

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Statement of Policy

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SUMMARY

Warm Up Arena Policy

PROCEDURE:

The following are general guidelines that all show officials and show management should be aware of and help implement at NRHA events.

Show management should develop specific policies for their events, based on these guidelines listed below. Show management should make exhibitors aware of those policies by posting them in the show office and other areas.

1. Arena Plan. In support of the NRHA Animal Welfare Policy and to insure a safe and effective environment in which to school, Show Management should provide a written plan for safe schooling opportunities. The plan should include the maximum number of horses that are to be in the arena at any one time, as well as any specific times allowed for priority horses, for example futurity horses only. Stewards are to review this plan prior to the start of the show and advise Show Management prior to and during the show as to the functionality of the plan. Alcoholic containers and beverages are inherently unsafe and are not allowed in riding areas. Show Management has final authority.

2. Length of time riding. It is mandated at NRHA events that horses be not ridden in excess. The approximate guideline being not more than two hours of riding at a time. After riding, the horse must be rested with access to feed and water. Show Management, including Stewards, is not to use this policy, or other rules, to dictate how members train their horses. However, if a case of abuse is observed through over training, the policy, of other rules, can be used to compel the rider to rest the horse.

3. Welfare of horses. The welfare of the horse should at all times be considered paramount. It is important to recognize that we are obligated to present our horses in the most positive way at all times on the show grounds. The NRHA requires that horses are not to be ridden while in an unfit condition (ex. overly tired, obviously lame, etc.). Horses that are unfit should be stopped from riding, and responsible parties should seek veterinary assistance as needed. NRHA recognizes that arena conditions, particularly weather, will affect the appearance of a horse that is being worked. In most cases, simply slowing down the training and providing short rest periods will be of a benefit to

the welfare of our horses. As a guide to stewards and riders, horses that are “Out Of Air,” meaning any degree of respiratory distress, shall be immediately rested.

4. No dogs are allowed in the warm up areas or show arenas.

5. Tractor etiquette. The following guidelines may be enforced to ensure the safety of horses and riders during drag time:

- Horses may be required to stop forward movement or walk in such a way that does not endanger the horse or rider.
- Horses may be required to move to the side of the arena opposite from the tractor and drag.
- All riders will watch for and obey tractor driver’s direction.
- Warm up riding will continue ONLY after tractor and drag have exited the arena.

These guidelines apply regardless of the number of horses in the arena. Any violation of these guidelines may be viewed as unsportsmanlike conduct, which can result in disciplinary action.