

## FREESTYLE REINING

### A. GENERAL RULES

- (1) Reining maneuvers originated from moves that a cow horse must use in performing its 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) NRHA rules will apply except where the following rules preempt same.
- (3) Required Maneuvers. Will be defined as follows:
  - (a) A minimum of four (4) consecutive spins to the right
  - (b) A minimum of four (4) consecutive spins to the left
  - (c) A minimum of three (3) stops
  - (d) A minimum of one (1) lead change at the canter from right to left
  - (e) A minimum of one (1) lead change at the canter from left to right
- (4) Exhibitors will only be judged astride.
- (5) Exhibitors are allowed to use two (2) hands (as well as one or no hands) and any bit approved by the NRHA Handbook, including snaffle bits and bosals approved for use in the Snaffle Bit or Hackamore classes.
- (6) Failure to perform all the required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time limit will result in a score of zero (0).
- (7) 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. 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) Equipment used in Freestyle must adhere to the following standards:
  - (a) All equipment must be non-abusive and humane based on NRHA Rules and Guidelines.
  - (b) Any equipment not specifically covered by or in conflict with standard equipment guidelines must be non-abusive to the horse.
- (9) Time Limit. A maximum of four (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.
- (10) Costumes. Permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the reining maneuvers to music.
- (11) Props. Permitted but at no time may hinder the judges' view of the horse. The use of props will not add to the score.