

EFFECTIVE DATE 1 AUGUST 2011

BEGINNER RIDER RULE:

1. Beginner classes are Walk/Trot/Jog classes only and are intended to be an introduction to the basic western events for new riders or those new to western riding.
2. Equipment and attire to be safe, neat and tidy. A Beginner Rider may ride any horse in any approved western headgear. Bridled horses may be ridden two handed.
3. Beginner Riders may only compete in Beginner classes – as soon as they enter any Improver class or any other event that requires a lope/canter they are no longer eligible for Beginner.
4. At the end of each show season the Improver Committee will review the Beginner status of each rider. If the person is deemed to be ready to move up to Improver status they will be excluded from Beginner classes the following season.
5. Beginner classes will only be offered in Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Trail and Hunter Under Saddle.

IMPROVER RIDER RULE:

1. Improver classes are intended to be an intermediate level between Beginner and Open, or, in certain circumstances, for riders returning to the sport after a lengthy break, injury or other approved reasons.
2. In an Improver Class equipment and attire to be safe, neat and tidy. An Improver Rider may ride any horse in any approved western headgear. Bridled horses may be ridden two handed, however if competitor starts a class one handed, they must continue one handed, ie they will be penalised if they “two hand” during that class. Similarly, if a class is started two handed the rider must continue two handed.
3. Improvers may enter *open performance classes, ie classes which are recognised by the AQHA, AAA or PHAA as point scoring however one win in an open performance event, regardless of the number of competitors, and they will not be eligible for that event as an improver at the completion of the show. For example – if the rider wins a 3yo Western Pleasure (even as the only competitor) they will no longer be eligible for Improver Western Pleasure at the end of the show.

Note: Improver riders need to consider whether they wish to jeopardise their Improver status by entering open performance events. To further clarify – an OPEN event is one for which the AQHA, AAA or PHAA will award points (including Amateur classes) – as an example an OPEN or ALL AGE Western Horsemanship class is not allocated points by the AQHA but is by the AAA therefore a win in this class (regardless of which association you are registered with) will put you out of Improver Western Horsemanship. Improver status is not affected by wins in Halter, Amateur Halter, Yearling Led Trail, Lunge line or Hunter In Hand (any age).

4. Improver events to be offered in all events except Western Riding.
5. Any competitor wishing to regain Improver status due to circumstances described above in (1) must apply in writing via their own club to the Improver Committee.
6. The Improver Committee shall be made up of the Presidents of the STQHA, NTQHA, NWQHA. TAC and PPHAT at the time.