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Welcome to Reining Australia and congratulations on choosing to become part of the fastest growing equestrian sports on the planet!

As a new member to Reining we have tried to put together some information to help you understand your new Sport and to make things a lot less stressful. So you can enjoy the whole experience.

Reining is a very exciting sport and very additive; it can be enjoyed on many levels from beginner to the Open riders. Reining Australia and the Affiliates promote sanctioned and non sanctioned events where by you can compete at different levels and enjoy the process of working towards competing in sanctioned events.

All affiliates run a number of non sanctioned events on their programs, such as Beginner Rider, Green Horse, Any Handed, two handed Rookie, Junior and Senior Horse classes. Non Sanctioned means that a rider can compete by being a member of their local Affiliate (this is necessary for insurance purposes) and that their horse does not have to be licensed. As at 2015 the constitution was change so that all non- sanctioned members must be members of Reining Australia through the Green Rider program.

Although the majority of horses are registered with one breed or another, to compete at Reining Australia & NRHA shows in Sanctioned events they have to be licensed. (This doesn't mean that you have to have a registered horse, that's the great thing about Reining you can ride any horse, any breed registered or not) You can obtain an application form for competition license from the Reining Australia website.

At Reining Australia, we are committed to the ongoing growth and development of this dynamic and exciting performance horse sport in Australia, and we are proud to support the many Aussie reining trainers, breeders, sponsors and competitors who represent our sport at a State, National and international level.

Reining Australia is officially affiliated with the foundation National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) based in Oklahoma City in the USA, which in turn is the organization that governs the sport of reining around the world. This means that whether you are competing at an affiliated club show, a state reining competition or the annual Reining Australia Gold Buckle and National Show, you are always showing, and being scored within, an internationally recognized judging and competition framework.

At Reining Australia, we understand that starting out in a new sport, or even taking that first step into the reining show pen, can be a daunting experience. That's why via our on-line Reining Australia web site at www.reiningaustralia.com.au we offer our members and Affiliates a variety of information, training and communication resources at your finger tips. Members can also use the Reining Australia website to make contact with your nearest Affiliate Reining Association, and to find out more about the local training, educational and showing opportunities in your region. Via our regular member newsletter, 'The Slider', and through the pages of Australian Quarter Horse Magazine and Performance Horse Magazine, and other publications Reining Australia will keep you up to date with what's happening in your sport.

Once again, congratulations on choosing to become part of the exciting international sport of reining!

The Board of Reining Australia



Membership Information and Benefits

Your Member Benefits will include:

- NRHA Handbook
- Slider Newsletter quarterly online
- Reining Australia website with the latest up to date information
- Free Classifieds Advertising to members on the RA Website
- Participation in RA Approved Shows
- Affiliation with NRHA gives us the benefit of the World's best judging system, access to International judges, Prize money for our National/Continental Affiliate Championships and other financial incentives
- Youth Team Tournaments held at National Futurity Show
- An Annual National Futurity Show combined with the Continental Affiliate Championships with extensive prizes and money
- A fully accredited Show Secretary Program to educate our show secretaries
- End of Year Highpoints and Top Ten Recognition
- Education of Members through Clinics and seminars
- Judges seminars and clinics
- Worldwide competition - Grassroots up to World Equestrian Games
- The right to vote at an Annual General Meeting
- Insurance for all Affiliate Clubs
- Please note: At the 2015 AGM the constitution was changed to read that all competitors must be a member of Reining Australia, either full membership with or without NRHA depending on whether they compete in NRHA approved shows, or through the Green Rider program for those who compete in non-sanctioned events, all Green Rider membership must also be a member of their local affiliate.
- To compete at RA National Show you are require to be NRHA and RA member and belong to an Affiliate club. Please refer to the CAC rules also found on the website

Green Rider Program

Thanks to the intuitive and sponsorship from Errol and Gita Thomas, Reining Australia now runs the Green Rider program.

This is another special class for non sanctioned riders with a few extra incentives, the class is run at Affiliate level listed below are some of the conditions. Full conditions are on the RA website and all nominations are now done on line where you will automatically get a receipt and your card number.

The application fee of \$30 is only applicable to non RA members, for those who are full RA members there is no fee, all you have to do is register on line.

You are eligible into the program by not having more than \$100 lifetime earnings. All competitors start in Level 1 and once received 50 points progress to level 2. You cannot enter both levels.

This is the only class where you will progress during the year.

Entry fees for the class are to be determined by show management.

Show management cannot charge exhibitors a judge's fee

Must use NRHA patterns 1 – 13. However simple lead changes are allowed and the rider may use one (1) or two (2) hands on the reins or change from one handed to two handed throughout the performance.

IN ALL GREEN RIDER CLASSES AND NON SANCTIONED EVENTS YOU DO NOT NEED A NRHA COMPETITION LICENSE AND DON'T NEED TO OWN YOUR OWN HORSE

What you need for your first competition in Sanctioned classes

You must have full membership with RA/NRHA which is also done on line, a Competition License for your horse and a Non Pro declaration both these forms are available on the website. (Under forms and documents).

Competition License

Your horses' competition license allows Reining Australia and NRHA to keep excellent records of your earnings as well as your horse's earnings. You must show your competition license and membership card (or copies of them) to the show secretary in order to enter any RA/NRHA approved class. This is a reasonably easy process,

but you don't want to wait until the last thing and worry about whether your license will arrive in time. The License does come from NRHA so we do need a couple of weeks processing time. Please send filled out application form and Breed papers if applicable (make sure the papers are in your name) to the Reining Australia secretary to be processed including your credit card details.

As mentioned Reining is not restricted to registered horses or one particular Breed, so a license can be obtained with photos, both sides, front and back, where registration papers are not available in owner's name proof of ownership must also be supplied.

You will also want to apply for NRHA Non Pro status, this form is also available on the RA website at a fee of \$35 which doesn't have to be renewed every year, unless you let your NRHA membership lapse.

The Competition license costs \$50 for the lifetime of the horse.

If showing in Youth classes you must have a Youth membership card. If the Youth is also a non pro, they must also complete an NRHA Non Pro Declaration. If a horse is not owned by the rider, the owner must also have appropriate membership cards and an immediately Family form needs to be filled out.

Transfer of competition license can also be done through the RA Office, transfer details are on the back of the competition license and must be signed by both parties, cost of Transfer is \$45 and original must be sent to the office

Handbook

The NRHA Handbook is a very useful tool. It is the essential guide to reining and what is required. It's very important to read your handbook so that you know the general guidelines of showing. The handbook explains the patterns and includes all of the associations' by-laws, rules and regulations. A handbook is supplied when you become a member of Reining Australia & NRHA or is available online to members at www.nrha.com.

Eligibility

Eligibility gives everyone a level playing field. It allows individuals to show in classes against other individuals of similar abilities. You can't expect an individual who has just started showing to compete against an individual that has been showing successfully for years. Class eligibility is based on the rider's and/or the horse's earnings and your trainer should suggest the best possible class for you and your horses' abilities. You are responsible for being aware of the official earnings of the horse and/or rider as recorded by RA/NRHA.

There are different Categories for the classes and these are also addressed in your NRHA handbook, we do have different earnings caps specifically for Australian competition and these can be viewed on our website on the Ineligibility List.

Class Eligibility is based on the rider's and/or the horse's earnings. When limits of eligibility are surpassed during the show year, the exhibitor can complete the year in that specific class or division.

The time frame for eligibility and End of Year Awards is as of 1st November culminating after the National Show, the reason for this to enable end of year awards to be finalized and Trophies to be ordered from NRHA before the AGM the following year.

Open: Subject to the general conditions, any rider holding a valid NRHA membership card may show any horse in this class. Anyone is eligible to enter this class on any horse that they wish. There are no restrictions on who may show in this class as long as they hold a current RA/NRHA membership and their horse has a NRHA License.

Intermediate Open: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA membership card who has earned less than \$9000 in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7, and 9 over the previous 3 calendar years. Average of \$3000 per year.

Limited Open: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA membership card who has earned less than \$5,000 in lifetime earnings in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7, and 9 at the start of the NRHA year.

Rookie Professional: Open to any rider, except those holding an NRHA Non-Pro, Youth or Youth Non-Pro Card, who has earned less than \$2000 in NRHA lifetime earnings, all categories, at the start of the NRHA year.

This class was developed to give trainers who are new to the industry a chance to compete against each other and not the trainers who have been active with large amounts of earnings.

Non-Pro: Open to any rider holding valid NRHA Non-Pro card as defined in the Non Pro section of the NRHA Handbook.

This class is for individuals who do not train horses, give lessons or take remuneration and/or has not directly or indirectly shown, trained or assisted in the training of a horse. There are certain professions such as farriers and veterinarians that are exempt from this rule. Please refer to the handbook for a complete definition. There are also strict horse ownership guidelines if you are showing in a non pro class. Remember you must have completed a non pro declaration and your membership card must reflect that you are a Non Pro.

Intermediate Non Pro: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA Non Pro card who has earned less than \$3,000 in all NRHA categories except 3,7 and 9 over the previous three calendar years.

Limited Non Pro: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA Non Pro Card who has earned less than \$3,000 in lifetime earnings in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 and 9 at the start of the NRHA year.

Prime Time Non Pro: For persons 50 and older as of January 1st of the NRHA year who hold a valid NRHA Non Pro Card. This means that you don't start to compete in Prime Time as soon as you turn 50 but from the 1st of January of the following year.

Novice Horse Open Level 1: Subject to the general conditions but restricted to horses who have not earned more than \$1000 in lifetime earnings, in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 and 9
This means that it is a class than any individual can ride in but they cannot ride a horse that have earned more than \$1000 in prize money in their show career.

Novice Horse Open Level 2: Subject to the general conditions but restricted to horses who have not earned more than \$5000 in lifetime earnings, in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 and 9
This means that it is a class than any individual can ride in but they cannot ride a horse that have earned more than \$5000 in prize money in their show career.

Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1: As Novice Horse class but limited to Non Pro Riders and restricted to horses who have not earned more than \$1000 in lifetime earnings, in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 and 9.

Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2: As Novice Horse class but limited to Non Pro Riders and restricted to horses who have not earned more than \$5000 in lifetime earnings, in all NRHA Categories except 3, 7 and 9.

Rookie Level 1: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA Non Pro Card who has earned less than \$200 in lifetime earnings in all NRHA categories except 3, 7 and 9 or fifty (50) youth points. Riders may use a horse without the restriction of ownership for Non Pro classes as defined under Non Pro Conditions.

Rookie Level 2: Open to any rider holding a valid NRHA Non Pro Card who has earned less than \$500 in lifetime earnings in all NRHA categories except 3, 7 and 9 or one hundred (100) youth points. Riders may use a horse without the restriction of ownership for Non Pro classes as defined under Non Pro Conditions.

There are also eligibilities that refer to Aged events (Futurities, Derbies and classic) these are category 2 classes and these are outlined on the ineligibility list on the RA website.

Full description of the different categories can be found in the NRHA Handbook.

Understanding the Judging Scores

The score sheets can be very useful to you. Take a few minutes to learn to read the score sheet, because it can give you an objective measure for your progress. Your handbook has a sample score card explaining how to read them. Use this tool to help you improve your next run for areas that may need improvement.

NRHA Riders Meeting

NRHA have introduced a Riders meeting to be held before the commencement of the show with some very good points:

To be presented by a judge. This is NOT a question/answer session

Concept is to cover what riders need to be aware of when showing their horse.

- Be familiar with A. General of the rulebook.
- Enter the ring without constant rein checking (deduction manoeuvre score). Same issue if you sit in the middle of the arena and constantly check to get their head down.
- If you go off pattern remember excessive schooling (abuse) can lead to a no score. Also many events are videoed and streamed on the internet and you are probably being viewed by more than those folks watching at the Show.

- Pattern placement, which means follow the WRITTEN explanation not the diagrams in the rule book
 - Hit the middle each time you come to it. Too far left or right will result in manoeuvre deduction
 - Watch for your markers.
 - Be aware of fencing too far to the end of the arena on rundowns is not a penalty but a manoeuvre reduction.
 - Running to stops too close to middle when pattern calls for stops on sides can results in manoeuvre deduction. Crossing centreline in this case results in a 0. Remember to stay 20 feet off side wall on rundown or ½ penalty.
 - General guidance of defining the centreline as the width of the drag.

- Equipment can be checked by both the gate judge.
- Exhibitors do not need to enter the arena for ties
- Pg.116 Green Rider can use 2 hands or 1 hands and may switch back and forth during the pattern

Arena Rules

When warming up in the Arena there are set rules which are important for the safety of all riders.

Maximum of 16 Horses in an arena at any one time, this can change depending on size of arena.

Left circles entry end of arena – right circles top end of arena

Circles and Turnarounds 1st 30 minutes of the Hour

Rundowns and Stops 2nd 30 minutes of the Hour

Horses not to be rested in Centre of the Arena

Horses may not be lunged in the arena

1. **Show attire.** The NRHA Handbook outlines the attire required for showing; when you enter the arena to show, you must be wearing a western hat or safety hat, long sleeved western shirt with sleeves buttoned down and boots and your horse must have a western saddle and western bridle. Failure to have correct attire upon entering the arena will result in a no score, however losing your hat within a run does not attract a penalty. Remember you are being judged the minute you enter the arena
2. **Number.** Failing to wear your show number can result in a \$25 fine. Pin your number to your saddle pad on the left hand side. It is also permitted to pin it to your shirt.
3. **Presentations.** Again, each club will do presentations a little differently but in general (and at larger shows); you need to be astride your saddled horse and wearing a Western hat for presentations.
4. **Animal welfare.** Whilst the RA Board does not feel that there are any problems with animal abuse or welfare in reining in Australia overall, this is a gentle reminder to be very mindful of your behaviour with your horse in any public environment. Many people are not familiar with western riding/attire and may not understand the appearance and use of spurs or western bits. Animal welfare groups are becoming more and more active and it is necessary to be very mindful of this – something that you may not take offense at, they may! It is also good to remember that most mobile phones have video capability now, so you may be recorded without your knowledge – this is especially the case with trainers – many people may be recording your schooling.
5. **Length of time riding.** It is mandated at NRHA events that horses not be ridden in excess, the approx. guidelines being not more than two hours of riding at a time. After riding, the horse must be rested with access to feed and water. Show Management, including Stewards, is not to use this rule, or other rules, to dictate how members train their horses. However if a case of abuse is observed through over-training, the rule can be used to compel the rider to rest the horse.
6. **Welfare of horses.** The welfare of the horse should at all times be considered paramount. It is important to recognize that we are obligated to present our horses in the most positive way at all times on the show grounds. The NRHA requires that horses are not to be ridden while in an unfit condition (ex. overly tired, obviously lame, etc.). Horses that are unfit should be stopped from riding, and responsible parties should seek veterinary assistance as needed. NRHA recognizes that arena conditions, particularly weather, will affect the appearance of a horse that is being worked. In most cases, simply slowing down the training and providing short rest periods will be of a benefit to the welfare of our horses.
7. **No dogs are allowed in the warm up areas or show arenas.**
8. **Tractor etiquette.** All arenas will follow these guidelines during drag time:
All horses will stop forward movement. All horses will move to the side of the arena opposite from the tractor and drag. All riders will watch for and obey tractor driver's direction.
Riding will continue ONLY after tractor and drag have exited the arena.

Affiliates run Reining Australia Shows, Ribbon and Jackpot shows, and NRHA approved shows both under \$500 and over \$500 which some are Affiliate Qualifiers. State Shows and Nationals are those with overall prize money of over \$500.

Don't forget all our competitors and Trainers at whatever level are wonderful people and very approachable, so if you're not sure just ask. We are here to help you enjoy the experience. **And Have FUN!!!**