



## 2025 PILOT PROGRAMS

### *Ranch Reining Class*

### *Slide Contest*

#### ***Slide Contests Pilot***

*October 2024* – With the growing popularity of reining both domestically and internationally, the National Reining Horse Association Board of Directors has approved a pilot program encouraging reining events to offer **Slide Contest classes** in 2025.

The resurgence of classes highlighting the signature sliding stop provides NRHA with an opportunity to increase participation among horses, riders, and owners while elevating the recognition and value of NRHA events. Starting in 2025, NRHA-approved events can host these pilot classes and provide feedback to help evaluate the potential for adding the class to NRHA's approved class list.

This initiative seeks to expand participation in reining events by introducing an accessible, fast-paced, and straightforward class that appeals to newcomers, seasoned competitors and spectators.

#### **Pilot Class Guidelines**

- **Results and Earnings:** Not recorded during the pilot phase.
- **Eligibility:** Open to all individuals and horses, with no membership or licensing restrictions.
- **Class Types:** Can be offered as Open, Non Pro, or Youth, as determined by show management.
- **Added Money:** No cap on added money. Classes can be jackpotted.
- **Entry Fees:** Cannot exceed 10% of added money.
- **Judge's Fees:** Cannot exceed the entry fee.
- **Retainage:** Show management determines the percentage (0% to 100%).
- **Payback Schedule:** Show management decides (e.g., Schedule A, Schedule B, or custom).
- **NRHA Rules:** Standard rules apply, including limits on horses per rider and judging requirements (e.g., 5-judge system to drop high and low scores).
- **NRHA Judges:** They may judge the class in the pilot phase.
- **Judging Criteria:**
  - Starts at a base score of 70.
  - Maneuvers scored on a -3 to +3 scale (Approach, Stop, Hesitate).
  - No marker penalties. All other penalties apply.

During the pilot phase, NRHA events are not required to apply to NRHA or submit any fees to the Association. Instead, NRHA staff encourages show management teams and exhibitors to share their feedback on the pilot program throughout the year.

“This is an exciting option for NRHA events to engage members with new opportunities and gain the interest of fans,” said NRHA Assistant Commissioner Christa Morris-Stone. “We are thrilled to see how it takes flight and look forward to it potentially becoming an NRHA-approved class.”

**Events hosting these classes are encouraged to send questions and feedback to:  
Christa Morris-Stone at [cmorris@nrha.com](mailto:cmorris@nrha.com).**