



## 2025 PILOT PROGRAMS

### *Ranch Reining Class*

### *Slide Contest*

### ***Ranch Reining Class Pilot***

*December 2024* - NRHA has introduced an exciting new pilot program: the **Ranch Reining Class**, approved by the NRHA Board of Directors for a pilot phase. This initiative aims to broaden participation in reining events by offering a more accessible, welcoming environment for both newcomers and seasoned competitors.

#### **What is Ranch Reining?**

The Ranch Reining pilot class highlights fundamental reining maneuvers through simplified patterns and rules akin to other ranch-style events. Designed for inclusivity, this class fosters a relaxed, approachable format while maintaining the essence of reining competition.

#### **Key Objectives of the Pilot Program**

The pilot program is structured to achieve several positive outcomes:

- **New Opportunities for Members:** Current riders and horses gain an additional class to compete in.
- **Expanding NRHA's Reach:** By incorporating ranch-style reining classes, NRHA can attract riders and horses from a growing sector of equestrian sports.
- **Encouraging Participation:** Show management benefits from increased entries and a welcoming format for new competitors.
- **Evaluation & Refinement:** The pilot allows NRHA to gather feedback and refine rules before formal implementation.

“This class offers a friendly venue to try NRHA, especially for those already competing in ranch-type events,” said Christa Morris-Stone, NRHA Assistant Commissioner. “It’s an easy cross-over class. This format also may appeal to existing or former members who are looking for a new niche at NRHA reinings.”

#### **Key Benefits for Show Management**

- **Attract New Audiences:** Tap into the popularity of ranch events to draw riders, horses, and owners unfamiliar with NRHA.
- **Support Existing Members:** Provide a fresh avenue for current competitors and older horses to remain active.
- **Flexible Event Options:** Simplified patterns and reduced time requirements make Ranch Reining an ideal addition for shows with a variety of schedule and arena conditions.

#### **Class Structure and Rules**

The Ranch Reining pilot class comes with a set of guidelines to ensure consistency during its testing phase:

- **Divisions Offered:**
  - Open, Non Pro and Youth Ranch Reining
  - Prime Time Non Pro (50 and older as of 1/1)
  - Rookie and Rookie Youth Ranch Reining
- **Ownership:** Non Pro and Youth ownership restrictions apply.
- **Jackpotting:** Classes may be jackpotted, and money can be added without a cap.
- **Membership Requirements:** Memberships and licenses are not required during the pilot phase.

## Judging Standards

- **Adapted Rules:** Judging follows NRHA Green Reiner guidelines for riding two-handed and simple lead changes.
- **Ranch Equipment Standards:**
  - No hoof polish, no hoof black. No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.
  - Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any Ranch Reining class.
  - Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
- **Patterns:** Participants will use approved Ranch Reining patterns from alliance associations:
  - American Quarter Horse Association: Versatility Ranch Horse Ranch Reining Pattern 3, 4, 6 or 7
  - American Paint Horse Association Ranch Reining Pattern 1
- **NRHA Judges:** They may judge the class in the pilot phase.
- **Results and Earnings:** Not recorded during the pilot phase.
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During the pilot phase, NRHA events are not required to apply to NRHA or submit any fees to the Association. Instead, NRHA staff encourages show management teams and exhibitors to share their feedback on the pilot program throughout the year.

## Future Implications

This pilot program provides NRHA and show managers with the tools to evaluate interest, refine event rules, and build momentum for Ranch Reining as a permanent addition. By creating an approachable entry point, NRHA hopes to engage a wider audience and sustain growth in reining competitions.

*For questions on the pilot, please contact Christa Morris-Stone at [cmorris@nrha.com](mailto:cmorris@nrha.com).*

**Events hosting these classes are encouraged to send questions and feedback to:  
Christa Morris-Stone at [cmorris@nrha.com](mailto:cmorris@nrha.com).**



## 2025 PILOT PROGRAMS

### *Ranch Reining Class*

### *Slide Contest*

#### ***Slide Contests Pilot***

*October 2024* – With the growing popularity of reining both domestically and internationally, the National Reining Horse Association Board of Directors has approved a pilot program encouraging reining events to offer **Slide Contest classes** in 2025.

The resurgence of classes highlighting the signature sliding stop provides NRHA with an opportunity to increase participation among horses, riders, and owners while elevating the recognition and value of NRHA events. Starting in 2025, NRHA-approved events can host these pilot classes and provide feedback to help evaluate the potential for adding the class to NRHA's approved class list.

This initiative seeks to expand participation in reining events by introducing an accessible, fast-paced, and straightforward class that appeals to newcomers, seasoned competitors and spectators.

#### **Pilot Class Guidelines**

- **Results and Earnings:** Not recorded during the pilot phase.
- **Eligibility:** Open to all individuals and horses, with no membership or licensing restrictions.
- **Class Types:** Can be offered as Open, Non Pro, or Youth, as determined by show management.
- **Added Money:** No cap on added money. Classes can be jackpotted.
- **Entry Fees:** Cannot exceed 10% of added money.
- **Judge's Fees:** Cannot exceed the entry fee.
- **Retainage:** Show management determines the percentage (0% to 100%).
- **Payback Schedule:** Show management decides (e.g., Schedule A, Schedule B, or custom).
- **NRHA Rules:** Standard rules apply, including limits on horses per rider and judging requirements (e.g., 5-judge system to drop high and low scores).
- **NRHA Judges:** They may judge the class in the pilot phase.
- **Judging Criteria:**
  - Starts at a base score of 70.
  - Maneuvers scored on a -3 to +3 scale (Approach, Stop, Hesitate).
  - No marker penalties. All other penalties apply.

During the pilot phase, NRHA events are not required to apply to NRHA or submit any fees to the Association. Instead, NRHA staff encourages show management teams and exhibitors to share their feedback on the pilot program throughout the year.

“This is an exciting option for NRHA events to engage members with new opportunities and gain the interest of fans,” said NRHA Assistant Commissioner Christa Morris-Stone. “We are thrilled to see how it takes flight and look forward to it potentially becoming an NRHA-approved class.”

**Events hosting these classes are encouraged to send questions and feedback to:  
Christa Morris-Stone at [cmorris@nrha.com](mailto:cmorris@nrha.com).**