



## **2026 GENERAL RULES FOR ALL ARHFA EVENTS**

*ARHFA reserves the right to modify or change these rules at any time. Members will be notified of any changes that occur.*

The ARHFA General Rules will apply to all ARHFA Events. It is the rider's and owner's responsibility to know the rules prior to attending an ARHFA event.

### **A. 2025 Intermediate and Limited Rider Rules**

#### **1. Qualification World Series Numbers**

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Intermediate Heading—7+ | E. Pro-Am Non-Pro— 5+         |
| B. Intermediate Heeling—8+ | F. Limited Pro-Am Non-Pro— 4+ |
| C. Limited Heading—6+      | G. 50+ Pro-Am Non-Pro— 5+     |
| D. Limited Heeling—7+      |                               |

#### **2. Eligibility Rules**

A. All eligible riders must have a current 2025 (WS) World Series number and provide proof of heading and/or heeling roper number. Copy of current card is required at time of entry at each event.

B. The Old West eligibility board authority reserves the right to approve or deny a rider's eligibility into the intermediate or limited divisions regardless of their World series number. If a rider is denied eligibility by the eligibility board authority, he or she will be notified immediately and any entry fees previously paid will be refunded. The board authority will review the Intermediate and limited riders in question every two shows.

C. Riders must enter all subclasses on the entry submitted or prior to entries closing. Riders can not add a subclass to their entry after the class has started.

### **B. Intermediate Trailer Race Qualifications and Rules**

1. To be eligible riders must hold a current World Series or USTRC card showing that they are a 7+ or lower header, or an 8+ or lower heeler. The Old West eligibility board reserves the right to allow riders into the intermediate that are outside the stated header and heeler numbers listed.
2. If a rider becomes ineligible to compete in the intermediate division during the year due to their number getting raised by the World Series or USTRC associations, or the board notifies them that they are no longer eligible, their earnings will still be good up until the date the rider's number got raised or the board notifies them. It is the rider's responsibility to report to the ARHFA office immediately if their number gets raised making them ineligible to continue to show in the intermediate division.
3. Riders must enter a minimum of 3 (three) ARHFA/Old West events throughout the 202 show season. If a rider competes at all the seasonal events where Intermediate classes are offered, all earnings won will count. Events that count are: AZ Sun Circuit, Guthrie Showdown, Oil Can Classic, Redbud Spectacular, Cornhusker Classic, Old West Rope Horse Futurity, and the World Championship event.
4. Tracking of Earnings: Intermediater Earnings will be tracked in the Open and Pre-Futurity Intermediate classes at each event. ARHFA will add together each rider's earnings on every horse he/she shows in the heading and heeling to get a grand total per rider per event entered. Only Intermediate earnings count.



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4. Open Futurity earnings will not be counted towards a rider's overall earnings at an event. **At the World Championship event, Intermediate rider's will only receive credit for 1/2 (half) their total amount earned. At the Old West Rope Horse Futurity event (Heber City), intermediate rider's will only receive 1/2 (half) of their first place earnings due to the large first place payouts at this event.**
5. The rider with the highest total earnings all year will be awarded the Trailer during the 2026 World Championship opening ceremonies, prior to the start of the Futurity Heading Short Go.
6. Rider's can track the standings after each show at: [www.americanropehorse.com](http://www.americanropehorse.com).

### **C. Open Rider Number of Horses shown**

1. Open riders can show unlimited number of horses per class.
3. Pre-Futurity Horses can also enter the regular Open Futurity classes.

### **D. Age of Horse Designation for the Pre-Futurity, Open, and Non-Pro classes**

1. Pre-Futurity Age of Horse definition—any breed of horse aged 3 to 4 years of age as of January 1, 2026. Age of a horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. The actual month and date of a horse's date of birth are not factored into the computing of the age of a horse.
2. Open Futurity Age of Horse definition—any breed of horse 3-6 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. Age of a horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. The actual month and date of a horse's date of birth are not factored into the computing of the age of a horse.
3. All Pre-Futurity and Open Futurity horses are required to submit a copy of horse's papers when entering an event. Grade horses are not allowed.
4. Non-Pro Age of horse definition—There is no age restriction on the Non-Pro horses being shown in the Non-Pro classes. Grade horses are allowed.

### **E. Pre-Futurities Offered in 2026**

1. AZ Sun Circuit— Feb 28-2
2. Guthrie Event—April 8-12
2. Oil Can Classic—April 24-26
3. Redbud Spectacular—May 29-31
4. Old West Rope Horse Futurity— July 6-11
5. World Championship Event— Oct. 21-24



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### **F. ProAm/Non-Pro Eligibility Rules**

**Pro Am/Non-Pro definition-** Riders who are not a full-time horse trainer or train horses as a primary income. Assistant trainers are allowed to enter if their number allows them to. The ARHFA does have exceptions to the trainer rule. If you feel like you are an exception to this rule, please email the ARHFA office at [arhfa.rope@gmail.com](mailto:arhfa.rope@gmail.com). With the new divisions the ARHFA has created there is now a spot for all levels of Non-Pro and Pro Am riders to compete, as well as those horses that have aged out of the futurity classes. This new division is an all-in-one entry fee. Depending how a rider enters is how the ARHFA will divide the money up per class. Riders must enter all classes eligible on the entry submitted or prior to the entries closing date. Riders cannot add classes to their entry after the class has started. ARHFA management reserves the right to approve or deny a rider's eligibility into the Pro Am/Non-Pro regardless of their world series number.

**Age and Breed Requirements:** The ARHFA allows all Pro-Am/Non-Pro horses to be any age and any breed. Riders do not have to own or be family of the owner to enter a horse. Grade horses are eligible to enter also. We ask that you call the ARHFA office to notify them you have a grade horse so we can fill out the appropriate horse information on our end.

**Number of horses Exhibitors can show:** Each exhibitor can show unlimited horses in the Non-Pro classes.

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

**Pro Am/Non-Pro Eligibility-** This division is for assistant trainers and non-professional riders who hold a 5+ or under world series number and must provide proof of heading and heeling roper number. Copy of current 2026 card is required at all shows. This will be the main division everyone will enter. This new format will have one fee and according to how you enter the money will be divided up amongst each division.

**Limited Pro Am/Non-Pro –** This division is a division within the Pro Am/Non-Pro class. Those eligible to enter this division must be a current 2026 world series member holding a 4+ or lower heading or heeling roper number. Proof of 2026 card is required.

**Sr Pro Am/Non-Pro-** This division is a division within the Pro Am/Non-Pro class. Those eligible to enter this division must be 50 years old by the start of the Non-Pro classes at each event. Exhibitors must have a current 2026 world series member holding a 5+ or lower heading or heeling roper number. Proof of 2026 card is required. Proof of age required.

**Pro Am/Non-Pro Class Format –** 2 Full Go Rounds + Short Go. All divisions are included in the short go pending on who makes the short go. The number back to short go will be determined after entries close. The Limited and Sr will payback on two if there is not enough of these riders who qualify for the short go.

**If over 75 entries the show management will change to Progressive after 1.**



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### G. Open Rider Qualification rules to enter the 2026 ARHFA World Show

1. All Open riders must compete at a minimum of (2) two ARHFA/Old West sanctioned events, before the World Championship Show. *Exhibitors that are primary current residence of Brazil, Canada, or Mexico do not have to abide by these rules. **\*NEW\* ARHFA management has decided to offer a “Buy In” for 2026 for those riders that didn’t make it to (2) two seasonal events. The “Buy In” is \$5000 per rider that is not qualified to attend the ARHFA World Show. Once the rider pays the “Buy In” fee he or she can enter the ARHFA World Show. Riders will still have to pay all entry fees, late fees if they apply, substitution fees if they apply, office fees, admin fees, event fees, and any other fees associated with entering the ARHFA World Show.***

#### 2. Events for Qualification:

- A. AZ Sun Circuit rope horse futurity
- B. Old West Guthrie Event
- C. Oil Can Classic rope horse futurity
- D. Redbud Spectacular rope horse futurity
- E. Old West Futurity Heber City

### H. ARHFA Membership Requirement

1. All owners and riders entering an ARHFA sanctioned event must have a current 2026 ARHFA membership prior to competing at an event. All memberships expire December 31st.
2. As of January 1 of the current year everyone’s membership will need to be renewed if planning on competing at an ARHFA event.
3. ARHFA will keep a current list of all owners and riders on the ARHFA website that will show who is current and who is not.
4. ARHFA memberships can be purchased on our website at: [www.americanropehorse.com](http://www.americanropehorse.com)
5. Owner Membership Clarification— The owner on record with horses registration paper’s is who the ARHFA office will go by for memberships. If the owner is incorrect and current owner has not transferred his or her horse’s paper’s into the correct ownership name, the ARHFA office will put the membership purchased in the owner’s name as it appears on the horse’s paper’s. We highly encourage everyone to make sure the current owner is listed on the horse’s paper’s at time of entry. Current owners will be responsible to pay for a membership for whoever is listed on the horse’s registration paper.



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### I. Back Number Rules

1. All horses are required to have the correct assigned back number on prior to entering the heading or heeling box. Failure to have correct back number on or exhibiting the incorrect horse displaying back number announced will result in a “Zero” score. The ARHFA staff is not responsible for making sure each horse has the correct back number on. This is the sole responsibility of the rider.

### J. Scratches/Substitutions and Refunds Rule

1. All scratches must be done prior to the entry deadline to receive a refund. Scratches must be done via email prior to the entry deadline. If at the event and entries haven't closed you must notify the show secretary or office assistant in person about your scratch to receive a refund. ARHFA does not accept text or phone calls to scratch a horse. Once entries close, refunds will not be given, regardless if the draw has been posted or not. Substitutions are allowed after entries close. *See substitution rules.*

2. Substitutions are allowed only if done in the show office prior to the draw being published (*published draws includes: CHC live scoring app, ARHFA website, and/or posted at the event arena*). Substitutions must be done within the same class of the scratched horse. You may add subclasses if rider qualifies for a subclass, but you may not substitute into a different class. If a substitution is needed prior to the first day of the show office opening at the event, it must be done via email to [arhfa.rope@gmail.com](mailto:arhfa.rope@gmail.com). Once the show office opens at the event it must be done in the show office with the show secretary or office assistant. ARHFA will not accept text or phone calls for substitutions at any time. All money must be exchanged between owners. ARHFA will not handle any money exchanges between owners for substitutions. Substitutions will not be allowed once the draws have been published.



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### **K. Cross Fire Rule**

1. Cross firing at an ARHFA Team Roping event will result in a “disqualification”. Cross Fire will not be permitted at any of our events. The direction of the steer’s body must be changed before the heel loop can be thrown. However, if the steer stops, it must only be moving forward for the heel loop to be legal. Any heel loop thrown before the completion of the initial switch will be considered a crossfire and a no time, no score on the run. Animal must be in tow before the heel rope is released. The judges and flagger have final decision.

### **L. Barrier and Leg Rule**

1. A broken barrier by the header or heeler is a 10 second penalty. If header and heeler both break the barrier only 1 barrier penalty of 10 seconds is applied to the run. There is a 5 second penalty for roping a leg.

### **M. Legal Head Catch**

1. A legal head catch is slick horns, half head, or neck.

**N. Illegal Head Catches**— Should a header rope any leg (horse or steer), it’s an automatic disqualification. Under no circumstances will the header be allowed to fish out a leg.

### **O. Two Loop Rule –**

1. ARHFA only allows two loops (one head loop and one heel loop) in every class offered at the ARHFA sanctioned events.

### **P. New Steer Rule**

1. The Flagger or Judges are the only ones who will determine if an exhibitor is granted a new steer. An exhibitor must declare immediately to the flagger if he or she feels they should have gotten a new steer.

2. If the steer stumbles leaving the chute and barrier is broken ou will receive a new steer. If barrier is not broken the rider can choose to keep the score received on the run, or get a new steer.



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### **Q. Reviews**

1. Required Reviews— when there is a 6 or more-point spread the ARHFA judges monitor will request that the judges review the run on the video. All reviews will take place on a drag. If the rider's score is adjusted, the announcer will announce the adjusted score once the drag is complete.

### **R. Scoring Rules**

1. All classes are timed with an electric eye on both sides (heading and heeling). Scores are based on two judges scores, plus the time recorded. Example of an ARHFA score (see score sheets on our website for more detailed information).

A. Judge 1 = 70 points, Judge 2 = 70 points, score is 5.0 which is (80-time) = 75points, total

B. If there is a tie in a go round or short go the money will be added together and split. If there is a tie for first place in the short go the exhibitors can either run it off or flip for the awards and split the money.

### **S. Rider Changes and Injury to Rider or Horse during Rounds 1, 2, or 3 of any classes Rule**

1. Rider Changes—There are no rider changes allowed once round 1 has started in any class. The rider that started round 1 must continue to ride the horse he or she entered initially on throughout all rounds. Horse and rider must stay the same once round 1 of any class has started.

A. Rider Changes are only allowed prior to the draw being published. Once the draw is published no more rider changes or adding of subclasses is allowed.

2. Injury to Rider— If a rider gets injured during round 1, 2, or 3 of any class and can no longer physically compete due to injury, then and only then, can a rider be substituted in to compete on the horse that the injured rider was currently showing. The substituted rider will only be able to compete for round money and will not be eligible to compete in the short go.

### **T. Rider Changes and Injury to Rider or Horse during Rounds 1, 2, or 3 of any classes Rule**

4. Injury to Horse during a round—If a horse were to get injured during a round and can't continue to compete, that horse is then considered a scratch in the rest of the rounds of that class. There is no substitutions allowed if a horse gets injured during a class.



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5. Injury to horse entered in multiple classes—If a horse were to get injured in a class and can't compete in any of the other classes currently entered in, then and only then is a substitution of a different horse allowed, as long as the class has not been held yet. Rider and/or owner must notify the ARHFA show secretary immediately of the situation and declare the substitution horse right away.
6. Fall of Horse during a run rule—The ARHFA management has the option to grant a re-run if a "Help" head or heel horse falls completely down to the ground during a run. If an exhibiting head or heel horse falls completely down to the ground during a run the ARHFA management and Judges will discuss and/or review the run to determine if the exhibiting head or heel horse will be granted a re-run if the fallen horse is able to continue to compete

### **U. Class Format for all seasonal events**

1. Open Futurity class format—There will be 3 go rounds and a short go. The top cumulative high scores after round 3 will advance to the short go. Number of horses advancing to short go will depend on the number of entries per class. This will be determined at each event prior to the start of the first open futurity class held.
  - A. Intermediate and Limited class format—In the Open Futurity classes, the intermediate and limited will be paid out on 3 head. Top cumulative high scores from rounds 1-3 will be announced after the 3rd go round. Number of payout winners will be determined by the number of entries per class per division.
  - B. ARHFA has the right to change the format to progressive after 1 if entries exceed 75 entries per class.
2. Pre-Futurity class format—There will be 3 go rounds and a short go. The top cumulative high scores after round 3 will advance to the short go. Number of horses advancing to short go will depend on the number of entries per class. This will be determined at each event prior to the start of the first pre-futurity class.
  - A. Intermediate and Limited class format—In the Pre-Futurity classes, the intermediate and limited will be paid out on 3 head. Top cumulative high scores from rounds 1-3 will be announced after the 3rd go round. Number of payout winners will be determined by the number of entries per class per division.
  - B. ARHFA has the right to change the format to progressive after 1 if entries exceed 75 entries per class.
3. Non-Pro class format—There will be 2 go rounds and a short go. The top cumulative high scores after round 2 will advance to the short go. Number of horses advancing to short go will depend on the number of entries per class. This will be determined at each event prior to the start of the first non-pro class.
  - B. ARHFA has the right to change the format to progressive after 1 if entries exceed 75 entries per class.



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### **V. Dress Code Rule**

1. All riders are required to wear a cowboy hat, collard button down long sleeve shirt, jeans, and cowboy boots. Failure to wear any of the above listed items will result in a “Zero” score.

### **W. Code of Conduct Rule (strictly enforced at all ARHFA events)**

The (ARHFA) American Rope Horse Futurity Association does not allow any misconduct in or outside of the show arena or on any event fairgrounds where an ARHFA event is being held. The ARHFA has the right to refuse service to anyone and ask anyone to leave the premise due misconduct. If you are asked to leave the premise at any time prior to the start, during, or after an ARHFA event there will no refund issued, and you forfeit all winnings won at that event. The ARHFA code of conduct will be taken very seriously at every ARHFA event held, and disciplinary action will be taken immediately if necessary.

### **X. Suspension Rule**

1. **Suspension Rule** – ARHFA is alliance partners with the NRCHA and AQHA. If you are currently on a suspension list with one or both of these associations, you will not be allowed to show at any ARHFA event. ARHFA show management will notify you immediately if you enter an ARHFA event while suspended by one of our alliance partners.

### **Y. Bounced Check Rule**

1. **Bounced Checks** – Any check that does not clear the bank will be subject to a \$40 NFS fee payable to ARHFA. Owner of NFS check will be required to submit a credit card to ARHFA to cover all fees due. All premium money will be held until payment is taken care of.

### **Z. ARHFA Issued Payout Checks Rule**

1. All payout checks will be written to whomever is listed on the entry form with the correct Name, address, and social. Do not list an owner’s name with your (you the exhibitor) information. The information for payout on the entry form must be accurate or the ARHFA office will not issue a winnings check. The ARHFA will not write winnings checks to anyone else than who is listed on the entry form. Payout checks will be mailed no later than 5-10 days after the completion of each event.
2. All payout checks not cashed within (90) ninety days of the date issued on the check will be canceled by the ARHFA bank, and the ARHFA show management will not re-issue the payout check.

***For more information on our events or questions please email the ARHFA show magement at: [ARHFA.rope@gmail.com](mailto:ARHFA.rope@gmail.com)***

***2026 Event Schedule is online at: [www.americanropehorse.com](http://www.americanropehorse.com)***



## 2026 GENERAL RULES FOR BREAKAWAY ROPING

ARHFA reserves the right to modify or change these rules at any time.

**A. Rider Eligibility**— This event is open to women only. Women of any age are eligible to enter the breakaway.

**B. Horse Eligibility**—

1. Futurity Age of Horse definition—any breed of horse 3-6 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. Age of a horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. The actual month and date of a horse's date of birth are not factored into the computing of the age of a horse.
2. All Futurity Breakaway horses are required to submit a copy of horse's papers when entering an event.

**C. Number of Horses Exhibitor can show**— Exhibitors can show unlimited number of horses in the breakaway classes.

**D. Futurity & Open Breakaway Format**— This class is a judged and timed event. The time will be converted into a score, by taking 80 points minus the time and added to the two judges scores to get a total score on the run. Ropers are guaranteed two full go rounds. Top 15 on two go to the short-go.

**E. Barrier**— A rope barrier and electric eye will be used. Two time keepers, a barrier judge, and field judge will be in the arena at all times. Score lengths will be subject to the event management committee.

**F. Rules**—

- Bell Collar Catch only. Bell collar catch is defined as any loop passing over the calf's head and slack is drawn around neck only. No other appendages of calf (i.e., front leg, tail, etc.) can be in loop when rope breaks from saddle horn.
- Ropes must be tied to the saddle horn of contestant's saddle with nylon string at the VERY end of the rope. A cloth no shorter than six inches (6") must be tied to the end of the rope.
- Only one (1) loop can be carried. A dropped loop counts as a contestant's thrown loop.
- Rope must be released from the contestant's hand to qualify for catch.
- Contestant must pass thru barrier before loop is released.
- Contestant must be horseback when time is taken.
- Times are taken to the hundredths.
- It is at the judges' discretion to give a rerun.

*\*All generalized rules previously mentioned in this document apply to the Breakaway events as well.*