

# EAST ALABAMA HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION RULES

Approved and Adopted: February 1, 2026

## PREAMBLE

The purpose of the East Alabama Horseman's Association is:

1. To set show dates for each member club.
2. To provide rules for the assignment of show dates.
3. To provide protection of member club(s) show dates.
4. To promote interest in horses and horse shows.

## RULES

### I MEMBER CLUBS

1. A qualified member club shall be defined as a club paying East Alabama Horseman's Association dues in accordance with these rules. Additionally, in order to qualify as a member club with voting privileges, such club shall have at least one (1) show during the regular show season. Any club failing to have at least one show per regular season shall no longer be considered a qualifying member club during the season and shall no longer have voting privileges. A member club that loses its' qualification for failure to pay dues or hold a show as provided here-in, shall not be re-instated or become a member club again except upon East Alabama Horseman's Association's approval.
2. A member club that misses three (3) consecutive meetings of the East Alabama Horseman's Association shall be suspended and may only be re-instated by the Board of Directors, if the Board desires such action, after a request for re-instatement by said suspended club.
3. Each club sponsoring a show recognized by the East Alabama Horseman's Association shall pay an annual fee of \$25.00 per show. All fees are due by February EAHA meeting. If dues are not paid by (or at) February meeting, the show date(s) will be declared open.
4. In addition to providing workers for the entire EAHA Fund raiser horse shows, each club will be required to furnish two (2) workers for all EAHA events, to include but not be limited to decorating and clean-up for the EAHA Awards Banquet. A penalty of \$50.00 per event will be assessed to each club that fails to furnish the two (2) workers required; \$25.00 for one worker. This rule applies to all events sponsored by EAHA.
5. A new club may apply for membership with East Alabama Horseman's Association by written letter of recommendation from an East Alabama Horseman's Association club in good standing. New clubs shall be admitted by majority vote.
6. Each club sponsoring a show recognized by the East Alabama Horseman's Association shall send \$1.00 from each entry fee for proceeds to purchase year-end awards; to be sent to EAHA within fourteen (14) days of your last show of the season.

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## II BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Each member club in the association will designate a person to represent their club as EAHA director. These directors will comprise the East Alabama Horseman's Association **Board of Directors**.
2. The Board of Directors will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Asst Treasurer, Point's Keeper, Youth Director(s), State Representative (AOHA) and Alternate State Director (AOHA). Election of officers will be held in October of each year. These officers shall serve for the term of one (1) year. They may be re-elected by the directors.
3. When a director cannot attend a meeting, the director may send a letter (or electronic communication) to any EAHA officer designating another person as his/her representative. This designated person must be a member of said director's club.

## III ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail at the Board of Director's meetings.
2. All business shall be at the will of the Board of Directors. Two-thirds (2/3) of the directors shall constitute a quorum.
3. At all meetings held by the East Alabama Horseman's Association, anyone may speak. When the presiding officer calls for a vote, each club will be allowed one vote only. Each club shall certify a representative to cast their vote.
4. The President shall be entitled to one (1) vote in case of a tie only.
5. Additional rules may be added by the Board of Directors, which will become effective the following season. Each club shall be notified of the Board of Directors' action. Rules will be discussed yearly during the January meeting.

## IV SHOWS

1. The association, with the aid of its members, will publish a show schedule with show dates of all member clubs in good standing.
2. Rules governing all club shows will follow the rules of Alabama Open Horseman Association (AOHA) as closely as possible.
3. The Board of Directors shall set show dates at an annual meeting in October and after the election of officers. Each member club will be entitled to hold no more than four (4) shows per season.
4. Each member club in good standing shall be entitled to the date or dates held the previous year. New clubs shall have first choice in a round robin of open show dates. Then a round robin for left over show dates shall be given to old clubs based on seniority.
5. During each season, the association shall sponsor at least two (2) shows that will be called the East Alabama Horseman's Association fundraiser horse shows. The Board of Directors will select the time and place for these shows.
6. The President will be the manager of the East Alabama Horseman's Association fundraiser shows. A committee consisting of the directors from each club will assist the manager. In the President's absence, the next highest ranking available officer will serve as the show manager.

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7. Profits from the EAHA Fundraiser shows will go into the treasury of the association.
8. The association will recommend East Alabama Horseman's Association shows only. A member club may not have a horse show on the same date as another club with a sanctioned date within East Alabama Horseman's Association.
9. Each member club shall be responsible for its shows operation and management. The club shall assume the shows responsibility in full.
10. Show management reserves the right to ask anyone exhibiting unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct to leave the premises.
11. Each member club shall hold all mandatory classes that are adopted in February of each year. No changes in mandatory classes will be made after the February meeting.
12. Five (5) horses constitute a class. No club shall be compelled to hold a class for less than (5) participants – except mandatory and state classes.
13. There will be no free class entries for anyone at any East Alabama Horseman's Association affiliated shows.
14. Each club shall offer AOHA classes as listed in the directory of that year.
15. Horses 54" and under shown in a pony class cannot be shown in a horse class. (EXCEPTION: OPEN TIMED EVENTS.) Under no circumstances shall the height of the pony be over 54" or the age of the child is over 12 years. NO STALLION shall be shown in a pony class. Spotters may be allowed in the arena during a pony class at the discretion of show management. Spotters are to be alert for the **safety concerns of the children only** and shall provide such assistance as necessary to safeguard the children. **A spotter shall not help any child exhibit his/her pony.**
16. Costume Leadline – Every child must be sitting on horse (or pony) with child visible from all four (4) sides with no carts or wheeled attachments.
17. No stallion shall be shown in a 17 and under class, nor shall any stallion be handled by anyone 17 years of age and under.
18. Only one (1) horse/rider combination per class may qualify for the Alabama Open Horseman's Association (AOHA) State (AOHA) Show.
19. Two-Year Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure Class – Horse is to be shown with a snaffle or bosal. No two-year old horse shall be required to lope in the Two-Year Old Snaffle Bit Western Pleasure class before July 1<sup>st</sup>. A two-year old horse may be shown in other pleasure classes, at the discretion of the exhibitor. If an exhibitor chooses to show a two-year old horse in any other class that requires a horse to lope, the two-year old horse will be required to lope. The two-year old horse must take all gaits called for by the judge.
20. Horses six (6) years old and older must be shown in a curb bit. Horses five (5) years old and younger are to be shown with a curb bit, bosal or snaffle bit. (Gaited and Timed Event classes excluded.)
21. Western Halter Classes will follow AOHA rules regarding the use of a lip chain.
22. Judged Events – Participant has two (2) minutes from the time their class is announced to be in the arena (except for a tack change approval which the participant received in advance of their class being called).

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23. Timed Events will follow AOHA rules. Approved Double-Judged Shows: Timed Events will run one (1) time using two (2) timers. Participant has two (2) minutes from the time their name is announced until they break/start the timer (except for a tack change approval which they received in advance of their name being called); no re-run for broken patterns; NO REFUNDS.
24. Unpaid tabs must be paid within seven (7) days of the show to receive points earned during that show. Returned checks and all appropriate fees must be paid within seven (7) days of receipt of notice from the EAHA Club Show Manager (or the EAHA Treasurer if an EAHA fundraiser show) to the Association Officers and each Club Director that the check was returned. Until the tab or returned check is paid, the exhibitor will not be allowed to participate for points in future shows – including the AOHA State Show. Although these rules provide that the exhibitor shall not be allowed to participate for points in future shows, EAHA recognizes that delays occur which may allow an exhibitor to continue to show. If the exhibitor pays for the unpaid tab or returned check as provided herein, there shall be no forfeiture of any points earned. However, if the exhibitor fails to pay the unpaid tab or returned check as herein provided; there shall be forfeiture of all points earned at the show with the unpaid tab or returned check and all subsequent shows. As soon as the unpaid item has been paid, the exhibitor shall again be entitled to earn points. No points forfeited for failure to comply with this rule shall be reinstated. It shall be the responsibility of the EAHA Treasurer or the saddle club show manager to notify each saddle club and the points keeper that an exhibitor has failed to pay his/her tab or returned check.
25. Western Pleasure Classes – Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three (3) gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horse may be asked to extend the walk or lope, one or both ways of the ring. It is mandatory that a moderate extension of the jog be asked for in at least one direction with the exception of the youth 12 and under classes. The extension of the jog is a definite two beat lengthening of the stride and covering more ground. Cadenced and balanced with smoothness is more essential than speed. Lope with forward motion is the only gait recognized as a lope. Western riders should sit at the extended jog. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.
26. EAHA board of directors will appoint a representative from each currently active horse club to form the Youth Club Board annually during the October meeting.
27. Gaited Classes will follow AOHA rules.
28. Western Racking class rule: exhibitor rides using one hand but may not alternate hands. Calls for Western Racking:
  - a. Flat Walk;
  - b. Western Rack;
  - c. Back;
  - d. Do a 360 degree turn;
  - e. Pull Back into Line.

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## V POINTS

1. Each club shall keep a record of all points scored in their show and shall forward two (2) copies of the same to the association points keeper within four (4) days of the show date. The points keeper shall then forward one (1) copy to the AOHA Secretary within seven (7) days of the EAHA show date. (If the show is one week in advance of the state show, points shall be reported within five (5) days.)
2. Points will begin to count at the time a person joins a club that is a member of EAHA.
3. Points will be kept on HORSE and EXHIBITOR for all mandatory classes. Points for overall high point will be kept on the EXHIBITOR.
4. Points will be scored as follows:
  - a. Points shall be awarded to all horses placing 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. When a horse places, one (1) point is awarded for placing and one (1) point awarded for each horse beaten for a maximum of ten (10) points. **EXAMPLE:** Four (4) horses in a class, points will be listed as follows:

i. 1 <sup>st</sup> Place = 4 points	iii. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 2 points
ii. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 3 points	iv. 4 <sup>th</sup> Place = 1 point

No matter how many horses there are in a class, the maximum number of points to be awarded is ten (10) points. **EXAMPLE:** Nineteen (19) horses in a class, points will be listed as follows:

i. 1 <sup>st</sup> Place = 10 points	iv. 4 <sup>th</sup> Place = 7 points
ii. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 9 points	v. 5 <sup>th</sup> Place = 6 points
iii. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 8 points	
5. The number of points an exhibitor has attained throughout the EAHA show season will be posted periodically throughout the year to [www.achrc.com](http://www.achrc.com).
6. A Walk-in receives credit for the class, but NO POINTS. Other Entrants in the class who place receive credit for that Walk-in in their points. **EXAMPLE:** 1 of 3 entrants walk in – the points are: 1<sup>st</sup> Place = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = 2 points, Walk-in = 0 points.

## VI EXHIBITORS

1. A Youth is anyone who is 17 or under as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of each show year.
2. **To qualify for any East Alabama Horseman's Association (EAHA) award, members 13 years and over are required to volunteer two (2) hours at an EAHA association or club show. The member can pay \$50 per hour or may have a designee to work their hours.**
3. An individual may qualify as a beginner (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rider) if he or she has not ridden a Horse in a pleasure "type" class for more than two (2) years. The Exhibitor shall be qualified as a beginner rider for no more than two (2) show seasons. If the Exhibitor enters a horse in one (1) pleasure "type" event, the exhibitor will be deemed to have shown for a year although he/she may not ride in any other shows. An Exhibitor may thus be disqualified from riding as a beginner rider although he/she may not have ridden in more than two (2) classes. i.e. the Exhibitor shows in one (1) pleasure "type" event in 2021 and shows in one (1) pleasure "type" event in 2022, the

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Exhibitor cannot show as a beginner (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year) rider in 2023 or any subsequent year. Exhibiting a pony in a pleasure "type" event or exhibiting in timed events shall not be considered when determining an Exhibitor's eligibility as a beginner rider. This disqualification shall not be limited to shows sanctioned by EAHA but will also include the exhibition of a horse in any other group or association, whether open or registered.

4. Each Exhibitor must be a member of a club that is a member of the East Alabama Horseman's Association in order for points and shows to count toward year-end EAHA awards and/or qualifying for AOHA State Show.
5. Each Exhibitor must show a minimum of eight (8) times per class for an opportunity of end-of-year award for mandatory classes and one (1) of the shows must be an EAHA fundraiser show. Each Exhibitor must show a minimum of **six (6)** (prior to 2020, it was eight (8)) **times per class** and be in the **top 30 in points** to qualify for the Alabama Open Horseman's Association State (AOHA) Show.
6. **At entry of the arena**, each Exhibitor shall display Exhibitor numbers – except in Timed Events. (However, back number(s) are required for Timed Events at the AOHA State Show.) Number(s) shall be worn on saddle pad (**both sides**) for Western pleasure, Huntseat & English pleasure. Number(s) shall be worn on back for all gaited and halter classes. In Costume Leadline, numbers shall be displayed at most visible position on child, horse or handler. Anyone showing with wrong number, no number or missing their class/cut is disqualified and NO points shall be awarded to the Exhibitor for class placing. Show management shall be responsible for the enforcement of this rule and no exceptions shall be made by show management.
7. Exhibitor numbers may be obtained from show management. Numbers shall be issued on a first come, first serve basis. An Exhibitor may provide his/her own number. An Exhibitor providing his/her own number shall verify with show management (at each EAHA Show where they participate) that the number has not been issued for the show date. If the number has already been issued for the show date, the Exhibitor must obtain another number.
8. Walk-Ins
  - a. After proper registration and payment for class(es):
    - i. (Judged)
      1. Horse and Exhibitor (with Back Number) should enter arena and not only present to the judge but also to the announcer so they can be correctly accounted for in the show records. They should not leave the arena until they have been acknowledged by both.
    - ii. (Timed)
      1. Horse and Exhibitor (NO Back Number) need only present to the announcer, since there is NO judge.
      2. It is no longer necessary for the Horse and Timed Eventer to cross the timer. Simply, enter through the gate and be acknowledged by the announcer as a "walk-in".
    - iii. (Injured)

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1. WALK-IN EXCEPTION – INJURED HORSE: If horse is injured, then the Exhibitor (with back number for Judged Events) and the injured horse must be present on Show Grounds for each show. You must present a letter from your VET stating the horse's name and injury to Show Management for their approval to receive credit for a Walk-In – along with proper registration and payment for all classes.
9. NO REFUNDS for Walk-In's – you are receiving show credit towards qualifying for awards and the Alabama Open Horseman Association (AOHA) State Show.
10. SCRATCHES – NO Show Credit, NO Refunds. Any scratch must be properly reported to Registration personnel a minimum of three (3) classes prior to the class which you plan to scratch.

## VII JUDGES

1. No EAHA member can judge an EAHA show. No CLUB MEMBER can judge HIS/HER own club's show.
2. A JUDGE can judge two (2) shows in an EAHA show season but not for the same club.

## VIII GENERAL

1. All clubs shall encourage classes for youth participants.
2. NO substitution – hardship clause.

### IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALABAMA LAW, PROOF OF NEGATIVE COGGINS IS REQUIRED

#### Calendar of Events – EAHA Board of Director Meetings

**JANUARY** – AOHA and EAHA Rules Review

**FEBRUARY** – Review and Adoption of Mandatory Classes, EAHA Show Bill, and EAHA Rules for the upcoming show season

**MARCH** – Planning for show season startup (in particular our EAHA Fundraiser show to kick the season off)

**APRIL** – EAHA Fundraiser results and assessment, review any other shows (completed or upcoming)

**MAY thru AUGUST** – meetings scheduled as needed. Assessment and results of each show, addressing any opportunities. Preparations for both STATE Show Registration dates, as well as the AOHA State Show on Labor Day weekend.

#### **OCTOBER**

- Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Asst Treasurer, Points Keeper, Youth Director, State Representative, Alternate State Representative(s))
- Appoint a Youth Club Board – one representative from each active EAHA club
- Establish new year Show Dates for each Club (limited to 4 shows per club, per season) – after officer election
- Select EAHA High Point and Reserve Awards for upcoming EAHA Banquet

**NOVEMBER** – EAHA Banquet final preparations

\*\*\* Additional meetings occur almost monthly and are scheduled as needed \*\*\*

\*\*\* EAHA Board of Director meetings are OPEN to all EAHA members and prospective members \*\*\*