



## NARCHC Classes 2018

This is the typical order of go for all shows – this may alter slightly based on entries – WATCH FOR SCHEDULE POSTING ON THURSDAY, PRIOR TO SHOW DAY.

1	Open Cutting (ACHA/NCHA rules)	10	Non Pro Bridle / Two Rein Cow Horse
2	Open Bridle / Two Rein Cutting	11	Youth Rein/Box – 13 & under
3	Non Pro Bridle / Two Rein Cutting	12	Youth WCH or Box – 14 -18
4	Open Ranch Cutting	13	Open Snaffle Bit / Hackamore CH
5	Non Pro Ranch Cutting	14	Non Pro Snaffle Bit / Hackamore CH
6	Green as Grass Cutting	15	Green as Grass Cow Horse
7	Youth Cutting – 13 & Under	14	\$2000 Limit Rider Cow Horse
8	Youth Cutting – 14 - 18	15	Non Pro Rein/Box
9	Open Bridle / Two Rein Cow Horse	16	Green as Grass Rein/Box
		18	Ranch Hand Class \$1000 Ltd
		17	Step Up Rein Box (Saturday Only)

## RIDER Definitions

**OPEN** – *Open to any rider*

**NON PRO** - *riders as defined in NARCHC 2018 rulebook. Article XI, Non Pro Definition and Rules.*

**LIMIT RIDER** - *Any rider that has lifetime earnings in cow horse, excluding limited aged event earnings (i.e. futurities, derbies, etc), less than the dollar limit of the class. Riders must apply for limit status and eligibility will be decided by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Earnings in any Rein/Box classes DO NOT count towards Life Time Earnings in any working cow horse classes.*

**EARNINGS IN ANY ASSOCIATION OR ANY OTHER SHOW COUNT TOWARD NARCHC RIDER LIMIT STATUS.**

**YOUTH** - *Open to any rider who is eighteen (18) years of age or younger, as of January 1 of the current year. A youth rider may compete in any other class he/she so chooses provided that his/her lifetime earnings, do not exceed the limit of the class or meets Non Pro eligibility requirements. Dollars earned in youth competition count towards lifetime earnings. Youth riders may not ride stallions in a youth class. Any youth, competing in any class, does not need to own the horse they are showing with the exception of those Youth competing in Non Pro classes. Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules. Youth 13 and under must wear a CSA approved helmet when riding, Youth 14 to 18 must wear CSA approved helmet or parent may sign waiver helmet rule.*

**GREEN AS GRASS** - Non Pro riders with less than \$1000 LTE January 1 of the current year in any and all judged working or reined cow horse classes or events. If a rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year.

**Ranch Hand \$1000 Ltd. – Cow Horse or Rein Box**

Any rider that has lifetime earnings in cow horse less than \$1000.00. Earnings in any Rein/Box classes DO NOT count towards earnings in any working cow horse classes.

**Step Up Rein Box (Saturday Jackpot Only)**

Open to riders that have not earned more that \$750 down the fence, or riders over the age of 50 that have stepped back to Boxing with no limit on earnings. If a rider reaches the limit (\$750) during the show season, said rider may remain in that class for the duration of the year. Entries will have one minute and 45 seconds (1:45) working time. Riders will box the cow, run and rate it down the long side of the arena, then set up and box it again on the opposite end.

## **CLASSES**

### **CUTTING**

**1. Open Cutting**

Horse must be shown one (1) handed using ACHA/NCHA approved equipment, following ACHA/NCHA rules.

**2. Open Ranch Cutting**

Open to any age horse, must be shown in regulation snaffle bit or hackamore, as per Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment.

**3. Open Bridle / Two Rein Cutting**

Horses to be shown in regulation bridle or two/rein equipment as per Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment. Two/rein horses eligible for one year only.

**4. Non Pro Ranch Cutting**

Open to any age horse, must be shown in regulation snaffle bit or hackamore, as per Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment.

**5. Non Pro Bridle / Two Rein Cutting**

Horses to be shown in regulation bridle or two/rein equipment as per Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment. Two/rein horses eligible for one year only.

**6. Green as Grass Cutting**

Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.

**7. Youth Cutting 13 & Under**

Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.

**8. Youth Cutting 14 to 18**

*Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.*

**Working Cow Horse**

**9. Open Bridle / Two Rein Cow Horse**

*Horses to be shown in regulation bridle or two/rein equipment as per Article XI, B (1). Two Rein horses eligible for one year only.*

**10. Open Snaffle Bit / Hackamore Cow Horse**

*Open to horses five (5) years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year that have never been shown in a bridle or two-rein down the fence at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. The rider shall use closed reins, with an approved hackamore or split reins with an approved snaffle bit. This is a two handed class.*

**11. Non Pro Bridle / Two Rein Cow Horse**

*Horses to be shown in regulation bridle or two/rein equipment as per Article XI, B (1). Two Rein horses eligible for one year only.*

**12. Non Pro Snaffle Bit / Hackamore Cow Horse**

*Open to horses five (5) years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year that have never been shown in a bridle or two-rein down the fence at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. The rider shall use closed reins, with an approved hackamore or split reins with an approved snaffle bit. This is a two handed class.*

**13. \$2000 Limit Rider Cow Horse**

*Horses must be shown in NARCHC legal equipment. Horses shown in a full bridle must be shown one handed with an NARCHC approved bit with romal reins held in a closed fist, thumb up position or two rein equipment. Horses of any age may be shown two handed only with an approved snaffle bit or hackamore. Rulebook Article XI (C) Appointments and Equipment.*

**14. Green as Grass Cow Horse**

*Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.*

**Rein Box**

**15. Non Pro Rein/Box**

*Horses to be shown in age appropriate equipment as per Article XI, Two Rein horses eligible for one year only.*

**16. Non Pro Bridle / Two Rein**

*Horses to be shown in regulation bridle or two/rein equipment as per Article XI, B (1). Two Rein horses eligible for one year only.*

**17. Green as Grass Rein / Box**

*Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.*

**18. Youth Rein / Box – 13 & Under**

*Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.*

**19. Youth WCH or Box – 14 to 18**

*Competitor must indicate on entry form if they choose to Fence or Box. Please refer to Article XI, C Appointments & Equipment, item 4 for equipment rules.*

**20. Ranch Hand \$1000 Ltd. – Cow Horse or Rein Box**

*Rider will indicate when registering for class if they choose to fence or box. Open to any rider that has lifetime earnings in cow horse, less than \$1000.00. Earnings in any Rein/Box classes DO NOT count earnings in any Working Cow horse classes. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Horses shown can be shown in any NARCHC approved equipment or shown in approved equipment as outlined in C4.regardless of age.*

**21. Step Up Rein Box**

*Open to riders that have not earned more that \$750 down the fence, or riders over 50 that have stepped back to Boxing with no limit on earnings. If a limit class rider reaches the limit during the course of the show season, said rider may still remain in that class for the duration of the year. Horses shown can be shown in any NARCHC approved equipment or shown in approved equipment as outlined in C4, regardless of age.*

**C. APPOINTMENTS AND EQUIPMENT**

Horses shall be shown astride with a western saddle. Riders must wear a western hat or helmet approved for riding by an equine organization, and appropriate western attire must be worn while showing. Western hat or approved safety helmet, long sleeve shirt with a collar (band, stand up, tuxedo, etc.) and cuff. Vests, jackets and sweaters may be worn over proper attire. Chaps or chinks must be worn except for in Green As Grass, Ranch Hand and Youth classes. Chaps or chinks are recommended only for these classes. Failure to wear appropriate western attire will result in a score of zero. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena. Wire of any kind and on any part of the snaffle bit or hackamore is not permissible. A breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he or she shall be disqualified. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of this rule. The same bridle or hackamore must be used through the class. If there is a final, an equipment change is allowed for the finals; however, the same bridle or hackamore must be used throughout the finals. Use of training equipment (equipment not legal in NARCHC classes) will not be permitted in the show arena on the day of an NARCHC approved show. On an NARCHC approved show day, and until the conclusion of the show, any persons entering the show pen must be wearing a western hat and long sleeve shirt.

**1. BRIDLE EQUIPMENT**

A spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics must be used in any of the stock horse classes (with the exception of Green as Grass and Youth classes where any AQHA approved bit is allowed; see description in Section 5). Said characteristics shall be: one with an unbroken bar mouthpiece with one (1) inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port. There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single or multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit. It is legal to have a barrel, made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece. The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece. The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is 5/16 inch. Bars must be round, oval or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs. The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than 8 ½ inches measured from the inside bottom of the top of headstall ring to the point of pull in the bottom ring. Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in width. Braces, copper port cover and/or having copper smoothly inlaid in the mouthpiece are optional.

The use of bosal, martingale, or tie-down is prohibited (bosal permitted in two rein equipment only). No wire, chain, or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with the bit or as part of the leather chinstrap. Leather chinstraps must be flat, flexible and at least 1/2 inch wide. No metal rivets are allowed to come in contact with the chin, or chin groove of the horse. Metal keepers are not acceptable on the chin strap. Reins with romal required. The reins can be held in either hand, with hand around the reins in a closed fist position with thumb up. The non-rein hand must be on the romal. The keeper, or hobble, that attaches the romal to the reins is considered to be part of the romal. The non-rein hand is not allowed, at any time, to touch the reins or a score of -0-will be applied. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner. No fingers are permitted between the reins in Bridle classes, except in the Two-Rein class.

## **2. HACKAMORE EQUIPMENT**

Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal. No rigid material of any kind may be used, regardless of how padded or covered, in conjunction with the bosal. Horsehair bosals are prohibited. Tape is not allowed on the noseband of the hackamore. Smooth, flat, wrapped tape is allowed on the hackamore between the headstall and the mecate reins. Maximum amount of tape allowed is two (2) inches on each side of the hackamore.

## **3. SNAFFLE BIT EQUIPMENT**

Snaffle bits shall be either "D" or "O" ring type, no larger than four (4) inches in diameter on the inside of the ring. They must have a broken, two (2) piece, mouthpiece being a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured one (1) inch in from the inside of the ring on the snaffle bit, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece should be round, oval, D snaffle or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but must be smooth. Latex wrap is not acceptable. These bits must be such that when the reins are pulled, no undue leverage is applied, i.e. the inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or headstall attachments. A leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used. Chin strap is allowed to include metal buckles and/or keepers on snaffle bits only. Reins are to be attached above the chinstrap. Two hands must be used on the reins except in the herd work or to provide safety to the rider or adjust equipment. Rider or representative will drop the bridle to the designated bridle checker. Designated bridle checker will not touch the horse's mouth.

**4.** For **GREEN AS GRASS, RANCH HAND or YOUTH** classes only, any legal NARCHC approved bit or AQHA legal bits may be used as described in the 2017 AQHA Handbook: References to a bit in western performance classes 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. A description of a legal, standard western bit includes: **(1)** 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram. Shanks may be fixed or loose. **(2)** Concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouth pieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4"(32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. **(3)** The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard. **(4)** Slip or gag bits, and donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable. Note: In all cases, a flat leather chin strap at least 1/2 inch wide must be used with such a bit, for NARCHC shows. Any legal equipment listed above may be used on any age horse with either one or two hands on the reins. If the rider begins the class with one or two hands on the reins they may not change during the class, therefore for example if you begin the class with one hand on the reins and switch to two hands on the reins the result would be a score of zero.