

ECRA 2026 Show Guidelines and Class Descriptions

General Show Rules for ECRA Classes

- All reining classes will follow NRHA eligibility rules with the exception of Intro to Reining as this class is not offered at any NRHA shows.
 - Rookie Reining will follow NRHA Rookie level 1 eligibility requirements
- Riders will be judged according to current NRHA and AQHA judging rules.
- All riders must compete in proper western show attire and equipment.
- Per NYS law, all riders 18 and under MUST wear an ASTM certified riding helmet while mounted anywhere on the show grounds. No bicycle helmets are allowed. No exceptions.
- Horses may only be shown by one rider per class.
- Horse is not required to have an NRHA competition license, unless entering in an NRHA class.
- Patterns will be posted prior the day of the show. Ranch Trail patterns will be posted no later than one (1) week prior to the show date.
- Check class descriptions and Eligibility Table on our website for more rules on class/division eligibility
- Riders MUST check in prior to their classes or they will be assumed to not be on the premises and ready to show.
- Reiners are to check in before 8:30 AM, show starts at 9:00 AM. Anyone entering into ranch classes, including Halter, must check in at or before 10:00AM.

ECRA Complaint Policy

- Starting January 1st, 2026
- All complaints or concerns must be in writing. To be considered, complaints must be either sent via mail or e-mail.
 - By email: EastCoastReinersAssociation@gmail.com
 - By mail: East Coast Reiners Association
91A Bernstein Blvd.
Center Moriches, NY 11934
- No complaints will be considered the day of horse shows, unless said complaint is an emergency or a safety concern. Please notify show staff of safety concerns immediately by any means necessary.
- Please be mindful that show days can be chaotic and management is doing everything in their power to provide a safe, inclusive, and fun environment for all. If your concern is not an emergency, please wait until the following day and submit it in writing.

End of the Year Award Eligibility

- Rider does not have to be a member of ECRA to show but must be an ECRA member to be eligible for year-end awards.

- Riders MUST attend at least one (1) general meeting throughout the year to qualify for end of the year awards. *Does not apply to leadline or Buckaroo riders. We strongly encourage Buckaroos to attend.
- Rider does not have to own the horse (non-NRHA classes), however the horse owner must be an ECRA member in order for any money and/or points earned by the rider to be eligible for ECRA year-end awards. *with the exception of Leadline and Buckaroo Ranch Division
- Any money and/or points earned by the rider are only eligible for ECRA year-end awards from the date of rider and owner(s) ECRA membership for the current point year. Money and/or point earnings are not eligible for ECRA year-end awards retroactively.
- Only one horse-one rider combinations are eligible for ECRA year-end awards. Exceptions may be submitted to the board for approval, along with a vet note explaining the reason for use of a different horse. No rider substitutions are permitted.
- Point System - ECRA uses the following point system to calculate all points for End of the Year awards as well as ECRA Class/Division eligibility in both ranch and reining classes. *Upper level reining classes should rely on NRHA Eligibility(rookie I, Non Pro, Open) Point System is as follows:
 - The number of horses competing in the class is the max amount of points available to earn for first place.This excludes the number of horses entered but scratched from competition.
 - Neither a no score, nor a 0 are eligible to receive points or place, however, this does not alter the scale of points for placing.
 - Ties for any place will receive the same amount of points
 - For example: If 20 horses compete in a class, 1st will receive 20 points, 2nd will receive 19 points, 3rd will receive 18 points, etc.”

Point system is for ECRA End of the Year award calculation use only and does not affect monies earned for jackpot or NRHA Affiliated shows
- Jackpot reining classes will follow NRHA Payout Schedule A format. Points for end of the year will be calculated using the above system but will have no reflection or effect on money earned.
- NRHA classes at NRHA Affiliated shows will follow the designated Payout Schedule stated on the NRHA website for that show. We will use our ECRA point system to determine the points counting towards ECRA End of Year from that show based on NRHA Results.

ECRA Reining Classes

ECRA Youth / NRHA Unrestricted Youth

- Open to all youth riders under the age of 18 as of January 1st of that year.
- Utilize full NRHA pattern, must show one handed.
- Comparable to NRHA Unrestricted Youth

ECRA Intro to Reining

- This class is open to first time reining class riders that have not shown in a reining class. It is designed to introduce riders to the sport of reining. Riders will be required to ride a modified reining pattern at a lope.
- Pattern maneuvers to include left and right circles at the lope, spins (360 degree turn), rollbacks (180 degree turn), and backing up.
- Class will be judged on riders ability to willingly guide a horse through a pattern, pattern placement, and proper horsemanship among other criteria.
- Non-reiners and non-reining horses are welcome to participate.
- Riders may ride with one or two hands, or may change during the course of the go.
- Traditional western tack and attire are required.
- Once a total of 20 ECRA Reining points are earned, riders will move up to Green Reiner. If the rider shows in other NRHA approved shows (except NRHA Short Stirrup), they are not permitted to ride in Intro to Reining and must show in the level they traditionally compete at.
- Riders are allowed to cross enter into the Beginner Ranch Division classes and Green Reiner division (perform simple lead changes).

ECRA Green Reiner

- For new reiners that are no longer eligible for ECRA Intro to Reining class.
- Riders may show one or two handed, or may change during the course of the go as permitted by NRHA rules.
- Full NRHA patterns will be utilized with the allowance for simple or flying lead changes.
- Once riders reach 30 ECRA Reining points or are no longer NRHA Green Reiner Level 1 eligible (whichever occurs first), riders will then move up to the Rookie class.
- ECRA will follow the guidelines of Green Reiner level 1 from NRHA. See page 65 of NRHA Handbook for additional guidelines.
- Riders are allowed to cross enter into the Beginner Ranch Division classes.

Ranch Divisions

Buckaroo Ranch

- This division is open to new riders, 10 years old and under, that have never shown before in a class that requires rider to lope/canter in a group. Riders will perform at a walk and trot only. *Age as of January 1st of the year*
- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within walk and trot gaits).
- Riders may ride with one or two hands in any bit. Traditional western tack and attire are required for all classes.
- No cross entering into other divisions or reining classes is permitted.
- Ownership requirement for end of the year award eligibility is waived for Youth riders
- Coaches or trainers will be allowed priority ring-side view to respectfully support students.

- Patterns for Ranch Riding and Ranch Trail will remain the same for the entire year.
- Riders will be allowed to show in this division until they age out. After which, riders will move up to the Walk Trot Ranch Division, if eligible, for the following show season.
- ★ ***Please remember there are other students in this class that need to hear their coach as well.***
- ★ ***Show management reserves the right to disqualify any rider if said rider's coach is deemed to have been disruptive to the class.***
- ★ ***Coaches are not permitted to touch either rider or horse once they have entered the arena.***

Walk Trot Ranch

- This division is open to new riders that have never shown before in a class that requires rider to lope/canter in a group. Riders will perform at a walk and trot only.
- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, side passing, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within walk and trot gaits).
- Riders may ride with one or two hands in any bit.
- Traditional western tack and attire are required for all classes.
- Riders will be allowed to show in this division for a maximum of two years. After two consecutive years in this division, riders will automatically move up to the Beginner Ranch Division for the following show season.

Tumbleweeds Ranch

- This division is open to riders over the age of 60 as of January 1st of that show season.
- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, side passing, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within walk and Trot gaits).
- Riders may remain in this division indefinitely, so long as they are not riding at the lope or canter in other shows or events.
- Riders that do compete at a higher speed will be asked to move up to beginner division for the remainder of the year and forfeit any points earned in this division for end of the year eligibility purposes.
- Riders may go back down to this division the following year, so long as they will not be "moving up" again in the foreseeable future.
- Classes will run concurrently with the Walk Trot division with the exception of the ranch rail class, which will be separate. Divisions will pin separately, and have separate points.
- Riders are permitted to ride one or two handed in any bit.
- Riders are permitted to grab the horn to steady themselves, however they cannot hold the horn the entire ride.
- Absolutely no trainers permitted.
- ★ Show management reserves the right to utilize discretion if a rider is eligible for this class. Please be fair to other riders and show in the appropriate division for yourself.

Beginner Ranch

- Open to beginner ranch riders who have shown in a class at a lope/canter in any discipline.
- Riders will perform at a walk, jog, and lope individually (if riders are able to show at a lope in a group, they should compete in the amateur division)

- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, side passing, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within all gates)
- Riders may ride with one or two hands.
- Traditional western tack and attire are required for all classes.
- After accumulating 75 ECRA Ranch points, riders will automatically move up to the Amateur Ranch Division for the following show season.

Amateur Ranch

- Open to riders who do not meet the requirements for the Beginner Ranch Division and are non professional horsemen.
- Riders have shown before where they are required to lope or canter in the arena in a group. Riders will perform at a walk, jog, and lope.
- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, side passing, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within all gaits).
- Riders are required to ride one handed in a curb bit. Traditional western tack and attire are required for all classes.
- After accumulating 150 ECRA Ranch points, riders will automatically move up to the Open Ranch Division for the following show season.

Open Ranch

- Open to any rider who does not meet the qualifications for any other division, including trainers/instructors and Amateurs.
- Riders will perform at a walk, jog, and group lope.
- Riders must have at least 75 ECRA Ranch points or not meet Beginner division requirements.
- Maneuvers performed may include but are not limited to backing up, side passing, changing of directions, and speed transitions (within all gaits).
- Riders are required to ride one handed in a curb bit. Traditional western tack and attire are required for all classes.

Please note, if there are enough entries (4 youth and 4 adults) - divisions may be split into adult and youth divisions for each level

Walk Trot and Beginner riders are not able to cross enter divisions. Points earned by Amateurs cross entering into Open will count towards their divisional "move-up" point allowance.

Ranch Class Descriptions

Leadline

This class is for children under 8 years old. Riders will be judged at a walk in a group on the rail. Riders may be asked to stop, back up, and steer in a circle, at the discretion of the judge. Riders must be led on a leadrope. Use of a spotter for the rider is up to the discretion of parents and/or trainer. Riders participating in this class are not eligible for any other classes.

Ranch Conformation

This is an in-hand class (no saddles) Judges are looking for balanced, structurally correct horses with adequate muscling. You'll need to show your horse in a good working halter – rope, braided, nylon or plain leather – exhibit your horse at a walk and trot, then line up for inspection by the judge. This is a ribbon class and will not be separated for the ranch divisions, nor will it count towards overall division points. End of the year prize(s) will be given.

In-Hand Ranch Trail

This is an in-hand class (no saddles) Judges are looking for balanced, structurally correct horses with adequate muscling. You'll need to show your horse in a good working halter – rope, braided, nylon or plain leather – exhibit your horse at a walk and trot while maneuvering through trail obstacles. *This is a ribbon class and will not be separated for the ranch divisions, nor will it count towards overall division points. End of the year prize(s) will be given.

Ranch Reining

Measures the ability and willingness of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers. Riders will show a pattern similar to a modified NRHA reining pattern. Judges are looking for willingness more than perfection of each maneuver. The maneuvers should be done correctly, but judges aren't expecting the same level of perfection as an NRHA type class. This is a Jackpot class and will not be separated for the ranch divisions, nor will it count towards overall division points. As part of the NRHA Ranch Reining Pilot Program for 2025, AQHA VRH Reining patterns 3, 4, 6, and 7 will be utilized (can be found on our website under Resources > Patterns or on the AQHA website.) End of the year prize(s) will be given. Please consult the *Additional Resources* section of our Resources page for more info on the pilot program with NRHA.

Ranch Rail (Divisional)

The Ranch Rail, also known as Ranch Rail Pleasure, is designed to showcase the horse's ability to be a pleasure to ride while performing as if it were working on a ranch. This class is ridden in a group of riders in the arena. Horses and riders will be asked to perform at all gaits while maintaining a natural and forward movement. Additional maneuvers may be asked to be executed such as backing, side passing, and gait extensions.

Ranch Riding (Divisional)

The Ranch Riding class is designed to measure a horse and rider's ability to perform tasks and maneuvers most commonly associated with working on a ranch. The horse and rider duo will ride a pattern which can include maneuvers such as changes of gait, gait extensions, lead changes, and crossing logs. All maneuvers are to be ridden as if the horse were performing on a ranch, all while being a pleasure to ride. Horses should demonstrate a higher level of training and performance. AQHA Ranch Riding patterns 1-15 will be utilized for Beginner - Open divisions. Modified patterns will be used for Buckaroo division for the entire year. ECRRA Walk Trot patterns will be used for W/T classes (can be found on our website under Rules and Forms > Patterns)

Ranch Trail (Divisional)

The Ranch Trail class is designed to measure a horse and rider's ability to execute a designated pattern with obstacles that resemble those that would be encountered on a ranch. Patterns may include all gaits. Obstacles may include riding over obstacles (logs/ poles), passing through gates, riding over a bridge, side passing, dragging a log and more. The class will be judged on the natural ranch horse appearance, as well as on the smoothness, willingness, and efficiency taken to complete the pattern. Patterns can be found on our website under Rules and Forms > Patterns prior to shows, as well as posted on the ECRA Facebook page. Modified patterns will be used for Buckaroo division for the entire year.

ECRA 2026 Eligibility Table

Reining

If rider shows in NRHA classes at other shows, please consider NRHA eligibility and ability when deciding what class(es) to show in

Intro to Reining Riders are not able to cross enter into any other reining classes as that will disqualify them from being an Intro rider

Class	Maximum Criteria	Additional Comments	NRHA Affiliate Show Class Equivalent
ECRA Intro To Reining	20 ECRA Reining Points	Modified pattern, two spins, no lead change. Cannot have shown in any NRHA reining class before. <i>(except for Short Stirrup modified pattern class)</i>	<i>None - Always ECRA Class</i>
ECRA Green Reiner	30 ECRA Reining Points OR No longer NRHA Green Reiner 1 Eligible <i>(whichever occurs first)</i>	NRHA Green Reiner Level 1 Eligibility. Full Pattern, simple or flying lead change.	<i>None - Always ECRA Class</i>
ECRA Youth	Under 18 years old as of January 1st.	NRHA Unrestricted Youth Eligibility	<i>Unrestricted Youth</i>
Rookie Reining	\$500 NRHA Earnings/200 youth NRHA points.	NRHA Rookie Level 1 Eligibility	<i>Rookie Level 1</i>
Non Pro	Any non-professional riders <i>(except ECRA Intro to Reining riders)</i>	NRHA Non Pro Eligibility	<i>Non Pro</i>
Open	Any riders <i>(except ECRA Intro to Reining riders)</i>	NRHA Open Eligibility	<i>Open</i>

Ranch Divisions

Division	Criteria	Additional Comments
Buckaroo Walk Trot	10 years old and under as of January 1st.	Youth riders that have never shown at a lope/canter in a group. Cannot cross enter to other divisions or reining classes
Tumbleweeds Walk Trot	60+ years old as of January 1st	Adult riders that do not compete or ride at a lope/canter in a group. Cannot cross enter to other divisions or reining classes. Cannot ride at lope/canter/run in any other events
Walk Trot	Under two years show experience	Riders that have never shown at a lope/canter in a group. Cannot cross enter to other divisions or reining classes
Beginner	Under 75 ECRA Ranch points	Walk, Trot, Individual lope/canter, Cannot cross enter to other Ranch divisions.
Amateur	Under 150 ECRA Ranch points	Walk, Trot, group lope/canter.
Open	Professionals and Non professionals with a minimum of 75 ECRA Ranch Points	Walk, Trot, group lope/canter