



AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST HORSEWOMAN EVENT RULES & GUIDELINES

17TH - 21ST APRIL 2024
TATURA PARK, TATURA VIC

AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST HORSEWOMAN

The rules of each association are used as a guide only for each discipline at the event (listed below), The Australian Cowgirl Event Rules & Guidelines over rule association rules and are final.

The Main Event Australia's Greatest Horsewoman consists of 3 preliminary rounds

Reining (NRHA rules apply) - reining pattern consisting of lead changes, sliding stops, spins, rolls back & fast/slow circles.

Cutting (NCHA rules apply) - riders have two and a half minutes to work two or three beasts and keep them from returning to the herd.

Obstacle Challenge (NCCA rules apply) - will consist of 12 obstacles in a specified order. As well as physical obstacles the horse and rider will be asked to perform certain manoeuvres such as a lead change, roll back, spin & a sliding stop. Obstacle rating up to level 6.

The Top Ten finalists will enter a clean slate final
Top 5 For Junior Division *^

To qualify for the Top 10 final of Australia's Greatest Horsewoman, the scores of the first three rounds (Reining, Cutting, and Cowboy Challenge) will be cumulatively tallied, with the top 10 competitors progressing to the final. The remaining competitors will advance to the Ladies Fencework Finale. Junior scores will be total of the tally of results of all 4 disciplines.^ In the event that any finals qualified horse/rider combinations do not compete in the finals (scratch), the next placing horse/rider from the preliminary rounds will fill that spot. The winner of Australia's Greatest Horsewoman is decided by a clean slate final going into the Reined Cow Horse

Reined CowHorse (NRCHA rules apply) - riders will perform a reining pattern, the horse is then required to hold a beast at the end of the arena, make at least one turn each direction along the fence and circle the cow both directions.
Scores will not be released for the first 3 rounds until after the announcement of the Top 10.

Riders must complete all phases of AGHW on the same horse and in the same saddle/bridle.

Riders are permitted to ride either two handed in a snaffle/hackamore or one handed in a bridle. Riders opting to ride one handed may ride in split reins for all sections except working cow horse, where Romel reins must be used. Failure to do so will result in elimination from the round.

Nose bands, tie downs, Martingales and such gear is not permitted.

Whichever bridle set up the rider starts in, she must complete ALL events in.

A gear check will be conducted at the commencement of the competition & at each round.

Horse must be 4 years or older for Junior & Senior Divisions

Note: Rookie Class offers reduced entrance fees with a Buckle and Prizes only (*no prize money offered on this class*)

COWGIRL UP CHALLENGE (NCCA rules apply)

One preliminary round - will consist of 12 obstacles in a specified order. As well as physical obstacles the horse and rider will be asked to perform certain manoeuvres such as a lead change, roll back, spin & a sliding stop.
Under the rules of the NCCA Open Class with Obstacle Rating up to level 5.

The Top Ten riders from the Cowgirl Up preliminary round,
will advance to a clean slate final held in the evening.

This event will be a real test of horse and rider.

Combining similar elements from the first round, but incorporating a higher degree of difficulty plus the added atmosphere which will include lighting & sound effects. Riders are permitted to ride either two handed in a snaffle/hackamore or one handed in a bridle. Nose bands, tie downs, Martingales and such gear is not permitted.

*Junior competitors in all competitions must be 12yrs or above and no older than 17 at the start of the competition year.

^ This is subject to competitor numbers if less than 10 all juniors go through to final.

HORSEWOMAN'S TOUCH COLT START

Three horsewoman will select a young unstarted horse to work with from a group of horses. Each trainer will have Three 2 hour sessions to start the horse under saddle using their own unique training style.

These sessions will be over three consecutive days.

Trainers will have to ensure the horse receives a certain amount of breaks during their allocated time (break times will be specified in complete rules).

This is equal part competition as it is an educational display.

OTHER EVENTS

Other Events Run under the attached conditions of Entry such as Australia's Greatest Horsewoman Rookie, Liberty Challenge, Event Clinics and all Open classes

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- *Competitors/clinic participants are the only riders permitted to ride at the venue. ie: no warm up riders permitted without signing indemnity.
- *Riders must not ride at venue until indemnity has been signed.
- * All riders are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and display good sportsmanship.
- *All riders will be required to present for a gear check & horse health check prior to competing.
- *Australia's Greatest Horsewoman competitors must ride in the same gear for all phases, failure to do so will incur elimination, there will be a gear check for each round.
- *Horse welfare is paramount. Any rider displaying any cruelty, excessive riding/excessive warming up, excessive use of gear etc will be eliminated and asked to leave the premises immediately. This is at the discretion of the committee.
- *Bump in for competitors will be from 4pm - 6pm Tuesday 16th April and 4-6pm Wednesday 17th April Bump out by 12pm Monday 22nd April 2024.
- *There will be open pen for competitors on evenings after completion of the days events, time slots will be allocated for discipline specific open pen riding, times to be confirmed and posted in competitor page/s.
- *Riders must ride with gear accordingly - shank bit must be ridden one handed in every section, snaffle bit/Bosal ridden two handed. No gag bits, nose bands, tie downs. If you are unsure about a piece of gear please email the team with your enquire. Failure to do so will result in elimination from the round.
- *Stables are to emptied out completely at the conclusion of the event, failure to do so will incur a \$110 cleaning fee.
- *Judges decision is final. Any complaints should be given in writing to the office.
- *The committee has the final say. Our Intention is for everyone to enjoy the event so please talk to us with any issue that may arise, to ensure the event runs as smoothly as possible.
- *In the case of an issue arising the correct complaint/dispute procedure must be followed. If a competitor wishes to make a complaint about anything pertaining to the competition or if a competitor wishes to challenge a decision made in relation to the competition it must be done so in writing and emailed to the committee up until 10pm of the day of the round and/or competition.
- *Poor sportsmanship &/or negative/aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- *A participant should never speak to or about the organizing committee and extended volunteers and helpers in a defamatory manner including and not limited to social media platforms.
- *Participants are prohibited from competing/participating under the influence of Alcohol or non prescription drugs.
- *Riders and companion person only are permitted in the warm up arena while events are on, and only competitors and officials are permitted in the main arena for open pen times.
- *Competitors are required to be present at all presentations, should a competitor fail to attend they may forfeit their place, unless previously show management/office has been notified prior to presentation time.
- *Junior competitors are not permitted to compete on a Stallion.
- *Junior competitors are required to be 12 years and above as at the 1st of January of the competition year.
- *Junior competitors are required to wear an approved helmet at all times while riding.
- *Minimum age of all competitors horses is to be 4 years old, as at the 1st January in the competition year (This does not include the Colt Start)

OPEN SNAFFLE BIT CUTTING

Below rules are guidelines are the rules of The Australian Cowgirl Open Cowgirl Cutting Class - Open Snaffle Bit Cutting.
All Rules and Guidelines for The Australian Cowgirl Events also apply to this special event.
General Guidelines - Open Snaffle Bit Class

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- This class is open to all Ladies and all horses regardless of age & regardless of earned money by competitor.
- Competitor will show in a Snaffle Bit with split reins, regardless of horse's age.
- Competitor can show in any saddle.
- Chaps & Chinks NOT Required.
- Open to any rider 12yrs and over.
- Should the Championship result in a draw, there will be a run off to decide 1st and 2nd placings.
- Placings to 6th place with ribbons and prizes, buckles for Champion and Reserve Champion
- Time Allowed for each horse to work is two and a half (2.5) minutes
- The judge/s will discuss their requirements prior to competition.

Equipment - Open Snaffle Bit Class

- Snaffle Bit shall be either "D" or "O" Ring type
- Snaffle Bit should be no larger than 4 inches in diameter on the inside of the cheek piece ring. It must have a broken, 2 piece, mouth piece, being a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch in from the inside of the ring on the snaffle bit, with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle.
- The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal.
- It may be inlaid but must be smooth.
- Latex wrap is not acceptable.
- These bits must be such that when the reins are pulled no undue leverage is applied, i.e. the inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or head stall attachments.
- A leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used. No iron, chain or other material may be used. Chin Strap is allowed to include metal buckles and/or keepers on snaffle bits only.
- Reins are to be attached above the chin strap.
- Split reins must be used; no closed reins.
- Two hands must be used on the reins, except in the herd work or to provide safety to rider or adjust equipment.
- Rider or representative may be required to drop the bridle to the designated bridle checker or judge. The bridle checker may have a magnet to check chin straps for metal objects (inside) or cores. Designated bridle checker /judge will not touch horse's mouth. Failure to drop bit for bit checker will result in a score of zero.

Illegal Equipment - the following equipment is considered illegal and should not be used at any time, in any location, including, but not limited to, barns, stalls, practice area and show arena:

- Tie-downs
- Saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack hackamores.
- Any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail.

