



BEGINNING CLASS RULES

1. Rider must be Youth, Amateur or Non-Pro eligible. Rider may not have **earned more than \$500** in recorded earnings at any working horse show or association including but not limited to NRHA, NRCHA, NCHA, NSBA or SHOT or earned a World or Reserve World Championship title or **earned more than 5 points** in any recognized breed association competition (includes walk trot, novice, level 1 and rookie category points) as of the date of the show in the class entered. This rule is on a per class basis. *Example: Exhibitor has \$560 in earnings in Barrel Racing and has 3 points in AQHA/APHA ranch riding. Exhibitor is eligible for Beginning Ranch Riding, but not Beginning Barrel Racing.*
2. Exhibitors may compete in as many Buckle classes at a show that they are eligible for. **Once an exhibitor wins a buckle in a beginning class, they are no longer eligible for that Beginning Class at any future shows.**
3. A Belt Buckle will be awarded to the winner in all Beginning classes.
4. Year-End Awards will not be offered for any of the Beginning classes.
5. Chaps are not required to show in any Beginning class. Appropriate safety attire for the discipline is required.
6. Beginning classes are open to any breed. Exhibitor does not need to own the horse. Rider may cross-enter into other AQHA /APHA/NSBA classes but must meet all ownership and membership requirements of the association.
7. Beginning Buckle classes will use the Novice/Level 1/Rookie Patterns at all shows.
8. Beginning Halter is open to all sexes of any age to compete in the Halter class.
9. Horse must be shown in legal equipment for the class and the age of the horse per AQHA equipment rules.
10. If it is determined that an exhibitor is ineligible for a beginning class after showing in the class, they will be disqualified, and any awards will be forfeited immediately with no refund of entry fee.
11. **2026 Buckle Classes:**

Showmanship
Halter
Western Pleasure
Horsemanship
Trail

Hunter Under Saddle
Hunt Seat Equitation
Ranch Trail
Ranch Riding
Ranch Rail
Cutting

Barrel Racing
Heading
Heeling
Breakaway Roping
Tie Down Roping
Working Cow Horse