



2024 AMERICAN ROYAL

VIRTUAL HORSE SHOW

RULE BOOK

The American Royal: Virtual Horse Show

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2024

Table of Contents

Show Rules	2
Video Requirements	6
Class Guidelines & Requirements	7
Awards and High Point	9
Additional Information	10
Directions and Hotels	11

SHOW RULES

1. **Competition:** Exhibitors are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable rules and regulations. An exhibitor who violates any part of the rules may be subject to forfeiture of privileges and premiums and to such other penalty as the Executive Committee may order.
2. **Interpretation:** The American Royal reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations used to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, or connected with, or incident to, the Show, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. The American Royal maintains the final and absolute discretion regarding the use or allocation of forfeited premiums or sale proceeds.
3. **Entry Information:** Go to <https://americanroyalassociation.regfox.com/2024-american-royal-virtual-horse-show> to enter the show online. The show will only accept online entries. Entries made before Tuesday March 5th, 2024 will receive a pre-entry discount of \$5 per entry. Horse rider combinations can enter unlimited classes but must declare which combination will be eligible for high point *before* entry deadline, Wednesday March 20th, 2024.
4. **Erroneous Entry:** Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in filling out entry forms. Equine that have been entered in a wrong class will be transferred to their proper class upon application to management who will determine the matter upon its merit. If such classes have been judged, they will not be reopened.
5. **Fees:** Entry Fees are \$20 per class. The Jackpot Classes are \$30 per class. The costume class has no entry fee.
6. **Refunds:** There will be no refunds. There will be no award replacements or refunds for incorrect address.
7. **Add/Scratch:** Exhibitors can add and scratch online before the entry deadline. There will be no refunds for scratches and adds will be applied to the entry upon addition.
8. **Class Combinations:** Show management reserves the right to combine classes with low entries if their gaits or patterns are the same.

9. **Exhibitor Age Requirements:** Riders must be 8 years of age or older on January 1, 2024, to compete in this horse show in any division except Costume and Walk-Whoa 8 & Under. All ages calculated as of January 1st.

10. **Judges:** Judges are requested to be familiar with the rules and regulations of this show. Due to unforeseen circumstances substitute judges may be made without notification. Judges feedback is available for an additional \$10 per class and will be emailed following the posting of results.

11. **Decision of the Judge is Final:** The decision of the judge is final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is proven. In such case, the management or such referee as may be appointed may make the decision; or at its discretion, the case may be appealed to the Executive Committee, from whose decision there can be no appeal.

12. **Results:** Results will be posted 2 weeks after the entry deadline on the website. The virtual award ceremony will be Tuesday April 2nd, 2024. All exhibitors will be emailed the zoom link to join.

13. **Lameness:** The judge shall examine and check for lameness of each horse in every class. The signs of lameness the judges will note include but are not limited to marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride, minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest, or the inability to move truly. The judge shall communicate any lameness to management who must remove an entry from the class. Obvious lameness is cause for disqualification.

14. **Code of Ethics:** To maintain a high degree of integrity, the American Royal Show Management reserves the right to disqualify any animals or exhibitors due to conduct, lameness, or any other reasons management seems fit.

15. **Photographs/Videos:** Photographs or videos of any animals or exhibitors submitted to the show may be used for promotion of the American Royal without compensation to the exhibitor. All exhibitors must have permission to use the media they submit. Watermarked media will only be accepted if the exhibitor has purchased the image from the photographer. Proof of purchased or photographers' permission will be requested by show management.

16. **Media Purposes:** By participating in an American Royal event, you consent to your voice, name, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in any and all media or any other purposes by the American Royal Association, its affiliates and representatives. You hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the American Royal Association from all claims and

demands related to the use of these images. If you do not wish to appear in images, please speak with the American Royal communications department prior to the event.

- 17. Liability:** This show is not associated with any breeds or other show sanctioning bodies however, all equine liability laws apply. Persons under the age of 16 must have parental consent to participate. Exhibitors participate at their own risk, understanding the potential risks associated with equine activities. By entering the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person(s) or property resulting from the risk of equine activities. By entering exhibitors agree to release and hold harmless The American Royal Association, its employees, contractors, and affiliates from any and all liabilities.

 - a. (LVS Liability The American Royal Association, Inc., and its committees, officers, employees, agents, and representatives are not responsible or liable for any injury, loss, or damage sustained in any way by any exhibitor, employee or independent contractor of an exhibitor, spectator, or any other person or person. The Association is likewise not responsible or liable for damage or injury to any article or animal, or the destruction, injury, or disappearance of such article or animal. Each exhibitor is solely responsible and liable for any loss, injury, or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from any article or animal. Exhibitors agree to protect and indemnify the Association against all claims, legal, or other proceedings and all incidental or related expenses, losses, or damages, as well as damage or injury to any person or property, caused by the exhibitor or his/her employees, independent contractors, or any article or animal.)

- 18. Phone Calls:** All phone conversations with American Royal staff or volunteers are informative only and are not to be considered binding in any litigation or entry acceptance.

- 19. Conduct of Exhibitors:** If an exhibitor, in any way, whether in person or by agent, employee, or independent contractor, interferes with a judge during the exposition or demonstrates disrespect to the judge or the show, the management may exclude such exhibitor from competition and may also withhold from such exhibitor any premiums. All exhibitors, parents, agents, employees, and independent contractors are expected to conduct themselves in proper fashion. Any disorderly conduct, theft, loud, profane language, or disturbances of any nature may be cause for disqualification from all American Royal events and shows and banishment from the premises.

VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

- A new, unique video is required per class entry.
- Video should be recorded from the specified location on the pattern. For rail classes, please take the video from the center of arena.
- Video must be/have the following (failure to follow these guidelines will result in disqualification):
 - Sound On
 - Landscape Orientation
 - Unedited
 - Less than 5 Minutes
- Zooming should be done when possible while keeping entire horse and rider in frame.
- Due to varying spaces/atmospheres exhibitors may request a course adjustment. These must be requested and confirmed *prior* to submitting an entry.
- Judge reserves the right to disqualify any video due to poor quality. Please review the video for quality, clarity, and focus before submission.
- If the pattern calls for markers, they must be visible to the judge. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to supply the required equipment or course supplies.
- Coaching is not permitted. Someone may instruct gait changes during rail classes but, no further instruction is permitted.
- Trail classes must use AQHA measurements.
- Prior to the ride, a sign must be held up showing the show name, rider name, horse name, and class name.

CLASS GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Attire: Attire should be neat, clean, and appropriate. Both show and schooling attire are acceptable, but tennis shoes, shorts, and shirts exposing the abdomen will not be allowed. Performance attire will not be given preference.

Grooming: Horses should be well turned out with no visible mud or dirt. Horses may be braided, banded, or have a fake tail, but is not required and not given a preference.

Tack: Tack should be neat, clean, and properly fitted. The tack should match the discipline of the entered class.

If questions on allowed attire or tack, please contact equine@americanroyal.com

Class Descriptions:

Western Horsemanship: This class is judged on the rider's ability to control and show basic maneuvers of the horse. The rider's ability to correctly execute the maneuvers of the provided pattern shall be considered more important than the horse's performance.

Western Pleasure: This class is judged on the quality of movement, attitude, and mannerisms of the horse. Horses will be judged on the rail both directions at the walk, jog, and lope as well as on the back, and all transitions between gaits. In this class, the emphasis is on manners, performance, conformation, and soundness, as well as on neatness and cleanliness of horse, tack, and rider. *Jackpot Option in this division.*

Ranch Reining: This class is judged on the exhibitors to individually perform a specified pattern. The horse should rein and handle easily, fluently, and smoothly with reasonable speed through the pattern. Movements of the horse should be limited to those indicated in the pattern. Any additional movements will be considered lack of control.

Ranch Trail: This class is judged on the attitude and mannerisms of the horse as it maneuvers through a pattern that contains obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work.

Ranch Riding: This class is judged on the ability of the horse to complete the pattern in a smooth, responsive manner. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits.

Ranch Horse Pleasure: This class is judged on the horse's responsiveness to the rider and smooth transitions between gaits. The horse should be quiet and willing to perform.

Showmanship: This class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to exhibit the animal at halter. Only the exhibitor is to be judged. The exhibitor will be asked to follow a combination of maneuvers to demonstrate their skills.

Hunter Under Saddle: This class is judged on the horse's functional correctness, way of going, manners, and condition. Horses will be judged going both directions at the walk, trot, and canter as well as on the back and transitions between gaits. Horses should be shown with light contact on the horse's mouth. *Jackpot Option in this division.*

Hunt Seat Equitation: This class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to maneuver the horse through a pattern that shows the rider's equitation skills. Only the exhibitor is judged. The exhibitor should look comfortable, confident, and relaxed.

Costume Class: Fun Class! Submit a picture of exhibitor and horse dressed in costume. Class is judged on creativity.

AWARDS AND JACKPOT

Ribbons: Ribbons will be awarded to 1st-6th place in each class. Ribbons will be shipped to the address on file. If exhibitor wishes to have them sent to a specific address, show management must know *before* results are posted.

Jackpot Payouts: Jackpot classes' purse is 50% of entry fees. They will be paid out to the exhibitor's name and address on file. If exhibitor wishes to have them sent to a specific name or address, show management must know *before* results are posted.

Payout Structure: 5+ horses pay back to 3rd place, 4 Horses pay back to 2nd place, 3 horses pay back to 1st place.

Class winners will also receive a \$25 credit to use at any 2024 American Royal Equine event.

Email equine@americanroyal.com with ribbon or check address changes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amending Rules: The management reserves the right to interpret and amend all rules.

Event Cancellation: In case of cancellation of the event or unavailability of the event due to war, governmental action or order, act of God, fire, strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond the American Royal's control, this Agreement shall terminate, and the exhibitor shall be entitled to the return of the fees for the event, less the prorated share allocated to the American Royal of the expenses incurred by the Royal in connection with the event. Refund of the Fees as provided in this section shall be the exclusive remedy of the exhibitor against the American Royal in case the event is canceled or rescheduled through war, governmental action or order, acts of God, fire, strike, labor disputes, or any other cause beyond the American Royal of and from all claims for damage and agrees that the American Royal shall have no obligation except the above stated refund. Requests for refunds must be submitted to the American Royal and are subject to the discretion of the American Royal. Refunds will not be issued for events that are less than 7 days away. A roll over of funds for future events is not allowed.