

## Reining Scoring

**Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance.**

(1) Scoring guidelines: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus 1.5 to minus 1.5: -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 average, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.

**A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:**

Starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows:

- Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct one point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will deduct one penalty point for each quarter of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse 1/2 point for a delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
- Deduct 1/2 point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two strides. Jogging beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena, deduct two points.
- Deduct 1/2 point for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn; deduct one point for over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn.
- A 1/2 point penalty deduction will be given for failure to remain a minimum of 20 feet (6 meters) from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback.
- In patterns requiring a run-around, failure to be on the correct lead when rounding the end of the arena will be penalized as follows: for 1/2 the turn or less, one point; for more than 1/2 turn, two points. In a pattern requiring a run-around, there will be a one half (1/2) point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 10 feet from either side of the center of the arena; for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion.

Two (2) points:

- Break of gait;
- Freeze up in spins or rollbacks;
- On walk-in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure. On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to the first marker.
- If a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.

Five (5) point:

- Spurring in front of cinch;
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
- Holding saddle with either hand;
- Blatant disobediences including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking.

Zero (0) score:

- Use of more than index or first finger between reins;
- Use of two hands (exception in junior, snaffle bit, or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands;
- Use of romal other than as outlined in AQHA rules
- Failure to complete pattern as written:
- Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order;
- The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to Backing more than two strides
- Turning more than 90 degrees

- Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion;
- Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;
- Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena;
- Overspins of more than 1/4 turn;
- Fall to the ground by horse or rider;
- When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line;
- Exceeds greater than one quarter of the circle out of order.

The following will result in no score:

- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition;
- Use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains;
- Use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains; when using a snaffle bit, optional curb strap is acceptable; however, curb chains are not acceptable.
- Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;
- Use of whips or bats;
- Use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;
- Failure to provide horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;
- Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor;
- Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins.
- Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to the rein hand is to be considered use of two hands a penalty score of zero will be applied. In addition, should the judge determine the free hand is being used to instill fear or praise, a penalty five will be applied, and a reduction in the maneuver.

Faults against the horse to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:

- Opening mouth excessively when wearing bit; Excessive jawing, opening mouth or head raising on stop;
- Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches-bouncing or sideways stop;
- Refusing to change leads;
- Anticipating signals;
- Stumbling;
- Backing sideways;
- Knocking over markers.

Faults against the rider to be scored accordingly, but not to cause disqualification:

- Losing stirrup;
- Failure to run circles or figure eights within the markers is not considered a fault depending on arena conditions and size; however, failure to go beyond markers on rollbacks and stops is considered a fault, and will incur a penalty.