

Penalties in Reining

This is just a guideline, get a current copy of the NRHA Rule Book for full details.

1/2 point penalty

- a) a delayed change of lead by one stride
- b) starting a circle at a jog
- c) exiting a rollback at a jog up to 2 strides
- d) for over or under spinning up to 1/8 of a turn
- e) failure to remain 20 feet away from the wall or fence when approaching a stop or rollback.

1 point penalty

- a) each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to penalize by 1 point. The penalty for being out of lead is accumulative, so the judge will add 1 penalty point for each 1/4 of the circumference of a circle that the horse is out of lead.
- b) for over or under spinning up to 1/4 of a turn

2 point penalty

- a) break of gait
- b) freezing up in spins or rollbacks
- c) on walk in patterns, cantering prior to reaching center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure
- d) on run in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to reaching the first marker
- e) if a horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop
- ** f) at a circle departure or when exiting a rollback, jogging beyond two strides but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 the length of the arena.

5 point penalty

- a) spurring in front of the cinch
- b) use of either hand to instill fear or praise
- c) holding the saddle with either hand
- d) blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking

Score 0

- a) failure to complete pattern as written
- b) use of two hands (except in classes designated for 2 hands) or changing hands
- c) use of romal other than as outlined in rule book
- d) use of more than index finger or first finger between the reins
- e) performing maneuvers other than in specified order
- f) the inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including but not limited to backing more than 2 strides
- g) equipment failure that delays completion of pattern
- h) balking or refusal of command where pattern is delayed
- i) running away or failing to guide
- ** j) jogging in excess of 1/2 a circle or 1/2 the length of the arena
- k) fall to the ground by the horse or rider
- l) dropping a rein to the ground while the horse is in motion
- m) failure to have the correct exhibitor number displayed
- n) failure to wear appropriate western attire, (boots, long sleeved shirt, hat)
- o) turning more than 90 degrees

No Score

- a) break the law in regards to exhibition or care of animals
- b) abuse of an animal in the show arena or evidence that abuse has occurred
- c) use of illegal bits and equipment
- d) use of whips or bats
- e) use of any attachment which alters the movement of the tail
- h) failure to dismount and drop the bridle to designated judge
- i) disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor
- j) judge may excuse a horse at any time for unsafe or improper exhibition