

Free-Style Reining

Free-style reining provides an opportunity to creatively use maneuvers that a cow horse must use, but also expands them to music by means of choreography. Riders are encouraged to use musical scores which permit them to show the athletic ability of the horse in a crowd appealing way.

Required Maneuvers

- Minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the right
- Minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the left
- Minimum of 3 stops
- Minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from right to left
- Minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from left to right

Failure to perform all the required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time limit will result in a 0. Additional maneuvers such as rollbacks, backups, speed variations, and non classical reining maneuvers such as half pass and side pass are appropriate in Free-Style and shall be given appropriate credit. Additional repetitions of required maneuvers are appropriate, but will only add or subtract from the existing scores already given for the required maneuvers, not as additional scores.

Time Limit

Maximum of 4 minutes including any introductions—Time limit will be from the beginning of the music or from the beginning of the introduction (whichever is first) and will end with the music.

Hands

Exhibitors are allowed to use two hands (as well as one or no hands) and any bit approved by the NRHA rule book, including snaffle bits and bosals approved for use in the snaffle bit or hackamore classes.

Costumes

Costumes are permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the reining maneuvers to music.

Props

Props are permitted but at no time may hinder the judges' view of the horse. The use of props will not add to the score.

Inappropriateness or Offensiveness

Competition Management will reserve the right to rule on music or dress which may be inappropriate or offensive to the spirit and nature of the competition. Competition management may also determine the use of special lighting.

Equipment

Equipment used in free-style must adhere to the following standards:

- All equipment must be non-abusive and humane based on Federation and NRHA Rules and guidelines.
- Any equipment not specifically covered by or in conflict with standard equipment guidelines must be non-abusive to the horse.