

The Arabian Working Western Alliance

Ranch Horse Challenge Rules & Guidelines

Purpose:

The purpose of the Arabian Working Western Alliance (AWWA) Ranch Horse Challenge is to create a sense of community and comradery in the Arabian Horse industry by providing opportunities & incentives for the breeding, showing, and owning of traditional Western performance Arabian-bred horses.

AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Class Guidelines:

There will be two divisions: Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian. Any registered Arabian or HA/AA horse ages 5 years & older may enter their respective division providing all AWWA and AHA fees are paid in full. This includes both the AWWA and the AHA U.S. Nationals entry forms.

Four-year-olds are allowed to compete in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup providing they were nominated in-utero by December 31st of their breeding year (beginning in 2023) and are sired by an AWWA enrolled stallion. These horses are eligible for prize monies generated by the AWWA through Mare Nominations and Stallion Enrollments. For more information on the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup see section below or go to the website at www.arabianworkingwestern.com.

50% of the AWWA entry fee will be retained. The balance of the AWWA entry fee will be added to a jackpot created for each division. Prize money will be distributed to a full Top 10 using the AWWA Payback Schedule. Payment is sent to the recorded owner of the horse as it appears on the registration papers at time of entry. The AWWA MUST be notified in writing of any changes in horse ownership if prize money is to be paid to a different individual than the name as it appears on entry form. A copy of the horse's new registration papers showing the new owner's name and address MUST be provide to AWWA before any prize money will be released.

Each horse will be presented one at a time riding the AWWA designated pattern in accordance with class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book section for Ranch Horse. The AWWA pattern will be available on the first day that the U.S. Nationals Show Office opens. A random order of go will be posted no later than one hour prior to start of class.

The AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge pattern will consist of at least six, but not more than eight maneuvers that are associated with the disciplines of reining, trail, ranch riding, and/or reined cow horse. Examples of possible maneuvers include, but are not limited to:

Walk over obstacle	Extended Trot	Picking up feet
Trot over obstacle	Hand gallop	Pick-up & carry an item
Lope over obstacle	Drag an object	Serpentine
Sidepass	Ground tie	Bridge
Change of lead	Turn on the hind	Load into a trailer
Back through or around	Open & close gate	Rope a steer head
Roll back	Walk through cattle pen	

Maneuvers will test and display the versatility and athletic capabilities of a horse able to perform in multiple disciplines. The course is not designed to trick or trap any horse. Judges will walk the course to confirm safety and suitability of course. Exhibitors will be allowed to walk the course prior to competition.

A five-judge scoring system will be employed where one high and one low score is eliminated. The remaining three scores will be totaled to determine the placings in the class.

Prize money is determined by AWWA. AHA will award a National Champion, Reserve National Champion, and 8 Top 10s in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge. Awards and prize money in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup will be provided by the AWWA and separate from the Ranch Horse Challenge class.

A rider may show up to three (3) horses in each Division of the Ranch Horse Challenge, and one horse per Division of the Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup.

Placings & Awards Procedure:

Scores will be announced following each horse's completion of the designated pattern.

Prior to the start of the class, three obstacles will be selected by the call judge to serve in case of any ties. To break a tie the scorer will first count up the total penalties as recorded on the three judges' cards utilized in the scoring. If a tie still exists then the #1 obstacle on the call judge card will be used. The horse with the better score will place over the other horse. If they are tied on #1 obstacle then the scorer moves to #2 obstacle on the Judge 2 card, and so on until the tie is broken. If horses are still tied after utilizing all three selected obstacles from all three judges' card, any monies for the tied positions will be added together and divided by the number of horses tied. A coin toss will determine the winner of any awards.

Horses that have completed their pattern may leave the paddock area; however, it is the rider's responsibility to be ready for the award presentation. Announcements will be made regarding award presentation times.

The Top 10 will be invited back to the arena in numerical order. An exhibitor with more than one horse coming back for the Top 10 presentation may substitute a rider. It is recommended to announce the back #, horse's name, sire, dam, owner, breeder, and rider. The Reserve Champion will be called forward for recognition and photo opportunity, then the Champion will be called forward. Horses will leave the arena in reverse placing order (10th to 1st) with announcement of score, horse's name, sire, dam, rider, owner, breeder & prize money earned.

Following the placing of the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge, the 10 finalists from the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup will enter the arena for the in-hand conformation portion of their Futurity class.

General Information: Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup

Any rules and guidelines created for the operation of, and procedure for, the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup are functions of the Arabian Working Western Alliance (AWWA). Only registered Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian (HA/AA) horses that have complied with these rules and guidelines are eligible to compete in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup.

Horses nominated in-utero by December 31, 2023, are the first crop of four-year-olds eligible to compete in the fully implemented AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup beginning in 2028. Each year a new crop of four-year-olds will become eligible to compete providing the Stallion Enrollment and Mare Nomination forms are on file with AWWA. All fees, including class entry fee, must be paid in full to compete in the Futurity.

For competition years 2023 to 2027, eligibility accommodations are made to allow the showing of horses born prior to implementation of AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Program requirements. All Challenge Futurity Cup entries must have an Eligibility Form on file with AWWA before allowed to compete. Please find Eligibility Form on website: www.arabianworkingwestern.com.

To be an eligible four-year-old the following criteria must be met:

- 1) the four-year-old must have been nominated in-utero by December 31st of their breeding year. This is done by submission of a Mare Nomination Form, which includes a nomination fee of \$150.
- 2) the four-year-old must be the offspring of an AWWA Enrolled Stallion.

Two Divisions are created for the Futurity: Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian (HA/AA). The prize monies for these two Divisions are created from in-utero mare nominations, stallion enrollments, and sponsorship monies. Funds are divided between the Divisions in accordance with 1) the type of mare nominations received (Arabian or HA/AA), 2) the split of stallion enrollments between Arabian and HA/AA based on number of foals resulting from each enrolled stallion, and any specific sponsorship designations.

If awards and ribbons for the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup are not sponsored by a designated patron, the cost of awards and ribbons will be deducted from total monies raised.

AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup Procedures:

Four-year-olds eligible to complete in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup will show concurrently with the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge class. All entries will utilize the same pattern and class procedure as established in the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge class. The Top 10 for AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge will be announced in numerical order in the paddock and return to arena for awards as described above. The 11 highest scoring entries from the Futurity Cup will be announced in the paddock and asked to prepare for the in-hand conformation portion of their class. The 11 Futurity Cup finalists **MUST** return to the paddock area at time of announcement and prepare for the in-hand phase of their class in the paddock area while the Ranch Horse Challenge Top 10 are being presented in arena. Failure to compete in the in-hand portion of the Challenge Futurity Cup will result in forfeiture of all prize monies and awards.

Following the AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge award presentation, the 11 AWWA Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup finalists will be invited back into the arena to be presented in-hand. Challenge Futurity Cup finalists will be presented in numeric order.

Class procedure for the in-hand conformation portion will follow class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book section for Ranch Horse Conformation. Each horse will be invited back into the arena by announcing back number, horse's name, sire, dam, owner's name, breeder's name, and handler's name. The rider from the pattern portion of the Ranch Horse Challenge Futurity Cup must be the handler for in-hand conformation portion.

Each judge will mark his/her card to place all 11 horses. Once all cards are turned into the scorer, horses are excused to the paddock in order to saddle for award presentation. Conformation points will be assigned to each placing for each judge beginning with 11 points for first, 10 points for second, 9 points for third and so on down to 1 point for 11th place. All judges' conformation points are added together to determine final placings in the in-hand portion of class. The horse with highest combined total of conformation points will receive 20 points for winning the in-hand portion of the class. The second highest total of conformation points earns 18 points, third highest earns 16 points, and so on down to 10th highest conformation total earning 2 points for in-hand portion of class. In-hand points are added to under saddle scores to determine the final placings.

The Top 10 will be invited back into the arena in numerical order. Once all Top 10 are lined up, the Reserve Champion will be announced and pulled forward for photos, then the Champion will be announced and pulled forward for photos. The Top 10 horses will leave the arena in reverse placing order with announcement of score, horse's name, sire, dam, rider, owner, breeder, & prize money earned.

Announcements for those horses earning bonus monies through the AWWA Stallion Service Auction will be acknowledged at this time, as well as, recognition of Sire Incentive money winners. The winner of the in-hand conformation portion of the class will receive recognition.

Prize money will be distributed to a full Top 10 using the AWWA Payback Schedule. Payment is sent to the recorded owner of the horse as it appears on the registration papers at time of entry. The AWWA MUST be notified in writing of any changes in horse ownership if prize money is to be paid to a different individual than the name as it appears on entry form. A copy of the horse's new registration papers showing the new owner's name and address MUST be provide to AWWA before any prize money will be released.