

## **Rules of Conduct at any Aurora Horsemen Foundation Sanctioned Event**

- Disorderly or unsportsmanlike conduct is not permitted included but not limited to:
  - Profanity, obscene gestures, fighting or abusive language
  - Intoxication or the consumption of alcohol or marijuana
  - Defacing, destruction or theft of arena or other private property
  - Abusive Treatment of any animal
- Exhibitors and guests will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves at all events. This includes all trash and manure. Please load any manure into your trailer or designated manure receptacle for removal.
- All dogs must be on a leash at all times. Current rabies tags are required.
- No open fires or fire pits allowed
- All horses must be kept under control at all times. Horses must be kept at a walk or slow jog outside of the show/gymkhana/warm up arena.
- No stallions are allowed.
- Horses may not be washed or rinsed on site.
- The use of electronic devices by exhibitors in the arenas is strictly prohibited. Please inform the Board of Directors if there is a medical need to use such devices. This includes
  - Phones
  - Bluetooth communication devices
  - Media devices
- Off limit horse areas:
  - Cone zones shall always remain clear of horses and obstructions unless actively entering the arena.
  - Horses are not allowed in the picnic, paved parking, concrete, or grass areas of the show grounds.
  - No riding or warming up on the polo field. The only horses allowed on the polo field are those actively competing in trail.
- Volunteers, judges and board members will be treated with respect at all times.

The board has final say on all disputes. First time violators will receive a warning. Subsequent violations will result in ejection from the current event with no refund. If offenses happen beyond this, violators will be disinvited from the remaining years activities with the possibility of return in the following years with board approval. Consequences may be escalated at the discretion of the board.

## **Rules of Membership**

- PLEASE NOTE - IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, AS WELL AS ALL FORMS, SHOW BILLS, AND CLASS LISTS PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY AHF EVENT. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE OFFENDER AND OFFENDER'S PARTY BEING EXCUSED FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE AHF EVENTS AND SCRATCHED FROM ALL CLASSES ENTERED (WITH NO REFUND OR CREDIT OF FEES PAID). REPEAT OFFENDERS MAY ALSO HAVE THEIR AHF MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED WITHOUT REFUND OR CREDIT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES.
- To be a member in good standing, all financial obligations must be current including membership and entry fees. Also no violations of the rules of conduct in the current year may have occurred.
- Members may comment and make suggestions to the board on rules. Members will not have a voting voice.
- Members may attend designated member meetings and earn 1 volunteer hour for this attendance.
- Members may attend board meetings with prior approval from the AHF president to present any concerns or ideas they have.
- Members may be a part of the standing committees,
  - Bylaws review
  - Rules review
  - Year end banquet
- Non-payment and returned checks:
  - AHF charges a \$40.00 return check fee for each returned item as unpaid for any reason in addition to the initial check amount. In the event collections proceedings become necessary, all costs of collection including attorney fees and other costs allowable by law will be added to the existing amount owed. Exhibitors with unresolved debts due to AHF shall not be permitted to participate in any AHF activity until the matter is fully resolved to the satisfaction of the AHF Board of Directors.
  - After two (2) checks are returned as unpaid for any reason, exhibitors will be required to pay all sums in cash for the remainder of the show season.
  - All open checks left with the AHF office will be completed by AHF office staff/ volunteers based upon the most recent amount on the registration form. Open checks are strongly discouraged.
- AHF members not in good standing due to non-payment of any fees are not eligible for show points, gymkhana points or year-end awards and will not be permitted to participate in any AHF event until their good standing is restored.

## **Photo Disclaimer/ Use of Submitted Images**

- AHF Officials
  - Aurora Horsemen Foundation, LLC (AHF) officials may photograph AHF events for publication in various AHF mediums, and through various venues, both printed and electronic format. Participants and spectators may be photographed while at the event and no compensation for use shall apply. Participation in or attendance at any AHF event constitutes consent to be photographed, and no compensation for use of image(s) will apply. AHF retains all rights and ownership of photos.
  
- Amateur Photographers and Spectators
  - AHF does not object to amateur or spectator photography at AHF events as long as those taking the pictures do not interfere with the progression of events being judged, and they are not permitted inside of the judging arenas/areas while classes are in progress. AHF is pleased to share suitable submitted photos captured at AHF events, and/or other special image(s) taken by its members and/or spectators, for the enjoyment of our members and others who may view AHF official publications, both printed and electronic. However, no compensation for use of any submitted images shall apply. AHF may share/ publish submitted photos through such mediums and venues including: AHF newsletters, official website, social media, and other electronic or printed platforms. Submission of photos/images to AHF constitutes conveyance of rights of use to AHF by the submitting party. This includes but is not limited to editing and cropping privileges. If the submitter did not take the photo and is not sure if they have the right to submit the photo under this disclaimer, then the submitter shall not submit the photo to AHF. Please remember that sharing photos is a courtesy being extended by AHF and those generous individuals who have taken the time to capture these moments for our memories and viewing pleasure.
  
- Professional Photographers:
  - AHF, from time to time, permits professional photographers to attend AHF events and offer their images for purchase. In such cases, AHF will merely provide a link to the photographer's page for interested parties to view and/or purchase images. AHF is not a party to any transaction between the photographer and purchasing parties. AHF does not pay professional photographers to photograph AHF events, or for use of a predetermined number of photos taken at the event to be selected by AHF. A photo credit may be given if any photos are selected by AHF for use and publication.

## **General Pleasure and Gymkhana Rules**

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHF show bills and registration forms. If any rules are not covered in these, rules will be handled by the current 4-H rule book.

- Exhibitors showing in Lead-Line may NOT show in any other riding division.
- W/T horse/rider combination may not show in any other riding division at that event.
- Registration or scratch for any class must be completed a minimum of two classes prior. Refunds will not be given for scratched classes.
- Boots with sufficient heels, long pants and conservative shirts must be worn anytime mounted.
- Tack failure, cast/thrown shoes or unseated riders are NOT eligible reasons for re-ride.
- Ill or lame horses may be substituted with a veterinary certificate, confirming inability to show, within 5 days of the AHF event or approval of 3 board members at the event. If illness or lameness continues to additional events, additional documentation may be required.
  - If a horse has been determined by a veterinarian to be out for the rest of the season, a single horse will be used as a substitute for the rest of the year.  
Additional substitute horses only by board approval.
- Only show management shall be permitted to talk with the judge and/or announcer while any division is in progress. Any questions for judges or timers may be presented at the end of the event by the exhibitor only in the office.
- There will be a 2 minute gate call for all classes. In the event of a tack change, communicated with the gate person in advance, the gate call will be extended to four minutes. At the end of the 2 minutes, the exhibitor will be disqualified.
- Class will run regardless of weather conditions as long as conditions are the same for all entrants in the class, and if the conditions are deemed acceptable by show management.
- Striking the horse with any object including the hand, excessive use of a whip, and spurring the horse in front of the girth and/or excessive spurring will result in disqualification in the class.
- Non-protestable items:
  - Judge's decision
  - Show Manager's decision
  - Board decision

## **Pleasure Specific Rules**

- Exhibitors that are actively engaging the services of or have a relationship with any judge may not show to that judge. This includes being related to or working for the judge, lessons, purchase of a horse or having a horse in training with the judge within the last year.
- Trail will conclude with the completion of the final arena class of the division, no refunds or placings will be given if not completed.
- Exhibitor numbers must be displayed clearly. Preferred method for riding classes is on both sides of the saddle pad or on the exhibitor's back. For in-hand classes number may be worn on exhibitor's hip

- Classes with 3 entries or less may be run at the same time in the arena but judged separately.

### Performance Shows:

- Age divisions- W/T Novice Youth (18 and under), W/T All Ages, 13 & Under, 14-18, 19-39, 40 & Over, Open, Leadline (all ages). In-Hand division - youth and adult
- English Classes- Pleasure, Pattern, Equitation, English Discipline, and Trial
- Western Classes- Pleasure, Pattern, Horsemanship (Equitation), Ranch Riding and Trail
- In-Hand Division- Showmanship, In-Hand Trail
- Halter- Mares and Geldings (No year end awards)
- Riding bats and dressage whips are permitted as long as is appropriate with the tack
- Tack and attire to follow the Colorado 4-H rule book with the following exceptions.
  - English hunt coats or optional with short or long sleeve polo or hunt shirts
  - Dressage, saddle seat, hunt seat, or side saddle tack in all English classes are allowed
  - Western horses of any age may be ridden in a snaffle or bosal

## **Performance Class Division Descriptions**

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHF Show Bill & Registration forms

### Halter (Western or English tack & attire is acceptable)

Horses shall be judged individually both standing and in motion. Upon completion of the regular halter classes, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners of each Halter class (1-2) will return to the arena to compete for the Grand & Reserve Halter Championships. Currently, Halter classes shall be:

- Mares
- Geldings
- Grand & Reserve Champions

### Showmanship (Western or English tack & attire is acceptable)

In this class, the horse is merely a prop to show the ability of the exhibitor to present their horse from the ground. Showmanship is a separate class from Halter (in which the horse is judged). This class shall be judged strictly upon the exhibitor's ability to fit and show their horse in a standard halter class. Listed below are the areas in which exhibitors will be judged:

#### **Appearance of the horse**

- Condition and soundness evident
- Hair/coat clean and well brushed
- Mane, tail, forelock, and wither tuft clean and free of tangles. Braids are permitted.
- Hooves trimmed properly. If shod, shoes must fit and clinches should be neat. Polish is permitted.
- Manes may be roached, but the forelock must remain visible.
- Inside of the ears may be clipped.

- Long hair on the jaws, legs, and pasterns should be clipped.
- Tack should be neat, clean, and in good repair. Flashy, silver, or gold tack will not be worth more in the judge's eye than, simple, neat and clean tack.

### **Showing your horse in the arena**

- Enter the ring leading your horse at an alert walk. Walk on your horse's left side holding the lead in your right hand near the bit or halter. The remaining portion of the lead should be held neatly in your left hand. Your horse should lead readily at the walk or the trot.
- After the judge has lined up the class, he/she will call each exhibitor forward individually to move their horse. Be sure the judge can see your horse clearly at all times (do not stand between the judge and your horse).

### **Posing your horse**

- When posing your horse, stand toward the front end but not directly in front of your horse, facing your horse. Always be in a position where you can keep your eye on both the judge and your horse.
- Never kick your horse's legs into position.
- Do not crowd the exhibitor(s) next to you.
- Be natural. Overly showy and/or fussy maneuvering is objectionable.

### **Poise, Alertness, and Merit**

- Stay alert and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or things outside of the arena. Parents, friends, and trainers are prohibited from coaching from the sidelines, as doing so is discourteous to the judge and other exhibitors.
- Show your horse at all times, not yourself.
- Recognize and quickly correct the faults of your horse.
- Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and excused from the ring. (The judge is always watching you, even when his/her attention is focused on other horses.)
- Be aware that the judge may ask for different movements such as half, quarter, and full (360) turns.
- The judge may approach your horse, pick up a hoof, and stroke the coat, etc.

### **English Pleasure (English tack & attire is required)**

In this class, judging emphasis is on the horse. Exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, posting trot, and canter. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or trot only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- Light, but direct, contact with the mouth of the horse shall be maintained at all times.
- For upper level riders, the judge may request some (or all) exhibitors to extend the canter for purposes of determining appropriate placing. Sufficient room for riders must be allowed for the extended canter while other entries remain standing quietly in a designated spot within the arena.

- The English horse should be suitable for purpose moving in a cadenced and balanced manner. Taking into consideration the size and conformation of the horse, quick and short strides are to be penalized.
- Horses should be obedient, alert, and responsive to their rider. Free and collected movement with good manners should be emphasized to give the impression of a pleasurable ride.
- Exhibitors will be penalized for wrong leads, excessive speed, and/or excessively slow gaits.

### *English Equitation (English tack & attire is required)*

In this class, the judging emphasis is on the rider. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control the horse, and suitability of the horse to the rider. Exhibitors will show on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, posting trot, and canter. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or trot only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- The performance of the horse is NOT considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain results. Wrong diagonals will be penalized.
- The rider shall present a workmanlike appearance of being one with the horse, and in control at all times. An impression of lightness and suppleness should be conveyed. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required at all times.
- Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Reins shall be held in each hand with excess falling to either side.
- Exhibitors should sit a basic position with their eyes up, shoulders back, toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse. Iron should be on the ball of the foot. The body should be vertical at the walk and slow trot, inclined forward at the posting trot, and slightly forward at the canter.

### *English Pattern (English tack & attire is required)*

In this class, exhibitors will be required to perform a pattern individually. The class is designed to reflect the riding qualities of gaits, response to rider, manners, and disposition of horse and rider. Deduction in scoring will result if an exhibitor breaks the pattern. Breaking the pattern occurs when any one or more of the following takes place:

- Failure to complete the entire pattern.
- Completing maneuvers out of order.
- Knocking over any marker.
- Passing on the wrong side of any marker.
- Pattern difficulty may vary according to the division. For example, the pattern used in the 10 & Under division may not be as complex as the pattern used in the adult divisions.

### *English Discipline (English tack and attire is required)*

The English Discipline class is judged on the rail with participants in the arena at the same time. Riders will be asked to perform various maneuvers to highlight the horses training and the rider will be judged on level with communication with the horse to achieve the required maneuvers.

- The judge may call for any of the following maneuvers:

- Walk/ Trot classes- Sitting trot, extended trot, diagonal changes, halt, back-up
- 13 & under- All the same maneuvers listed above and hand gallop, simple lead-change, turn on forehand or hind quarter
- 14 and over- All maneuvers listed above and counter canter, side-pass either direction, two-point
- Open- All maneuvers listed above, flying lead change, drop/recover stirrups.

*Western Pleasure (Western tack & attire is required)*

In this class, exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, jog, and lope. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or jog only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- Safe contact with the mouth of the horse shall be maintained at all times. Reasonably loose rein with light contact and no undue restraint should be obvious.
- At the option of the judge, riders may be asked to extend the jog or extend the lope in one or both directions, asked to stop/stand quietly, and back easily. Riders shall not be asked to dismount unless the judge wishes to check equipment.
- The good Western Pleasure horse has a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the horse's conformation with enough cushion to the pastern to give the rider a pleasant, smooth ride. The horse should carry its head in a natural position, neither too high or over-flexed at the poll, nor too low and nosed out. Credit will be given to a horse that is relaxed but has alert ears, looks balanced, and is bright and responsive to the reins. When asked to extend the gait, the horse should do so smoothly.
- Reins shall be held as follows:
  - Split reins shall be held in one hand with palm down. The index finger only is permitted to separate the reins.
  - Romal reins- The romal should go across the palm and around the thumb. The hand should be closed into a fists over both reins with no fingers in between. The rein hand should always be in front of the romal's knot.
  - Two hands are permitted on any horse of any age using a snaffle bit or bosal.
- Exhibitors will be penalized for wrong leads, excessive speed, lack of speed, breaking gait, failure to take the call for the gait, exhibitors touching horse or saddle with free hand, head carried too low or too high, nosing out or flexing behind the vertical, opening mouth excessively, stumbling or falling, use of spurs or romal forward of the cinch, and/or losing either or both stirrups.

*Western Horsemanship(Western tack & attire is required)*

In this class, the judging emphasis is on the rider. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control the horse, and suitability of the horse to the rider. Exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, jog, and lope. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or jog only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- The performance of the horse is NOT considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain results.



- The rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. The heels should be lower than the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly under the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched lower back will be penalized. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may either be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. The rider's toes should be pointing straight ahead or slightly turned out with the ankles straight or slightly broken in. Riding with toes only in the stirrup and riding without contact with the bottom of the boot securely on the pad of stirrup will be penalized.
- Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized. The reins shall not change hands. When using a romal, the rider's off hand shall be around the romal with at least 16" of reins between the hands. Wrists are to be kept straight and relaxed, with fingers closed around the reins and thumbs on top. Two hands are permitted on any horse when using a snaffle bit or bosal.
- Riders should maintain a vertical position in all gaits, sitting to the jog (not posting), and the lope. All movements of the horse should be governed by imperceptible aids. Exaggerated shifting of the rider's weight is not desirable. Moving of the lower legs of riders who are short or small shall not be penalized.
- All attire must be neat and clean.
- Judging will begin at the first indication from the judge and will stop at the signal from the ring steward or judge.

*Western Horsemanship Pattern (Western tack & attire is required)*

In this class, exhibitors will be required to perform a pattern individually. The class is designed to reflect the riding qualities of gaits, response to rider, manners, and disposition of horse and rider. Deduction in scoring will result if an exhibitor breaks the pattern. Breaking the pattern occurs when any one or more of the following takes place:

- Failure to complete the entire pattern.
- Completing maneuvers out of order.
- Knocking over any marker.
- Passing on the wrong side of any marker.

Pattern difficulty may vary according to the division. For example, the pattern used in the 10 & Under division may not be as complex as the pattern used in the 19-35 division.

### Ranch Riding

The ranch riding horse should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of the arena and reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of the working horse. This class is judged on the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while performing the required maneuvers. The ranch riding horse should display good manners and responsiveness as well as make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner.

- Excessive showy or silver tack is not desirable
- All attire must be clean and neat
- Attire should not be excessively showy. A simple clean look is preferred to reflect a working horse and rider
- Posting at the extended jog is permitted

### Trail (Both English & Western tack and attire are allowed, appropriate tack is required)

In this class, judging is on the performance of the horse and rider as they complete the transitions and obstacles presented. The emphasis will be on the horse's manners, responsiveness to the rider, and attitude throughout the course. Horses will be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or completing an obstacle. Third party ground assistance shall not be permitted.

- Credit will be given to horses negotiating obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing that a careful attitude is not sacrificed. Horses showing ability to negotiate obstacles as if on their own and willingness to respond to rider cues on more difficult obstacles shall be given credit as well.
- Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Riders with exaggerated standing in stirrups and leaning forward over the horse's neck shall also be penalized. Riders who dismount to assist their horse through an obstacle shall be disqualified.
- Up to six obstacles will be utilized. Failure to follow the course shall be cause for score deduction. Failure to complete an obstacle shall count against the horse and rider. The course shall be reset, if necessary, after each rider.
- Score sheets shall be furnished to the judge (AHF will follow AQHA scoring system, less disqualification).
- The following obstacles can be used:
  - a. Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. Changing hands on the gate or turning loose of the gate is a penalty.
  - b. Ride over logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzagged. The space between logs/poles shall be measured from the starting point from which the horse begins the obstacle as follows: Walkovers at 15" to 24" apart, Trot/Jog-overs shall be 3'6" apart, and Canter/Lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' apart.
  - c. Backing through an "L" shaped obstacle.
  - d. Backing through and around three markers set in either a triangle or line.
  - e. Cross over a bridge. The bridge will be built to handle the combined weight of horse and rider from any variety of materials.
  - f. Side-pass or turns on the fore or hind quarters.
  - g. New obstacles may be introduced at any event by AHF

- Each competitor is allowed up to four minutes to complete the entire course. Three attempts are permitted for each obstacle before the obstacle is considered failed and the rider must continue on to the next obstacle.

### **Gymkhana Specific Rules:**

- Disqualification shall occur for failure to cross the start line within 30 seconds of entering the arena.
- All exhibitors must pass through the entry and exit gates at a walk with or without assistance.
- Keyhole and Pole Bending will be run at the same time and may be completed in either order, however all exhibitors must cross the start line for the second class within 30 seconds of crossing the finish line of the first class.
- Distances in patterns may be adjusted to fit the arena size or class at the event management's discretion
- Challenges to the pattern must be expressed prior to your run
- Re-rides shall be at the discretion of event management
- Over-under whips are acceptable as long as not used in excess, as determined by 1 or more board members.
- If competing in open and age-group, rolling times is encouraged but not required. Must be determined at time of registration.
- AHF will monitor all classes and may require a rider to move up or down if it is determined that a person/ horse combo is in a division level above or below their ability. This can be appealed to the AHF board, but AHF will make the final decision.
  - Buckaroo riders will be moved to the 13 and under age group if they run a 23 second or faster barrel run in the first 2 shows.
- W/T exhibitors may go no faster than a trot. A five second penalty will be assessed for breaking into a lope.

### **Gymkhana**

Age divisions- W/T All Ages, Buckaroo (10 & Under), 13 & Under, 14-18, 19-39, 40 & Over, Open, Leadline

Classes- Poles, Keyhole, Barrels, Flags, In-Line Barrels, Wild Card

Lead-line Classes- Poles, Keyhole, Barrels

Tack:

- Standardly accepted western tack to include saddle and bridle
- Tie downs are allowed but must be run through the breast collar ring.
- Prohibited:
  - Side saddles
  - wire or rawhide curb bit regardless of padding
  - Curb straps/chains narrower than 0.5 inches
  - Twisted curb straps/ chains

### **Cloverleaf Barrels (Gymkhana)**

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. Leadliners will complete the same pattern on a smaller scale with ground assistance.

- Barrels #1 and #2 shall be 30 feet from the starting line. Barrel #3 shall be 90 feet from the first two barrels. The distance between barrels #1 and #2 shall be 75 feet. Knocking over a barrel shall carry a (5) five second penalty per barrel.
- Exhibitors may start at either the right or left barrel, when starting at the right barrel there will be 1 right turn and 2 left turns and vice versa when starting at the left barrel. After completing the 3rd turn the rider must pass between the 1st and second barrel as they ride to the finish line.
- Rider will be disqualified for
  - Breaking the pattern
  - Crossing the start/ finish line before finishing the pattern
  - Making more than 3 turns, including making turns in between the barrels
  - Knocking over all 3 barrels

### *In-line Barrels (Gymkhana)*

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins.

Barrel #1 shall be placed 35 feet from the start line. Barrel #2 shall be placed 35 feet from barrel #1. Barrel #3 shall be placed 35 feet from barrel #2.

- Exhibitor crosses the start line and then weaves the barrels down, starting at either side and turning the third barrel completely, then weaves the barrels back and crosses the finish line. A 5 second penalty will be added for any barrel knocked over
- Riders will be disqualified for
  - Breaking the pattern
  - Crossing the timer before completing the pattern
  - Knocking over all 3 barrels.

### *Flags (Gymkhana)*

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins.

- Two barrels shall be placed 100 feet from the start line, and each barrel will be placed 100 feet directly across from the other. A bucket shall be placed atop each barrel, one with a flag inside of it.
- Competitors may start with either the right or left barrel. Staying to the outside of the barrel, riders must place the flag in the bucket on the first barrel, pick up the flag from the second barrel, and cross the finish line with the second flag in hand. The first flag must stay in the bucket on top of the barrel until the rider crosses the finish line.
  - If the rider misses a flag they may go back and retrieve or drop it off as long as they have not yet passed the timer and do not circle the barrel
- Riders will be disqualified for
  - Failing to place flag in bucket
  - Failing to remove bucket from second bucket and carry it across the timer line.
  - Knocking over a bucket or barrel
  - Hitting the horse with the flag
  - Circling the barrel

### *Pole Bending (Gymkhana)*

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. Leadliners will only weave 3 poles with ground assistance

- Six poles shall be placed 21 feet apart with the first pole placed 21 feet from the start line.
- Exhibitors will start on either the right or left side of the poles proceeding in a straight line to the 6th pole, reverse direction around the 6th pole, individually weaving around poles 5 through 2, reverse direction around the 1st pole, individually weaving around poles 2 through 5, reverse direction around the 6th pole, and proceed in a straight line back to cross the finish line.
- Knocking over a pole shall carry a five-second penalty per pole.
- Riders will be disqualified for
  - Crossing the timer before completing the pattern
  - Breaking the pattern
    - If the rider knocks down a pole and does not weave/ bend around the original position of the fallen pole, it is considered a broken pattern

### *Keyhole (Gymkhana)*

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. Lead-liners will complete the same pattern with ground assistance.

- Four poles shall be placed four feet apart in width and six feet apart in length. The first poles will be 75 feet from the starting line.
- Competitors shall enter the keyhole, reverse direction, exit the keyhole, and cross the finish line.
- Riders will be disqualified for
  - Knocking over any pole
  - Crossing over the finish line before completing the pattern
  - Turning before crossing all the way between all four poles
  - Breaking the pattern

### *Wild Card (Gymkhana)*

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. The pattern will be posted by AHF before the start of the Gymkhana. This class will change for each Gymkhana and will be chosen by the AHF gymkhana chair

### **Volunteer Hours**

- Volunteer hours are required to qualify for year end awards on a per award basis
  - 8 hours for the first award
  - 4 hours for each additional award
  - 20 hours maximum
  - In-hand Division will only require 4 hours
- Volunteer hours may be earned in the following manner:
  - 1 hour for each member meeting attended

- 1 hour for early membership
- Volunteer at the performance or gymkhana events
- Donated hours from friends or community hours
- Hours may be purchased for \$20 per hour
- Members of a business or family membership do not need to designate hours to a specific recipient within their group on the day earned. It must be finalized by the last show of the season.
- Donated hours other than a family/business membership must be designated the day of the event.
- Incentive hours such as for attending a meeting or early memberships may not be donated.
- Board members are awarded 16 hours for their elected office.
- Hours will be tracked based on the person working the hours and those receiving the hours.
- Lead-line riders and halter exhibitors have no volunteer requirements but are encouraged to volunteer.
- For safety, certain positions may have age or physical capability requirements as determined by the AHF board.

## Awards

### Daily Awards

- Membership is not required to win these awards.
- Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 6th place for all classes.
- Grand and Reserve ribbons will be awarded for halter - no year end award.
- No daily awards for in-hand division
- Daily high point and reserve champion awards will be based on the following
  - English must enter 4 of 5 classes.
  - Western must enter 4 of 5 classes.
  - Gymkhana must enter 5 of 6 classes.
- Tie breakers for daily high champion
  - English and Western will be the pattern class
  - Gymkhana will be barrels.

### Year End Awards Qualification

- Exhibitors must be an AHF member in good standing for the current season.
- Awards are based upon the highest cumulative year-end points earned in each qualifying exhibitor division for the same exhibitor/ horse combination.
- Award points will only come from actual show participation. There is no other way to earn points.
- Year end awarded based on the following:
  - English must enter 4 of 5 classes per show
  - Western must enter 4 of 5 classes per show
  - In-hand must show in both showmanship and trail per show
  - Gymkhana must enter 5 of the 6 classes per show
  - Leadline must compete in 2 lead line events per show

- Exhibitors must have shown in a minimum of four or a majority of the AHF qualifying point events for the season and earned points in qualifying classes at each event. Best of five shows/ gymkhanas per division will count toward year-end awards.
- Tie breaker for year end awards will be English Pattern, Western Pattern and Barrels. If a second tiebreaker is needed, AHF will use English Discipline, Ranch Riding and Poles.

### *Year End Awards Available*

- All Aurora Horsemen Foundation year end awards will be determined at the end of each year based on available funds
- Each division (English, Western, In-Hand, and Gymkhana) will be awarded 1st through 6th
- No year-end awards for halter
- Open division will be awarded a saddle for grand champion. Exhibitors may only win 1 saddle in a given year. In the case where someone wins more than 1 saddle, the reserve champion will not be bumped up to a saddle. The saddle winner will work with the board on a budget and the saddle they want. The winner will have the option to pay additional monies out of pocket for something above the budget.
- No cash or gift cards will be awarded for any awards.

### *Additional awards*

#### Spur Award

- Volunteer award. These awards will be given to these individuals WORKING the hours who have gone above and beyond.
  - Diamond Spur - leading year volunteer
  - Golden Spur - 50 hours
  - Silver Spur - 40 hours
  - Bronze Spur - 30 hours
- Board members not eligible for this award.

#### Horseshoe Award

- The Horseshoe Award will be voted on by the Aurora Horsemen Foundation board.
- This person is someone who has gone above and beyond what is considered normal. This person has helped AHF become a better organization and portrays what AHF stands for.
- This person does not have to be a current member or compete in AHF events.
- This award has no requirements for volunteering
- Nominations from the general membership must be submitted by the last show of the season to the board - forms are in the office or online

#### Stirrup Award

- The stirrup award will be voted on by the Aurora Horsemen Foundation board.
- This exhibitor was the biggest cheerleader through the year. They exhibited exceptional sportsmanship and support for their fellow riders.
- This award has no requirements for volunteering but must be a member in good standing.

- Nominations from the general membership must be submitted by the last show of the season to the board - forms are in the office or online.