



Tamworth, NSW. 2340. E: [president@cowhorseaustralia.com](mailto:president@cowhorseaustralia.com)

 @AUSTRALIANREINEDCOWHORSEASSOCIATION

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## **AUSTRALIAN REINED COWHORSE CLASS RULES**

The following document provides a brief overview of the rules governing each of the classes offered by the ARCHA.

**Please be aware, that it is the responsibility of all competitors to know the rules, regardless of whether or not they are stated in this document.**

Should you have any questions about rules or are unsure, please contact the ARCHA.

### **National (Sanctioned) Classes:**

The classes tabled below are run as per the NRCHA (USA) Rule book and are subject to change in accordance with such.

For further information or to seek clarification of classes and the rules in which they are governed, please refer to the NRCHA Rule Book.

<b>OPEN BRIDLE SPECTACULAR</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This class is open to all competitors.</li><li>• Event consists of three phases- herdwork, rein work and fence work.</li><li>• Open to any aged horse; <b><u>however please be aware that if you show the horse in a bridle class down the fence, the horse automatically becomes ineligible to compete in the following aged events:</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Futurity (4 years old)</li><li>- Hackamore classes (6 &amp; under)</li><li>- Derby (4, 5 &amp; 6 year old)</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Horses are to compete in the bridle (one handed) (See NRCHA Rule Book for further clarification).</li><li>• Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve, button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li><li>• Competitors must compete in a <b>western saddle</b>.</li><li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are compulsory.</b></li></ul>



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### OPEN TWO REINED COWHORSE

<p><b>Description</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This class is open to all competitors.</li> <li>• Open to all horses who have not competed in a bridle (one handed) down the fence.</li> <li>• Two Reined class is open to any aged horse; <u>however if you show the horse in a Two Reined class or bridle class down the fence, the horse automatically becomes ineligible to compete in the following aged events:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Futurity (4 years old)</li> <li>- Hackamore classes (6 &amp; under)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Derby (4, 5 &amp; 6 year old)</li> <li>• Horses shown in a bridle, one handed, down the fence in <u>any class prior to 2021 show season are not eligible for the Two Reined class.</u></li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During that show year, the horse can be shown in a bridle class &amp; Two Reined class, however within that specific class, they must show in the head gear requirement for that class.</li> <li>• In standard Cow Horse classes, where the headstall is specific to the horse's age, ie Non Pro Cow Horse Class, Advanced Boxing Class, Limited Boxing Class, etc, horse's age determines headgear- snaffle bit or hackamore for 6 and under &amp; two rein (<b>one year only</b>) or bridle [one handed] for 7 years and over).</li> <li>• If horse shows in Two Reined class, the horse must show in Two Reined headstall</li> <li>• If horse shows in bridle class, the horse must show in bridle headstall</li> <li>• Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve, button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li> <li>• Competitors to compete in a <b>western saddle.</b></li> <li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are required.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>General</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Two Rein period of eligibility starts the moment a competitor competes their horse in a bridle (one handed) or Two Reined Class, regardless of what point in the show year the horse is entered, that horse only gets the remainder of that show year to compete in the Two Reined Class. <b>For example, the ARCHA show year ends in November, if you decide to enter the horse in our September show, for the first time in Bridle Class or Two Reined Class that horse only has until November in the same year, to be eligible to compete in the Two Reined Class.</b></li> </ul>



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### OPEN NON PRO COWHORSE

<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This class is restricted to <b>NON PRO</b> competitors only.</li> <li>• Competitor must own the horse they compete on &amp; must be able to produce proof of ownership in accordance with NRCHA rules.</li> <li>• Competitors must have an approved <b>NON PRO</b> Declaration.</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses aged 5 years and under can compete in snaffle bit or hackamore (see NRCHA Rule Book for further clarification).</li> <li>• Horses aged 6 years and older can compete in two rein set up (if eligible) or in the bridle (one handed).</li> <li>• Competitors to compete in a <b>western saddle</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are required.</b></li> </ul>

### OPEN HACKAMORE

<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This class is open to <b>horses aged 5 years and under</b> who have not competed in a bridle, (one handed) down the fence.</li> <li>• Open to any competitors.</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitors to compete in a <b>western saddle</b>.</li> <li>• Competitors must compete in a <b>hackamore</b> (see NRCHA Rule Book for further clarification).</li> <li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are required.</b></li> </ul>



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LIMITED BOXING	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This class is restricted to <b>NON PRO</b> competitors only.</li> <li>• Competitors must have an approved <b>NON PRO</b> Declaration.</li> <li>• Competitor must own the horse they compete on &amp; must be able to produce proof of ownership in accordance with NRCHA rules.</li> <li>• <b>Competitors who have earned over \$750 in (down the fence) cowhorse competition winnings are ineligible to compete in this class.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses aged 5 years and under can compete in Snaffle Bit or Hackamore.</li> <li>• Horses aged 6 years and older can compete in two rein set up (if eligible) or in the bridle (one handed).</li> <li>• Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve, button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li> <li>• Competitors to compete in a <b>western saddle</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are required.</b></li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitors are required to complete the cattle work portion of this event for the entire <b><u>50 seconds.</u></b></li> </ul>

Box Drive	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This class is restricted to <b>NON PRO</b> competitors only.</li> <li>• Competitor must own the horse they compete on &amp; must be able to produce proof of ownership in accordance with NRCHA rules.</li> <li>• Competitors must have an approved <b>NON PRO</b> Declaration.</li> <li>• <b>Competitors who have earned over \$750 in (down the fence) cowhorse competition winnings are ineligible to compete in this class.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses aged 5 years and under can compete in snaffle bit or hackamore.</li> <li>• Horses aged 6 years and older can compete in two rein set up (if eligible) or in the bridle (one handed).</li> <li>• Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve, button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li> <li>• Competitors to compete in a <b>western saddle</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are required.</b></li> </ul>



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<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors have 1:45 to complete the cattle work portion of this event, however competitor does not have use the full 1:45 to complete the event tasks).</li> </ul>
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The information tabled below provides an overview of all **ARCHA specific classes** on offer at our shows. While these classes are judged following NRCHA rules; these classes were specifically developed by the ARCHA for its members and are designed to suit an Australian specific.

<b>ARCHA OPEN SNAFFLEBIT CUTTING</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This class is open to everyone and all horses regardless of age &amp; regardless of earned money by competitor.</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitor will show in a <b>snaffle bit</b>, two handed, regardless of horse’s age.</li> <li>Horses may also show in a <b>hackamore</b>.</li> <li>Competitors may compete in any style of saddle.</li> <li><b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are not required.</b></li> <li>Competitors are required to wear long sleeve collard button shirt, cowboy boots and cowboy hat or approved safety helmet.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors are eligible to compete in this class for as long as they want- no ineligibility rules apply to horse or rider.</li> <li>Competitors can enter multiple horses in this event (subject to cattle availability and time restraints as stated by committee)</li> </ul>

<b>ARCHA OPEN NON PRO SNAFFLEBIT CUTTING</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This class is open <b>NON PRO’s</b> riders only.</li> <li>Competitors may compete on any horse, regardless of age &amp; status.</li> <li>Competitor must own the horse &amp; must be able to produce proof of ownership in accordance with NRCHA rules.</li> <li>Competitors must have an approved <b>NON PRO</b> Declaration.</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitor will show in a <b>snaffle bit</b>, two handed, regardless of horse’s age.</li> <li>Horses may also show in a <b>Hackamore</b>.</li> <li>Competitors may compete in any style of saddle.</li> <li><b>Chaps &amp; Chinks are not required.</b></li> <li>Competitors are required to wear long sleeve collard button shirt, cowboy boots and cowboy hat or approved safety helmet.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors are eligible to compete in this class for as long as they want- no ineligibility rules apply for horse or rider.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitors can enter multiple horses in this event (subject to cattle availability and time restraints as stated by committee)</li> </ul>
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<b>ARCHA TWO HANDED CLASS RULES</b>
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<b>Class Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Two Handed classes are ARCHA specific classes (<b>not NRCHA sanctioned classes</b>) and were designed for an Australian specific.</li> <li>These classes were designed to allow new and existing members the opportunity to participate in cow horse events on horses of any age; without having to abide by specific age equipment rules that the NRCHA sanctioned classes dictate.</li> <li>Classes are open to all level of rider and horses of any age, so long as they remain eligible (based on rules below).</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riders are to ride two handed in a legal snaffle bit or hackamore regardless of horse's age.</li> <li><b>No training equipment</b> or shank bridles permitted.</li> <li>Competitors can ride in <b>any style of saddle</b>.</li> <li>Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve, button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li> <li><b>Chaps/chinks are not required.</b></li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two handed classes are judged under NRCHA rules.</li> <li>Riders can enter multiple horses in two handed classes (Subject to cattle availability and time restraints as stated by committee).</li> <li>Two Handed Boxing- competitors are required to complete the cattle work portion of this event for the entire 50 seconds.</li> <li>Two Handed Beginner Fence Work- Competitors have 1:45 to complete the cattle work portion of this event (<b>Competitor does not have use the full 1:45 to complete the event components</b>).</li> </ul>
<b>TWO HANDED CLASS:</b>	<b>Horse (not rider) becomes ineligible if:</b>
<b>Two Handed Boxing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horse wins three Two Handed Boxing classes.</li> <li>Horse wins a Limited Boxing, Beginner Fence Work or Open Cow Horse (Sanctioned) class.</li> </ol>



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<p><b>Two Handed Beginner Fence Work</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horse wins three Two Handed Beginner Fence Work classes.</li> <li>Horse wins a Beginner Fence Work or Open Cow Horse (Sanctioned) class.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Two Handed Cow Horse</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horse has won <b>three</b> Two Handed Cow horse classes <u>and</u> turns 6 years of age.</li> <li>Horse that has <u>previously</u> won a sanctioned class turns 6 years of age.</li> <li>Horse wins a sanctioned Cow Horse class <u>after</u> turning 6 years of age</li> </ol>
<p>When the horse becomes ineligible, if they are in the top standings for points, or have won an automatic qualifier for that show season, the horse will be eligible to compete at the <b>National Finals</b> in that class for that year, however the <b>horse will become ineligible to compete</b> in that class at any shows prior to the National Finals.</p>	

### ARCHA YOUTH CLASS RULES (13 years and under)

<p><b>Description</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The class is open to all youths who are 13 &amp; under as of 16 November of the current show year and all horses regardless of skill level and age.</li> <li>Youth can show <u>either</u> two handed or one handed.</li> <li>Judging will be based on performance (Competitor's choice to show either one handed or two handed will have no bearing on their score).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth can show in any saddle and any equipment, regardless of the horse's age (ie 10 year old horse can be shown in snaffle bit)</li> <li>Training devices of any description are prohibited.</li> <li>Youth are expected to wear suitable attire- ie jeans, long sleeve, collared button down shirt and cowboy boots.</li> <li>Youth are required to wear an approved safety helmet at all times (while competing or riding on the grounds).</li> </ul>
<p><b>General</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth do not have to own the horse they are showing.</li> <li>If the Youth chooses to compete in another class other than youth classes, I.E. Non-Pro, they will be required to follow the rules and regulations that govern that class.</li> <li>Youth are required to wear an approved safety helmet in any class that they enter.</li> <li>Youth can ride in this class for as long as they want until such time as they become ineligible according to the above rules.</li> <li>Youth can ride in this class for as long as they want until such time as they become ineligible according to the above rules.</li> </ul>



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### ARCHA YOUTH CLASS RULES (14-18YRS)

<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The youth class is open to all youths aged 14-18 years of age as of 16 November of the current show year and all horses regardless of skill level and age.</li> <li>Youth can show either two handed or one handed.</li> <li>Judging will be based on performance (Competitor's choice to show either one handed or two handed will have no bearing on their score).</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth can show in any saddle and any equipment, regardless of the horse's age (ie 10 year old horse can be shown in snaffle bit)</li> <li>Training devices of any description are prohibited.</li> <li>Youth are required to wear suitable attire- ie jeans, long sleeve, collared button down shirt and cowboy boots.</li> <li>Youth are required to wear an approved safety helmet at all times while competing or riding on the grounds.</li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth do not have to own the horse they are showing.</li> <li>If the Youth chooses to compete in another class other than youth classes, I.E. Non-Pro, they will be required to follow the rules and regulations that govern that class.</li> <li>Youth are required to wear an approved safety helmet in any class that they enter.</li> <li>Youth can ride in this class for as long as they want until such time as they become ineligible according to the above rules.</li> </ul>



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### ARCHA ROOKIE CLASS RULES

<b>ARCHA ROOKIE CLASS RULES</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rookies classes were designed to encourage new riders to enter the sport of cow horse and have an opportunity to improve their riding skills, as well as providing current eligible ARCHA members the opportunity to improve their cow horse skills.</li> <li>• Open to any rider that meets the eligibility (see eligibility information below).</li> <li>• Open to horses of any age and status.</li> <li>• <b>Open riders are ineligible to compete in Rookie classes.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riders are to ride two handed in a legal snaffle bit or hackamore- regardless of horse's age.</li> <li>• <b>No training equipment</b> or bridles are permitted.</li> <li>• Riders can ride in <b>any style of saddle.</b></li> <li>• Competitors are required to wear a long sleeve button up shirt, jeans, cowboy boots, cowboy hat or safety helmet are to be worn.</li> <li>• <b>Chaps/chinks are not required.</b></li> </ul>
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rookie classes are judged under NRCHA rules (same as Two Handed and Sanctioned classes).</li> <li>• Competitors can enter one horse per Rookie class at any given show (ie one horse in Rookie Boxing, one horse in Rookie Beginner Fence Work, or same horse for both classes).</li> <li>• This class will use rerun cattle.</li> <li>• Rookie classes are ribbon award only classes.</li> <li>• At any ARCHA show, a competitor cannot enter the Rookie classes if they are also entered in any of the Cow Horse Classes at the same show; however,</li> <li>• Rookie competitors can enter the Rookie classes and the Two Handed Boxing and Beginning Fence Work Classes and, or the sanctioned Limited Boxing and Beginner Fence Work classes at the same show.</li> <li>• Rookie riders are not required to own the horse on which they compete.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Rider</u> becomes ineligible to compete in Rookie classes if:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rider wins three Rookie Boxing classes; rider becomes ineligible for Rookie Boxing class.</li> <li>2. Rider wins three Beginning Fence Work classes; rider becomes ineligible for Rookie Beginner Fence Work class.</li> <li>3. Rider wins 1<sup>st</sup> place or 2<sup>nd</sup> place (as long as more than two entries in class) in a Two Handed or sanctioned class; rider becomes ineligible to compete in Rookie classes.</li> <li>4. Rider earns 100 points in specific Rookie class, they automatically become ineligible for that Rookie Class (See point system below):</li> </ol>	



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Rookie Point System:

- 1<sup>ST</sup> – 25pts
- 2-3<sup>RD</sup> – 20pts
- 4-6<sup>th</sup> – 15pts
- 7-10<sup>th</sup> - 10pts

⇒ **For the above mentioned situations (Points 1-4), rider remains eligible to compete in the Rookie classes for the remainder of the show season**

5. Rider wins any prizemoney in a two handed or sanctioned **cow horse** class (as long as more than two entries in class class), rider becomes ineligible to compete in Rookie classes.

⇒ **For above mentioned situation (Point 5), rider becomes ineligible to compete in Rookie classes takes effect at the conclusion of the current show.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- Riders that become ineligible are still eligible to compete at the National Finals for the season in which they became ineligible.
- Top riders (based on the Rookie points earned) are invited back to the Rookie Shoot Out at the National Finals.



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## ARCHA NATIONAL FINALS

Competitors are required to qualify in order to attend the ARCHA National Finals.

**\*\*Please note that the ARCHA reserves the right to make the National Finals an open invitation event if in the best interest of its members, ie COVID-19 hindering the running of an adequate number of shows to allow competitors to qualify.**

### How to qualify

1. Rider is in the TOP Points standings as determined by the ARCHA based on amount of competitors that enter the class throughout the year. Points will be awarded in accordance with the NRCHA (USA) Rule Book.
2. Rider wins an AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER. What that means is that at all ARCHA & ARCHA recognised shows, if a competitor wins the class, they automatically punch their ticket straight to the National Finals. If they are in the TOP POINTS standings, the competitor come off the Points Board and the next competitor below you bumps up into their slot.
3. Rider is the TOP Rider in an ARCHA recognised Affiliate. If the competitor has not qualified in one of the other two ways, and the rider is the Top Rider in their Affiliate club in a class the ARCHA hosts at the National Finals, the competitor will punch their ticket to the National Finals **(Class must be a class the ARCHA offers at the National Finals & must be judged by a recognized ARCHA Judge).**

This is a brief overview of the rules of each class offered by the ARCHA. [It is the responsibility of all competitors to have read and be aware of the rules.](#) If you have any questions about rules or are unsure, please contact the ARCHA.