall represent as a registered American Quarter Horse or American Paint Horse any horse other than the horse for which said certificate was issued.
- F. No person shall bribe, or attempt to bribe, a USA Reining representative, USA Reining-approved judge or any other official of an USA Reining-approved event.

## **XI. GENERAL NOTICE PROCEDURE**

- A. Every notice required by these rules and regulations may be served by delivering the notice to the person to be served, or his attorney, with either by hand delivery, by U.S. mail postage prepaid, or by express mail to his last known address as it appears on USA Reining's records. Notices delivered pursuant to this rule shall be deemed given:
  - 1. At the time delivered, if personally delivered;
  - 2. At the time received, if mailed;
  - 3. One (1) business day after timely tender to the person, if delivered via express mail. Such notice may be served by facsimile (fax) transmission to the last known fax number as it appears on USA Reining's records. Such transmission shall be deemed received by such person by confirmation of the transmission to USA Reining.

## **XII. SHOW RULES**

### **A. GENERAL SHOW RULES**

- 1. All USA Reining events shall be governed by these rules, except where USE Rules for Reining or FEI Rules for Reining shall supersede in the case of concurrency.



2. When copying is available, posting judges scores sheets is mandatory for USA Reining-approved classes. Score sheets should be posted within one hour of class completion. In the event copies are not an option, judges score sheets must be available for supervised inspection. Original judges score sheets must be retained by show management for five years from the date of the competition and made available to USA Reining, should the need arise.
3. A Reining event will be complete and the posted scores will be considered “official” one hour following the completion of the competition.
4. All entries in a class must be drawn for position and must run as drawn. All entries must have a correct exhibitor number displayed. If a rider starts more than one horse in a class, there should be a spread of at least eight horses between his or her starts. In the event that fewer than eight horses are available for the spread, the maximum number of horses possible shall be inserted between his or her starts. If an entrant misses his or her turn as determined by the draw, he or she will be disqualified from that go round (except for cases where extraordinary and unavoidable conditions exist). Each case will be judged on its own merit by the event organizers and/or ground jury especially at events with multiple competition arenas.
5. Substitution of riders will be permitted by agreement of the organizing committee and/or ground jury. When applicable at concurrent events, the FEI rules for substitutions will supersede this rule.
6. A rider may not show more than three (3) horses in a class. A horse may be entered only once per class. In the instance where classes are run concurrently a rider may show three horses per class and any one horse may only start once.
7. All horses must be ridden astride (Freestyle Reining being exempted in that a rider may intentionally dismount and/or re-mount without penalty or disqualification).
8. It is mandatory for all riders to use appropriate western tack and western attire while showing: this would include a long sleeve western shirt, western hat or protective headgear, boots, western saddle and western bridle. (Freestyle Reining being exempt based on conditions). Failure to use appropriate attire will result in a score of zero.
9. For purposes of competition in the Reining Division: An individual is eligible to compete as a Junior from January 1 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

## B. EQUIPMENT



1. All bits must be free of mechanical device.
2. References to hackamore mean the use of a flexible, braided, rawhide, leather or rope bosal, and the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable with a maximum diameter of 3/4" at the cheek. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, or on the noseband in connection with the bosal, regardless of how padded or covered. Horsehair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to the equipment termed "mechanical hackamore" which is illegal.
3. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring with a ring no larger than 4" and no smaller than 2". The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and free of wire. It may be inlaid, but smooth and/or latex wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. Optional curb strap is acceptable however curb chains are not acceptable. These requirements remain the same for all classes in which a rider may use a snaffle bit.
4. Reference to a bit shall mean the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard Western bit.
  - i. A standard Western bit includes:
    - a) 8 1/2" maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the USA Reining Rules & Regulations. Shanks may be fixed or loose.
    - b) Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal (or other industry-approved hard rubber or plastic) of 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter, measured 1" from the cheek. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex-wrapped. Nothing may protrude more than 1/8 inch below the mouthpiece (bar).
    - c) The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard.
    - d) Slip or gag bits, donuts or flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable.
  - ii. Except for Snaffle Bit and Freestyle Classes, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index or first finger only between split reins is permitted. Violation of this rule results in a penalty score of zero (0).

- iii. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap is required and must be at least 1/2" in width, lie flat against the jaw, and be free of bars, wire, and/or twists.

## C. SCORING

1. The scoring will be on a basis of 0-Infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in 1/2 point increments from a low of - 1 1/2 to a high of + 1 1/2 with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Scores will be announced after each horse works.
2. All ties for first (1st) place will be worked off if the tied exhibitors agree to participate in a run-off. Tied exhibitors have the alternate option of agreeing not to run-off and to be named co-champions but must determine the winner of the awards by a flip of a coin. If they do not agree, the exhibitor(s) who does not want to run-off will forfeit first place to the other. (Exceptions: Freestyle Reining – see Freestyle Reining conditions to determine winner or co-champions)
  - i. If a tie occurs after the run-off, the entrants will be named co-champions; will evenly split first and second place prize money, but must determine the winner of the awards by a flip of a coin. A horse not returning for a run-off without such an agreement will forfeit first place prize money regardless of the prize money. In the case of a run-off, the contestant(s) not winning the run-off cannot be placed lower than the lowest position for which he/she was tied, i.e., second/third. All other ties are not worked off and will involve as many places as there are horses tied, i.e., fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh. The prize money in the previously mentioned example is added together and split equally four ways.
  - ii. Ties for first at USA Reining National Championships and USE National Championships will be worked off. If one or more of the riders with an equality of scores chooses not to run off, a coin toss (or similar) for prizes will be conducted at the prize giving ceremony and any money earned will be combined and split between the rankings with an equality of scores. However, the national championship title will always go to the entrant who did not concede the title, or to the winner of the run-off if that is the choice of the tied entrants. Ties at FEI events will be determined by the use of the FEI Rules for Reining, and will supersede USE and USA Reining Rules in that instance. In the case of Official Selection Procedures and Selection Trials, should the naming of team members be linked to, and coincide with a National Championship, riders should not be forced to work off, but rather be placed on teams according only to the published selection procedures.
3. The following will result in a no score:

- i. Abuse of animal in competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition;
  - ii. Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains;
  - iii. Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains;
  - iv. Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;
  - v. Use of whips or bats;
  - vi. Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;
  - vii. Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;
  - viii. Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor;
  - ix. Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care and custody of horses within the state or jurisdiction where a USA Reining event is being held;
  - x. The judge(s) may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition pertaining to either the horse and/or rider;
  - xi. Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins and mecates on snaffle bits and bosals in classes where the use of two hands is allowed.
4. Excess rein may be straightened at any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. When using a romal, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the hand closed around the reins; no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may be used to hold the romal, provided it is held in a relaxed position and there is at least 16" from free hand to the reining hand. Use of the free hand while holding the romal, to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the Reining hand, is considered to be use of two hands, and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern.
5. The following will result in a score of 0:
- i. Use of more than index or first finger between reins;



- ii. Use of two hands (exception: snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands;
- iii. Use of romal other than as outlined in #4;
- iv. Failure to complete pattern as written;
- v. Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order;
- vi. The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including but not limited to:
  - a) Backing more than two strides
  - b) Turning more than 90 degrees (Exception: a complete stop in the first quarter of a circle after a canter departure is not to be considered an inclusion of maneuver); a two-point break of gait penalty will apply
  - c) On run-in patterns, once beginning a canter a complete stop prior to reaching the first marker;
- vii. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern, including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion;
- viii. Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;
- ix. Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;
- x. Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena while starting a circle, circling or exiting a rollback;
- xi. Over-spins of more than 1/4 turn;
- xii. Fall to the ground by horse or rider. A horse is deemed to have fallen when its shoulder and/or hip and/or underline touches the ground;
- xiii. Dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion;
- xiv. Failure to wear appropriate western attire as outlined in rule 8 of these rules and regulations under the Show Rules headline. Western attire may include protective headgear (ASTM/SEI);

- xv. Neither a “no score” nor a 0 is eligible to place in a go round or single go round class, however a 0 score does count as a score when applicable for FEI Rules for Reining in team competitions.
  - xvi. Neither a “no score” nor a 0 may advance in a multi-go event. In multi go events, finals qualifying horses that get a 0 or a scratch will still be eligible for payouts, with a 0 placing higher than a scratch;
  - xvii. In the event not enough horses qualify for total prize money distribution, competition management will retain the undistributed portion of the prize money.
6. The following will result in a \$25 fine, payable to the show organizer: failure to have correct exhibitor number displayed.
7. The following will result in a five-point penalty:
- i. Spurring in front of cinch;
  - ii. Use of either hand to instill fear at any time in the arena or praise during the pattern;
  - iii. Holding saddle with either hand;
  - iv. Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking.
8. The following will result in a two-point penalty:
- i. Break of prescribed gait;
  - ii. Freezing up in spins or rollbacks;
  - iii. On walk-in patterns, cantering prior to reaching the center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure;
  - iv. On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to reaching the first marker or break of gait prior to the first marker;
  - v. If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.
9. Starting or performing circles or figure-eight out of lead will be judged as follows:

- i. Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to penalize by 1 point. The penalty for being out of lead is accumulative, and the judge will add 1 penalty point for each quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A delayed change of lead is a one (1) point penalty from one stride to 1/4 of circumference of a circle and is also cumulative beyond that point;
  - ii. A judge is required to penalize a horse half (1/2) of a point for a delayed change of lead by one (1) stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
10. Deduct half (1/2) point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two (2) strides. Jogging beyond two (2) strides but less than half (1/2) circle or half (1/2) the length of the arena, deduct two (2) points.
11. Deduct one-half (1/2) point for over or under spinning up to one-eighth (1/8) of a turn; deduct one (1) point for over or under spinning up to one-quarter (1/4) of a turn.
12. In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows:
  - i. For half (1/2) the turn or less, one (1) point;
  - ii. For more than half (1/2) the turn, two (2) points.
13. There will be a half point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet from the side of the arena when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
14. Judges may not confer as to any penalty or maneuver score prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, a 0, or a 5 point penalty) is unclear, a judge will submit his or her score and ask that the score be held, pending a conference and/or review of the official video at the earliest appropriate time. Should the judges determine via conference or official video replay that a penalty was incurred, it will be applied. If, however, no penalty occurred, the score will be announced as originally submitted. No judge shall be required to change his or her score following a conference or official video replay. Each judge's decision is an individual call and based on individual decision from a conference or official video replay. The use of official video equipment by the judges is only permissible if the judge has reason to believe that all entries have been videotaped. All competitions are required to have video instant replay available to the jury of judges for this reason.

15. The judge shall have the authority to remove any contestant from a competition he or she is judging, should said contestant show any disrespect or misconduct as to render himself or the competition in an unsportsmanlike manner according to the USA Reining Athlete's Code of Conduct.
16. All riders must dismount. The horse must be presented and the bridle dropped by the rider or a designated representative. The horse and equipment must be checked by the designated judge or steward in close proximity to the arena during a pre-check or only in the case that a sitting jury member is checking equipment in the arena, a post-check. Should the equipment judge detect cause for a "no-score", the exhibitor or his/her representative, trainer, or guardian may at that time accept the no-score and allow the equipment judge to cause the appropriate changes to all score cards or request the other judges confer on the appropriate call. In the case of a youth exhibitor, should a parent, trainer, or guardian not be present, it will be assumed that all parties are aware of this rule and agree to abide by the exhibitor's decision. If requested, the equipment judge will confer with the other judges as soon as practical. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a no-score. Competitions are encouraged to establish equipment check stations in advance of each individual run and give the competitor appropriate time to correct the equipment change to comply with legal equipment, should there be a question on equipment.
17. Judges shall be the sole person responsible to determine if a rider has correctly completed the pattern as written.
18. USA Reining permits the judge the option of awarding a re-ride to any contestant who, in the judge's opinion, is unable to complete a pattern for reasons that are out of the rider's control. In the instance where a re-ride is warranted in the judge's opinion, the jury of judges should advise a USA Reining Representative, including Board of Directors Members (should such a representative be present at the show) and the competition manager as appointed by the organizing committee and/or the event organizers of such a decision as soon as is possible.
19. An exhibitor or owner in the respective class may request a review of a major penalty applied to a run (penalty score of 0 and 5 point penalty). The judge(s) has the right to deny or honor the request. If honored by the judge(s), he/she must believe the official videographer videotaped the entire class. The request must be made no later than 30 minutes after the last run of the day, and before the judge(s) has left the grounds for the day. In cases where a class is run in sections over multiple days, each day's scores will be official 30 minutes after the last run of each section. Exhibitors or owners may not have direct contact with the judge(s) during the entire process of requesting a review. The request must be submitted to the Competition Steward, Competition Representative, or if need be Competition Management who will take the request to the judge(s).



20. For regulations concerning showing under judges, refer to USE General Rule 1304.

## A. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION AND CLASS ELIGIBILITY

1. Class eligibility is based on the rider and the horse as of January 1 of the current competition year. It is the responsibility of the owner and/or rider to be aware of the eligibility of the horse and/or rider as recorded by USA Reining. When limits of eligibility are surpassed during the competition year, the exhibitor can complete the year in that specific class or division. Any rider participating in a class or division in which he or she (or the horse he or she is riding) is not eligible will be called before the USE Hearing Committee and if found in violation, placed on probation for 30 days for the first offense. Second and subsequent offenses will result in a 30-day suspension and a fine of \$200. The decision of the USE Hearing Committee shall be final and enforceable by USA Reining. When a horse or rider is found to be ineligible by the USE Hearing Committee, the earnings will be forfeited to USA Reining. USA Reining will make corrections to the class placing and earnings in the official results. It is the responsibility of the ineligible exhibitor to return all forfeited earnings to USA Reining and all prizes and awards to the Organizing Committee.

### 2. Categories and Eligibility:

- i. OPEN – USA Reining approved class; Subject to the general conditions, any rider with a current USA Reining and USE membership may show any horse in the class, regardless of ownership. Divisions of competition in the Open Division will match USE and FEI specified star-level assignments.
- ii. AMATUER – USA Reining approved class open to any rider holding a current USA Reining and USE membership with Amateur Designation may show any horse regardless of ownership. Refer to USE Rule GR1306 for definition of an Amateur Competitor. Divisions of competition in the Amateur Division include:
  - a. PLATINUM AMATUER COMPETITOR – open to riders of all levels of achievement with an intended focus on national championship and international high performance and those who have earned \$200,000 USD or more in NRHA lifetime earnings (using the previous year's annual report of LTE) in NRHA Category 2 & 6.
  - b. GOLD AMATUER COMPETITOR – open to riders who have earned \$50,000 USD up to \$199,999.99 USD in NRHA





lifetime earnings (using the previous year's annual report of LTE) in NRHA Category 2 & 6.

- c. SILVER AMATEUR COMPETITOR – open to riders who have earned \$25,000 USD up to \$49,999.99 USD in NRHA lifetime earnings (using the previous year's annual report of LTE) 0 in NRHA Category 2 & 6.
- d. BRONZE AMATEUR COMPETITOR – open to riders who have earned \$24,999.99 USD or less in NRHA lifetime earnings (using the previous year's annual report of LTE) in NRHA Category 2 & 6.
- e. PRIME TIME AMATEUR COMPETITOR – open to riders who are fifty (50) years old or older at the start of the competition year.

iii. YOUTH – USA Reining approved classes open to any rider holding a current USA Reining and USE membership with Junior or Youth Designation may show any horse regardless of ownership. Age Divisions in the Youth class include:

- a. YOUTH (13 & UNDER);
- b. YOUTH (14-18);
- c. YOUTH (19-21);

iv. PARA

- a. General – Except as outlined herein, or in the case of a waiver or rule change by the Board of Directors of USA Reining, all General Rules for Reining and USA Reining Regulations are applicable for the sport of Reining in the United States, including Para-Reining. In the event that any alterations to these rules need to be made for the sake of safety or program development, the President or the Board of Directors may grant waivers. Any person or event requesting a waiver must do so in writing to the Executive Director of USA Reining 30 days prior to the event. USA Reining is the recognized Reining affiliate of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), and so, therefore all USEF Rules and Regulations are dually applicable. In the event a Rule or Regulation of USA Reining is in conflict with a published and current USE Rule or



Regulation, USE Rules and Regulations shall supersede those of USA Reining. Competitors are obligated to read, become aware and conduct themselves within the Rules and Regulations at all USA Reining Para-Reining events.

- b. Event Approval - Event organizers must return the official event approval form no less than 30 days prior to the start of the event (exception may be granted by the USA Reining Board of Directors on a case by case basis) for approval by the Para-Reining Committee for recommendation to the full Board of Directors of USA Reining.
- c. Patterns – USA Reining will allow WPR Reining patterns, or AQHA, NRHA and FEI patterns that have been modified, so long as it 1) adheres to the below outlined grade levels for Para-Reining in the USA Reining system. Patterns must be published and advertised at least 4 hours prior to the start of the class.
- d. Grades – Riders in Para-Reining will be classified into one of the following four grades for competition:
  1. Grade 1 – Riders are typically wheelchair users with impairment in all four limbs. The rider may be able to walk but only with assistance. Walk patterns are included in this grade; assistance in the arena by a trainer or coach is permitted. May be ridden one or two handed. World Para Reining Grade 1 Pattern 1 and 2.
  2. Grade 2 – Riders are typically wheelchair users with some limb function. The rider may be able to walk, but with limited balance and limb function. Walk and Trot patterns are included in this grade, compensating aids permitted. May be ridden one- or two-handed. World Para Reining Grade 2 Patterns 1, 2 and 3.
  3. Grade 3 – Riders are able to walk without support, but have minimal use of limbs. Modified Lope patterns are included in this grade, compensating aids permitted. May be ridden one- or two-handed. (e.g. AQHA Pattern 14 or 15, or NRHA Patterns 14 or 15.)
  4. Grade 4 – Riders are impaired in one or two limbs. Lope patterns are included in this level using the same patterns as able-bodied riders, compensating aids permitted. To be



ridden one-handed. (e.g. AQHA Patterns 1-13 or NRHA Patterns 1-13)

- e. Classification – FEI Classification is used at this time only as a reference and point of interest in our research and development. USA Reining will assist in the identification of grade for these riders, if needed.
- f. Prior to competition riders must have completed one of the following items:
  - i. USA Reining Classification with Medical Documentation
  - ii. FEI Classification of Rider Grade Level
  - iii. NRHA Para-Reining Physician’s Report completed and submitted to show secretary at the event according to appropriate time line. Physician’s Report is available here: <http://nrha1.com/media/pdf/2015/physiciansstatement.pdf>
  - iv. AQHA Para-Reining Equestrian with Disabilities declaration forms to be completed and submitted to AQHA according to appropriate time line.
  - v. WPR Medical Form completed and submitted to WPR according to appropriate time line.
- g. Affiliation –USA Reining is not affiliated with any international organizations at this time. Any affiliation with an international body (i.e. –FEI) would be at the discretion and under the guidance of our parent organization, the USE.
- h. National Championships – USA Reining may, at its discretion designate one event annually as the “United States Para-Reining National Championship.” USA Reining will publish qualifying procedures by January 31st of the year in which the event will take place.
- i. Year-End Awards/Rider and Horse Ranking Lists – USA Reining will include Para-Reining athletes and horses in the



annual ranking list calculations and designate Rider of the Year and Horse of the Year honors annually.

- j. Membership – Athletes and horse owners must be current active members in good standing in order to compete at USA Reining approved events. For more information, please see USA Reining General Rules & Regulations.
- k. Horse Recording – All horses competing at USA Reining events must be recorded with USA Reining. For more information, please see USA Reining General Rules & Regulations.
- l. Helmets for USA Para Reining classes are optional. USA Para Reining endorses and encourages the use of a helmet, but this will be left to the discretion of the rider.

v. USE & FEI COMPETITIONS

- a. USE-United States Equestrian Federation, the National Governing Body for Equestrian Sport, to include recognized and/or approved events as outlined by USE programs (such as USE National Championship, Official Selection Trial, etc.)
- b. FEI-Federation Equestre Internationale, the International Governing Body for Equestrian Sport: To include recognized and/or approved events as outlined by FEI programs (such as, FEI World Championships, FEI World Cup, FEI World Equestrian Games, Pan Am Games, CRIs – Concours de Reining International, CRIOs – Concours de Reining International Official, etc.)

vi. BREED CLASSES

- a. Dually sanctioned classes that are conducted at breed association shows and dually sanctioned by the breed association and USA Reining. Most commonly correspond with a concurrent FEI class (CRI – Breed) but may also stand alone to count for USA Reining points at partner breed association events.

vii. REGIONAL CLASSES



- a. USA Reining recognizes the need for diversity in classes held at different levels of competition and in different geographical areas, as well as to generate promotional activity for affiliate groups. This diversity allows for growth and development of affiliates and uniqueness in Organizers;
- b. Among these types of classes are: Geldings, Green as Grass, Green Reiner, Ladies, Men's, and many additional classes with a variety of individual conditions written by the affiliate or show management. These classes often use USA Reining rules with a noted variation in show conditions to accommodate the specific class;
- c. USA Reining does not sanction these classes for national competition, but does recognize and encourage their use for the growth and development of the affiliates, the interest of the exhibitors, and the overall management of the Reining event.

viii. FREESTYLE

- a. FREESTYLE OPEN – Any current member of USA Reining and USE may show in this class. See rules for Freestyle;
- b. FREESTYLE AMATEUR – Any current member of USA Reining and USE which is also designated as Amateur may show in this class, See rules for “Freestyle;”
- c. FREESTYLE YOUTH – Any current member of USA Reining and USE which is also designated as Junior or Youth may show in this class, See rules for “Freestyle;”

B. AMATEUR (For definition of an Amateur under the USE competition system, see USE General Rule 1306)

1. Protest of an Amateur Status – should a member wish to protest the eligibility of an Amateur, they must file a protest to the USE in accordance with the procedures set forth in the disciplinary procedure section of the USA Reining Rules and Regulations. A current USA Reining and USE member in good standing must sign the protest. In this protest, the request for official inquiry must be filed within the current competition year or within 30 days from the end of the competition, whichever is greater. Upon receipt of a validly filed protest, USA Reining may choose to request the individual in question to voluntarily relinquish his/her Amateur status. If the individual chooses not to relinquish his or her status, USA Reining shall perform a formal inquiry.

2. Penalty – should the USE determine an Amateur has made a false declaration; the Amateur will forfeit all winnings earned during the current year, and be subject to disciplinary procedures. When a horse/rider is found to be ineligible, the earnings and awards will be forfeited to USA Reining. Upon receipt of the earnings, USA Reining will redirect the forfeited earnings to the show committee to be redistributed. USA Reining will make corrections to the class placing and earnings in the official results. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to return all forfeited earnings to USA Reining and all prizes and awards to the Organizing Committee of the competition.
3. Relinquishing Amateur Status – an Amateur that relinquishes his or her Amateur status and becomes a professional must notify USA Reining and the USE in writing within 30 days of the change.

### C. FREESTYLE REINING

1. Reining maneuvers originated from moves that a working western horse must use in performing its ranching and cow duties and have been refined to the high level of competition existing today. Freestyle Reining not only provides an opportunity to use these maneuvers creatively, but also to expand them to music by means of choreography. Riders are encouraged to use musical scores, which permit them to show the athletic ability of the horse in a crowd appealing way.
2. USA Reining rules will apply except where the following rules preempt it.
3. Required maneuvers will be defined as follows:
  - i. A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the right;
  - ii. A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the left;
  - iii. A minimum of 3 stops;
  - iv. A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from right to left;
  - v. A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from left to right.
4. Exhibitors will only be judged astride, however intentionally dismounting is allowable (it will be the judge's discretion to decide when a dismount is intentional versus not intended). Exhibitors are allowed to use two hands (as well as one or no hands) and any bit approved by the rules of USA Reining, including snaffle bits and bosals.
5. Failure to perform all the required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time limit will result in a 0.



6. Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, backups, speed variations and non-classical Reining maneuvers such as half pass and side pass are appropriate in Freestyle and shall be given appropriate credit.
7. Additional repetitions of required maneuvers are appropriate, but will only add or subtract from the existing scores already given for the required maneuvers, not as additional scores.
8. Program time limit is a maximum of 4 minutes including any introductions. The time limit will be from the beginning of the music or from the beginning of the introduction (whichever is first) and will end with the music. The arena clerk keeps time.
9. Costumes are permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the Reining maneuvers to music.
10. Props are permitted but at no time may hinder the judges' view of the horse. The use of props will not add to the score.
11. Judging of the Freestyle Reining:
  - i. Required maneuvers in Freestyle will receive a score based on technical merit from the technical judges utilizing judges score sheets specifically designed for the Freestyle;
  - ii. Transitional maneuvers and other maneuvers not specified as Reining maneuvers will be evaluated and scored accordingly in a specified box and counted as a single maneuver score;
  - iii. Judges will assess an artistic impression score in the box specified using a - 2 to a + 2 evaluation. A separate artistic impression judge is not allowable in USA Reining.
12. Two or more licensed Reining judges must be used in any Freestyle class that offers \$2000 or more in prize money. As part of the overall score, each judge would weigh the artistic impression of the ride as 10% of the overall ride.
13. One judge shall be designated as the tiebreaker prior to the Freestyle class. In the event a tie still occurs (or the tie occurs with one judge), the scores will be tallied to break the tie. In the event a tie remains, the exhibitors tied will be declared co-champions.



14. Validating required maneuvers will be the responsibility of the judges. At least one scribe will be used to assist in verifying the required maneuvers for each horse as they are completed in the pattern.
  15. Elimination rounds are to be used at the discretion of competition management and should use USA Reining patterns, USA Reining judging rules as applied to all classes, and USA Reining-approved judges shall always be used in any elimination round, just as they are in finals or single go-rounds. Elimination rounds may be held without music or costuming, but must allow the use of either one or two hands. The emphasis in the design of any elimination rounds should be on quality of competition.
  16. USA Reining does not allow applause meters. However, organizers may choose to award a People's Choice award at their own discretion using the response from the crowd.
  17. If an Open Freestyle Reining class is offered a Youth and/or Amateur Freestyle class may also be held. Competition Management/ the Organizing Committee will reserve the right to run them concurrently or separately.
  18. Competition Management will reserve the right to rule on music or dress, which may be inappropriate or offensive to the spirit and nature of the competition. Competition Management may also determine the use of special lighting.
  19. Equipment used in freestyle must adhere to the following standards:
    - i. All equipment must be non-abusive and humane based on Federation and USA Reining Rules and guidelines;
    - ii. Any equipment not specifically covered by or in conflict with standard equipment guidelines must be non-abusive to the horse.
- D. Contact – For additional information or to ensure you are viewing the most current set of rules, please visit us at [www.USAREining.us](http://www.USAREining.us)
- E. Bylaws – The bylaws for the government of USA Reining are available upon request.