



THE WESTERN HORSE ASSOCIATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

"Your governing body for all things western on PEI"

GENERAL RULE BOOK (Revised July 2019)

For WHA sponsorship information, show dates and entry forms, please refer to the WHA Show Book and our website at www.peiwesternhorse.com

Any questions or concerns relating to our organization or horse shows can be addressed by the WHA Executive Directors at peiwesternhorse@gmail.com

WHA General Rule Book

General Rules and Regulations	1
General Rules and Regulations – Speed Events	2
WHA Performance Divisions	
2 & Under Division	4
Small Fry Division	4
Walk/Jog Division	4
Novice Division	4
Youth Division	4
Adult Division	5
Open Division	5
Youth Speed Division	5
Adult Speed Division	5
Open Classes	5
WHA Class Specifications	
Showmanship, Horsemanship, English Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle Lungeline, Western Pleasure	6
Ranch Pleasure, Trail, In-Hand Trail, Cowboy Trail, Reining	7
Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Down & Back, 4 Leaf Clover	8
Show High Point, Provincial Heritage Show and Year End Awards	8
Membership	8
WHA Point System	9

General Rules and Regulations

All competitors are responsible for the knowledge of the WHA RULE BOOK and AQHA class specifications. These rules can be found in the RULE BOOK on our website www.peiwesternhorse.com Rules and Patterns will also be available at WHA shows. WHA has developed its own set of rules and guidelines, but we have also used the AQHA rulebook as a guide. For further detail and clarification, please check the AQHA rulebook at <https://www.aqha.com/membership/resources/rulebook/> or check with a WHA board member.

All competitors are responsible for the knowledge of the WHA SHOW BOOK. The Show Book further elaborates on rules and regulations concerning Training Shows, High Point, Heritage Show, and Year End Awards. It also contains entry forms and sponsor information.

1. CSA Approved Helmets

- Wearing a CSA approved helmet is mandatory for all competitor under 18, in all mounted classes and when mounted on the show grounds.
 - A CSA approved helmet or hunt cap must be worn in all English classes.
 - Any competitor may wear a CSA approved helmet without penalty.
2. Stallions can not be shown or handled on the show grounds by any person under the age of 19. Stallions may only be shown in Adult and Open divisions, with the exception of reining. **Stallions must be marked with a blue tail ribbon while in the warm up rings and show ring.**
 3. Appropriate, clean and neat western attire is required, which includes pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.), long sleeved and collared shirt or blouse, western hat or helmet, and boots with a heel. The hat or helmet must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. Chaps are optional. Should proper dress not be adhered to, the Judge may disqualify the rider.
 4. Horses will be shown with proper western saddle and bridle; saddle pads are mandatory. Silver is optional and will not be given preference over good working tack. All tack must be clean and well kept. English tack will only be permitted in Hunter Under Saddle classes, and whips are not to be used outside of speed event classes.
 5. Any legal bit, as described in the AQHA Rule Book, is allowed. Chain and leather curb straps must be at least ½ inch wide, lay flat, and allow at least 2 fingers between the horse's jaw and the strap. Nosebands are not to be used outside of speed and hunter under saddle classes. Mechanical hackamores and bosals are also allowed in all classes.
 6. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are not permitted in any performance divisions except speed, reining and cowboy trail.
 7. During a WHA sanctioned event or show, any competitor may be disqualified (for the entire show) by any WHA official acting under the Judge's authority if the competitor does abuse a horse, the Judge or any WHA official, or is deemed unsafe to other competitors in the show ring.
 8. It is strictly forbidden to spur, whip or hit a horse forward of the girth line.
 9. No competitor may address the Judge without the approval of the Ring Steward.
- 10. All horses that are known to kick or strike must be marked with a red tail ribbon while in the rings.**

General Rules and Regulations - Speed Events

1. All riders will run at the same time, but are pointed in the correct divisions: Youth and Adult
2. When the running order is drawn, horses will run in the order drawn except when one rider has two mounts. That rider will be allowed a spacing of at least 5 horses between his/her two animals, if possible.
3. All horses entering in a class must be assembled in ample time for runs to start and continue without delay. They must remain prepared in case of a tie. A competitor will have 30 seconds to make their way to the ring after their number is called, failure to do so will result in elimination. The decision of the person calling the numbers is final.
4. Western type of equipment must be used. Use of a hackamore or other types of bridles is permitted, however, the Judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment that they consider severe. A competitor may also use a tie down, martingale or draw reins. Two hands may be used on the reins.
5. Hats:
 - Any competitor crossing the start line without a hat on their head will be disqualified.
 - If the Judge feels that a competitor deliberately flips their hat off after crossing the start line, they will be disqualified.
 - If a competitor loses their hat, they will first receive a verbal warning, the second time losing a hat, and thereafter, they will be disqualified from that run.
 - The first hat warning stands for the entire show.
 - Hat chinstraps are permitted.
4. An electric timer or two stop watches (digital if possible) must be used at. Horses are timed on the nose.
5. Should the timing equipment be found not to be working, the affected competitor will be given a re-run after all horses have run, provided they do not go off course.
6. Riders are to be given the signal to enter the ring. The run will not start until the horse is in the ring, unless chute is provided and the show committee designates that it is safe.
7. A competitor will not be given a re-run if broken equipment occurs after crossing the start/finish line. If equipment breakage occurs before the start/finish line, the competitor will be placed at the bottom of the running order or allowed five (5) minutes to repair the equipment.
8. Knock downs will result in a five (5) second penalty for each knock down. Barrels or poles that fall after the finish line has been crossed won't be counted. If a pole or barrel is hit by horse or rider in such a way that it hits the ground and rights itself, that competitor will be assessed a five (5) second penalty for a knockdown.
9. In the event of a tie for first place only, a run-off must be held. Ties for other placing will be left as is. However, if a tie occurs for second place there will be no third place awarded. The prize money for the tied place will be added with the next placing and split.
10. A reasonable use of a bat and/or spurs is acceptable only behind the front cinch. If the use of bat and/or spurs is not reasonable the Judge may first warn the competitor of the abuse. If the abuse is repeated, then

the competitor will be disqualified from the entire show. When the competitor bats his/her horse while going to the finish line and knowing very well that the pattern is incorrect the judge may disqualify him/her from the entire show.

11. If a competitor drops a piece of clothing or equipment during their run, they will not remain in the ring after their pattern is completed. One of the officials will return the dropped article to the warm up ring.
12. In the event of a tie, if the first competitor is disqualified in the run-off, the horse declared the winner in the run-off must re-run the pattern within two (2) seconds of the original time or the run off must be held again.
13. Starting line markers and electronic timers will be set as far apart as the first two barrels, if space permits.
14. A minimum distance (or as close as possible to) of 50 feet must be made available between the finish line and the end of the arena to give horses a reasonable stopping distance. Any situation where the distance can be increased should be taken advantage of for the benefit of the horse.
15. WHA requirements for pattern set-up for speed events.

Barrel racing: the first and second barrel must have at least a 15-foot space from the fence, and the third barrel at least a 20-foot space from the fence.

Pole bending: to begin setting the pattern at the far end of the arena (opposite the finish line) the first pole must be 21 feet from the fence. The remaining poles must be 21 feet apart (center of pole to center of pole) with a 21-foot space from the top pole to the finish line.

Down and Back: The barrel must be placed at least a 20-foot space from the fence.

WHA Performance Divisions

2 & Under

- Horses must be in their two-year-old year, or under, to be eligible
- Division Classes: Halter, Showmanship, Lungeline, In-Hand Trail
- 2/4 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards.

Small Fry (walk/jog - 12 & under):

- Competitor may be led or accompanied by an adult in all classes.
- Small Fry competitor can not show in any other divisions, with the exception of speed and reining classes
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure and Trail
- 2/4 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards
- All patterns may be the same as Walk/Jog division patterns, or may be a simplified version
- To be judged on competitor performance, pattern correctness and overall competitor skill

Walk Jog Division: (walk/jog-all ages)

- A Walk/Jog horse and rider combination is not permitted to enter any mounted classes that require loping, with the exception of speed and reining classes
- Two hands permitted on the reins
- Judges may split this division on show day at their discretion for all rail work
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure, Trail, Ranch Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle,
- 4/6 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards.
- The Walk/Jog horse and rider combination will be permitted to stay in the division until they have reached 60 points, or if they achieve year end high point division champion. If 60 points are reached part way into a season, they will be permitted to finish that season and will be required to move out of that division the following year.
- A competitor showing in Walk/Jog will be allowed to compete in Novice for two shows, without forfeiting their Walk/Jog status, and will be allowed to enter all other in hand classes.

Novice Division: (walk/jog/lope – all ages)

- Trainers and Coaches are not permitted to compete in the Novice division
- Two hands on the reins
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure, Trail, Ranch Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle
- 4/6 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards
- Novice competitors will be allowed to compete in Novice division until they have reached 80 Novice points, or 30 points in Youth, Adult, or Open divisions, or if they achieve year end high point division champion. If these points are reached part way into a show season, they will be permitted to finish that season and will be required to move out of that division the following year.

Youth Division: (walk/jog/lope -18 and under as of January 1, 2018)

- One or two hands permitted on the reins; preference will be given to those showing one handed unless showing a horse aged 5 and under, in which case an approved snaffle bit or bosal may be used with 2 hands on the reins.
- Youth may also compete in the Open division
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure, Trail, Open Ranch Pleasure, Open Hunter Under Saddle
- 4/6 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards

Adult Division:(walk/jog/lope -18 years and over as of January 1, 2018)

- One or two hands permitted on the reins; preference will be given to those showing one handed unless showing a horse aged 5 and under, in which case an approved snaffle bit or bosal may be used with 2 hands on the reins.
- Adult may also compete in the Open division
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure, Trail, Open Ranch Pleasure, Open Hunter Under Saddle
- 4/6 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards

Open Division

- Open to all horses and riders unless restricted by rules of another division they are showing in
- One hand on the reins unless showing a horse aged 5 and under, in which case an approved snaffle bit or bosal may be used with 2 hands on the reins.
- Division Classes: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Pleasure, Trail, Open Ranch Pleasure, Open Hunter Under Saddle
- 4/6 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards

Youth Speed Division (18 and under as of January 1, 2018)

- Please review general rules and regulations for Speed events above
- Classes will be combined with the Adult Speed division, but placed separately
- Division Classes: Barrels, Poles, Down & Back, 4 Leaf Clover, Keyhole
- 3/5 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards

Adult Speed Division

- Please review general rules and regulations for Speed events above
- Classes will be combined with the Youth Speed division, but placed separately
- Division Classes: Barrels, Poles, Down & Back, 4 Leaf Clover, Keyhole
- 3/5 division classes must be entered to accumulate division points for day end and year end awards

Open Classes

Non- division classes that are open to all competitors unless limited by division restrictions.

Halter

English Equitation

Youth and Adult Reining (offered at select shows)

Toonie Race

Leadline This class is open to competitors who are not competing in any other class in the show. Entries will be required to walk and jog only, on lead accompanied by an adult. Open to children, as well as youth and adults with disabilities.

WHA Class Specifications

All WHA Pointed shows will follow the basic class specifications of the American Quarter Horse Association, unless otherwise stated. A summary of the class specifications is as follows.

Showmanship

This class must be judged on the competitor's ability to fit and show a horse in a halter class. The conformation of the horse must not count to accumulate points. Entries will be judged on condition and thriftiness of the horse, grooming and hoof care, trimming, tack, halter and lead must be leather, appearance and attitude of exhibitor, ability to show horse in the ring, posing, poise, alertness and merits.

Horsemanship

The object of this class is to demonstrate the horsemanship qualities of a rider. Riders are judged on seat, hands and their ability to control and show a horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. Each rider is to work individually. Individual work will be composed of a pattern and maneuvers, which the Judge feels are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider. Any or all competitor may be called back for rail work.

English Equitation

The object of this class is to demonstrate the horsemanship qualities of a rider. Riders are judged on seat, hands and their ability to control and show a horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them. Each rider is to work individually. Individual work will be composed of a pattern and maneuvers, which the Judge feels are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider. Any or all competitor may be called back for rail work.

Hunter Under Saddle

Hunters under Saddle should be suitable to purpose. Hunters should move with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movements while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gait is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears, and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. Horses should be responsive and smooth in transition. The class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation. Horses will be asked to work in both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter, and will be asked to reverse.

Lungeline

This class is for young western and English show horse prospects, age 2 and under, and is meant to show that they have the movement, attitude, presence, manner and conformation to be competitive under saddle. Each class has a conformation component, and a lungeline demonstration. During the lungeline demonstration, each competitor has 90 seconds to show all three gaits in both direction.

Western Pleasure

This class will be judged on the performance, good manners, disposition, condition and conformation of the horse. Horses must work at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Horses must work 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, jog and lope, one or both ways of the ring. 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.

Ranch Pleasure

The purpose of the Ranch Riding, or Ranch Pleasure 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. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full draped rein. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Horses will be shown on the rail. Horses shall individually work one of the AQHA Ranch Horse Patterns, which will be posted on our website and at the shows, with all show patterns, in the open division only. Not following AQHA rules for turnout.

Trail

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over a series of obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and picking their way through the course when obstacles warrant it. The course will be designed to require the horse to show all three (3) gaits somewhere between obstacles. Horses are not required to work on the rail.

See AQHA Rule Book or visit www.aqha.com for specific details and dimensions of obstacles.

In-hand Trail

This class is judged on the performance of the horse being led over and through obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the handler and attitude, for horses aged 2 and under. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style, expression and a degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed. Special credit is given to a horse picking its way through an obstacle that warrants it and willingly responding to a handler's cues on other obstacles. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles or for blatant disobedience. They will also be penalized for failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait, if designated, failure to complete obstacles, failure to follow correct line of travel within or between obstacles or for performing obstacles incorrectly or other than specified order or no attempt to perform an obstacle.

Cowboy Trail

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over a series of obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and picking their way through the course when obstacles warrant it. The course will be designed with non-traditional obstacles.

Reining

Each competitor will perform the required reining pattern individually and separately. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best-reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own will be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern will be considered a lack or temporary loss of control and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

For further information regarding patterns and class options, please visit the IRHA website www.islandreininghorse.com

Barrel Race

Exhibitors race against the clock following a course of three (3) barrels in a triangular “clover leaf” pattern. Contestants must choose either the right or left barrel, circle it and go to the next barrel, completing the course after circling the third barrel and running home to the finish. Barrel racing is a timed event. Knocking over a barrel carries a five (5) second penalty.

Pole Bending

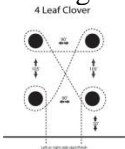
This timed event consists of six poles spaced 21 feet apart. Knocking over a pole carries a five second penalty. Horses run to the far end of the poles, turn and weave the poles back to the front, turn the front pole and weave back to the last pole. From the last pole horses will turn and race straight back to the finish. May start on right or left side of poles.

Down and Back

Exhibitors race against the clock. Cross the start line and race down to the end of the arena, around the one barrel and back across the start line. Knocking over the barrel carries a five (5) second penalty.

4 Leaf Clover Race

Exhibitors race against the clock following a course of four (4) barrels in a “clover leaf” pattern. Contestants must choose either the right or left barrel, circle it and go to the next barrel, completing the course after circling the third barrel and running home to the finish. Barrel racing is a timed event. Knocking over a barrel carries a five (5) second penalty.



Show High Point, Provincial Heritage Show and Year End Awards

All competitor must be WHA members in good standing at the time of each show for their points to count towards Show High Point, Provincial Heritage Show or Year End Awards. Schooling and Fun Shows are not pointed for Show High Point or Year End awards.

To be eligible for each Show High Point, competitors must show in the minimum required classes for their division. Please see division descriptions for these requirements.

Year End Awards will be based on horse/rider combinations, with points accumulating from each WHA pointed show throughout the season. To be eligible, competitors must have competed at 60% of the WHA pointed shows offered.

In the event of a tie for Show High Point or Year End Awards, the tie breaker will go to the competitor with the most first place finishing. If a tie remains, second and third place finishings will be counted.

***** Please refer to the WHA SHOW BOOK for more information concerning Awards*****

Membership

Membership is available anytime through our website or from board members.

Fee: \$25 per individual, \$5 additional family members residing in the same household.

Late fee: \$10 applied to all renewals after May 31

New members are always welcome, we would love to have you!

WHA Points System

The points system is based on the number of entries per class. If a class has six entries, then six placings:

<u>Six Entries</u>	<u>Four entries</u>
1st place will receive 6 pts	1st place will receive 4 pts
2nd place will receive 5 pts	2nd place will receive 3 pts
3rd place will receive 4 pts	3rd place will receive 2 pts
4th place will receive 3 pts	4th place will receive 1 pt.
5th place will receive 2 pts	
6th pace will receive 1 pt.	

If there is a tie in a class, the next placing will not be awarded. Ex. Tie for 2nd, there will not be a 3rd. The prize money will be added with the next placing and split. Full points are awarded to both. Ties for first place must be broken.