

LONGHORN RANCH HORSE CHALLENGE

DEFINITION OF CLASSES

YOUTH: The *Youth Division* will be a separate division, but *Youth Riders* will compete as part of the Novice Division. A *Youth Rider* is defined as:

- A Rider who is **12 years & younger** at the **start** of the first weekend of the Event.
- If the *Youth Rider* **is** 12 years of age at the start of the Event, they will remain as a *Youth Rider* throughout the Series.
- A *Youth Rider* can have participated in 4-H activities or similar.
- A *Youth Rider* **must compete** on a horse owned by themselves or by an immediate family member.
- A *Youth Rider* **may be** assisted by an outrider, however, safety and ability to handle their horse is the determining factor.
- A *Youth Competitor* **may** be asked to advance to the **Novice Class** if they are regularly winning within their age group at other youth events. These winnings **will not** count against their Novice status; however, upon winning at the **Novice** level, they will be expected to move up the skill rank the same as any rider in the Novice Class.

NOVICE: Any Rider that **DOES NOT** regularly compete in any of the following:

- Versatility Competitions;
- Trail Competitions (indoor or outdoor);
- Roping Events (of any level or designation);
- Cattle Working Events – (including cutting, working cow horse/reined cow horse, sorting or penning);
- Gaming or Gymkhana;
- Breed Showing (such as AQHA, APHA, ApHA, etc.);
- Recognized Event Specialties (such as NCHA, NTRA, etc.);
- CMSA or similar; ***and***
- Has **NOT** won prizes to include cash, buckles, trophies, or special recognition at any of the above.
- The **Novice Rider** **must** compete on a horse owned by themselves or their immediate family.
- A **Novice Rider** **may** be assisted by another mounted rider to complete the course if horse handling skills or safety is an issue (special needs riders, etc.).
- A **Novice Rider** **will** have a basic understanding of horse handling safety.

INTERMEDIATE:

- Any Rider that has competed at, but **HAS NOT** won a major award or awards at this Event or other organized mounted events (this includes First Place or Overall Awards and/or Series or Regional Awards).
- The **Intermediate Rider** has more advanced horse handling skills and may be mounted on a horse with points or accomplishments in a ranked discipline.
- The **Intermediate Rider** **DOES NOT** train or work with horses for monetary or in-kind reimbursement.
- The **Intermediate Rider** **CANNOT** be assisted on any course by a rider or coach **unless** an exception is made by the Event Organizer.

- An ***Intermediate Rider will have*** a higher degree of safe horse-handling skills than the ***novice rider*** and will be expected to observe them.
- The ***Intermediate Rider must compete*** on a horse owned by themselves or an immediate family member.

OPEN/ADVANCED: Any Rider who ***has*** or is ***currently receiving*** monetary or in-kind reimbursement for the training or schooling of horses and/or riders in any discipline. The ***Open/Advanced Rider has both*** competed and won First Place recognition at any of the following:

- Versatility Competitions;
- Breed Shows;
- Recognized Events (such as NCHA, NTRA, etc.); and
- Overall Championships to include Regional Events and Local Events.
- The ***Open/Advanced Rider has*** a high skill level in handling horses in all situations and under all conditions.
- The ***Open/Advanced Rider may*** be mounted on nationally recognized and awarded horses.
- The ***Open/Advanced Rider may*** compete on their own horse or a horse owned by a recognized client as a training opportunity for that horse.
- The ***Open/Advanced Rider may*** ride horses as part of their job.
- The ***Open/Advanced Rider will*** demonstrate safe horse handling skills at all times.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES & DEFINITIONS:

- ***Horse Ownership Criteria:***
 - Rider Owned.
 - Family Owned – immediate family (*i.e.*, mother, father, sister, brother or step-relationships living under the same roof).
- A Rider cannot compete and judge at the same Event at any level.
- Once a Rider has reached the ***Open/Advanced*** level, they can compete at this level indefinitely.
- A borrowed horse ***may be*** substituted ***IF*** the Rider's regular mount is unsound or injured ***at the discretion of the Event Organizer. NO EXCEPTIONS.***
- ***Western Attire*** is required. Western attire ***does not*** include riding in T-shirts, ball caps, or shoes/boots without a heel (for safety at any level). If it is extremely windy, ball caps will be allowed that day. Helmets on any Rider are acceptable.
- ***ALL DOGS must*** be on a leash and controlled at all times while on the Ranch property. ***NO EXCEPTIONS.***
- ***NO stallion*** may be left unattended and tied to the trailers in the parking area. This is a safety issue with Riders on mares, guests or competitors on foot, or other horses tied near them by owners who might not be aware of the stallion's presence. ***All stallions*** on the Ranch property during the Event must be made known to the Event Manager. Accommodations are available for a stallion with advanced notice.

TRAIL CLASS DEFINITIONS: If you compete in Trail/Obstacle ***only***, sign up for the level that best suits your & your horses combined ability as defined below:

- **Youth/Novice Trail:**
 - Horse & Rider are a new team of less than 12 months.

- Neither Horse nor Rider have competed at major breed or sanctioned shows in past 5 years.
 - Horse & Rider **have not won** a novice class in trail/obstacle.
 - The Youth Division will compete on a smaller & confined Trail Course.
- **Intermediate Trail/Obstacle:**
 - Horse & Rider have been a team for over 12 months and **have shown** in competitive events together.
 - Horse & Rider have competed (or are currently competing) at major breed or sanctioned shows, but **have not won** within the last 5 years.
 - Horse & Rider **have not won** an Intermediate Class in Trail/Obstacle.
 - Youth 12 and under will be allowed in the Intermediate Class as a regular competitor **IF** they **have won** a novice class or meet all other Intermediate Class requirements. Otherwise, Youth Riders 12 years and under will be considered Youth competitors within the Novice Class.
- **Open Trail/Obstacle:**
 - Horse & Rider have been a team for over a year **and** have shown in competitive events such as trail/obstacle **or** other related events.
 - Horse & Rider have competed in major breed or sanctioned shows and **have won** their class within the last 5 years.
 - Horse & Rider **have won** at the intermediate level in trail/obstacle.
 - Youth 12 and under will be allowed in the Open Class as a regular competitor **IF** they **have won** at the novice and intermediate levels and meet the other Open Class requirements. Otherwise, Youth Riders 12 years and under will be considered **Youth** competitors within the Novice Class providing novice class requirements have not been exceeded.
- **Ranch Versatility Competition (designation: Trainer):** If you compete in **multiple classes** of versatility, you **must** compete at your & your horses **combined highest** skill level as defined below:
 - You train horses for yourself and/or others for monetary reimbursement or in-kind opportunities.
 - You are currently associated with a ranch, or advertise your business of training horses to the public.
 - You bring young or unseasoned horses to the competition for teaching/learning opportunities.
 - You have sold horses to others who access you for further training.
 - You and your horse demonstrate skills and are scored consistently above the other riders in your designated class.

If you can say **"YES"** to **ANY** of the above definitions, you **WILL NOT** be considered as a competitor in the **Novice or Intermediate** Classes.

THE RATIONALE FOR CLASS DIVISIONS:

- All Riders deserve an opportunity to excel and grow at their level. All Riders deserve to present their skills as compared with other riders within their skill level.
- Horses that are currently competing at recognized breed or sanctioned shows have experience that exceeds the average recreationally used or regular working

horse. Riders that are currently competing at recognized breed or sanctioned shows have experience that exceeds the average recreational rider where competition is concerned. The true spirit of the Versatility Ranch Horse is literally a horse that can do many things while not being a champion (necessarily) at any of them. It is advantageous for competitors to place themselves at the level where they **FIT BEST** as a team with their horse. Honesty is everything.

- The **Novice Class** is truly the "breeding ground" for the sport of the Versatility Ranch Horse. Competitors begin there and improve their skills up to the Open Class. A demonstration by any horse/rider team that far exceeds the rest of the competition is a clear signal that the team needs to **move up** in their designated class level **regardless of their skills in the required additional classes** of Ranch Roping, Ranch Cutting and Ranch Agility. It is incumbent upon the competitor to **build** their skills in **ALL LEVELS** of the sport so as not to penalize a true **novice trail/obstacle rider** in their own skill building and over-all endeavors.

DECLARATION OF SKILLS – HORSE & RIDER

(This Declaration to be signed at time of Registration in the Office)

I, _____ (Rider) hereby declare that I (and the horse I am riding) meet the criteria to ride in the following category:

Youth (age 12 & under) Novice
 Intermediate Open

I have read and understand the definitions of each Class and have asked for any clarifications necessary to assure that my placement is accurate to the best of my ability. Further, I understand that if at any time during the series of competitions it becomes evident that I have misrepresented myself, I (and the horse I am riding) will be disqualified from the Event, that my fees will not be refunded, and that any winnings or placings that I have secured will be forfeited immediately, allowing the other riders to be fairly placed.

I hold Longhorn Equine Events, LLC, the Event Manager, and the Staff assisting in the competition harmless in all decisions made on my behalf. I am responsible for all information given on my Entry Forms.

Signed,

_____ (Rider) Dated: _____

Parent (if Rider is under 18 years of age) _____

Guardian (if Rider is under 18 years of age) _____