



Illinois Reining Horse Association

Rulebook

January 1, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP & REQUIREMENTS.....	3
LEASED HORSE CONDITIONS TO QUALIFY FOR ILRHA YEAR-END AWARDS	4
AFFILIATE SHOW AND YEAR-END AWARD CIRCUIT CLASSES & CONDITIONS	4
AFFILIATE SHOW AND NON YEAR-END AWARD CLASSES & CONDITIONS.....	6
YOUTH CLASS STANDINGS FOR YEAR-END AWARDS.....	6
CLASS STANDINGS FOR YEAR-END AWARDS	7
ILRHA POINT SYSTEM.....	8
ILRHA TIEBREAKER SYSTEM	9
CHANGES TO THE ILRHA RULEBOOK.....	10

MEMBERSHIP & REQUIREMENTS

1. Membership year is based on calendar year beginning January 1st and ending on December 31st. Yearly membership dues are required.
 - a. Youth membership is \$15 per year for members who are eighteen (18) years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current calendar year.
 - b. Individual membership is \$30 per year for members who are nineteen (19) years of age or older as of January 1st of the current calendar year.
 - c. Membership dues amounts may be changed by Board approval during the course of a year, and will become effective January 1st of the following year.
2. ILRHA Membership Cards will be issued upon membership dues being received and recorded.
 - a. Membership cards will be issued annually by the Board Member responsible per the ILRHA Bylaws for maintaining the current membership roster, or the person so delegated/Board approved to do so. Cards will delineate ILRHA membership, year of membership, and be signed by the current ILRHA Secretary or designated Board Member.
3. Members must be paid-up as a current ILRHA member prior to the closing of an ILRHA approved show for that show to count toward the ILRHA Year-End Award Circuit.
 - a. For the ease of payment record keeping, “closing of an ILRHA approved show” will be considered paid by the closing of the last day of a consecutive set of days of shows, e.g. for two shows running Saturday and Sunday, payment must be received by the close of the show on Sunday for both the Saturday and Sunday shows to be included toward the year-end circuit.
4. Delivery of membership application and applicable dues (cash or check) to any Board member will constitute as a “paid-up” membership prior to the closing of a show.
5. Membership in the NRHA is not required to become a member of the ILRHA.
6. Membership in the NRHA is required to ride in NRHA approved classes at ILRHA approved shows.
7. Membership in the ILRHA is required for all ILRHA Board members, and must be paid up by January 1st of each year of their serving term(s).
8. ILRHA membership may be denied, terminated, suspended, expelled by Board vote:
 - a. If the applicant is found to be under current probation or disciplinary action by the NRHA. Member’s points/scores toward Year-End Awards will be forfeited.
 - b. For non-payment of dues or show fees, or past history of failure to pay dues and/ or show fees. Member’s points/scores toward Year-End Awards will be forfeited.

- c. For unsportsmanlike behavior or inhumane treatment of a horse during the course of an ILRHA approved show as reported/submitted by the show representative, judges, or other show participants, and upheld via the NRHA disciplinary procedure. Member's points/scores toward Year-End Awards will be forfeited.
- d. For any illegal conduct or criminal charges deemed of significant magnitude by a majority vote of the ILRHA Board. Member's points/scores toward Year-End Awards will be forfeited.
- e. For other cause after Board review and majority vote. Member's points/scores toward Year-End Awards will be forfeited.

LEASED HORSE CONDITIONS TO QUALIFY FOR ILRHA YEAR-END AWARDS

The following applies to owner(s) leasing a horse prior to points/scores counting toward ILRHA Year-End Awards:

- a. Lease information must be updated yearly.
- b. "Lessee" will be considered the "owner" for the duration of the lease.
- c. Lessee must inform the ILRHA of the lease terms. Minimum information required is:
 - i. Lessor name
 - ii. Lessee name
 - iii. Horse's registered name
 - iv. Start/End dates of the lease.
- d. This information must be provided in writing to the ILRHA Secretary:
 - i. When the Lessee's membership form is submitted – or -
 - ii. Via email or snail-mail to the ILRHA Secretary
- e. Points will be applied to shows occurring after receipt of the lease information and will not be retroactively calculated for late submissions.

AFFILIATE SHOW AND YEAR-END AWARD CIRCUIT CLASSES & CONDITIONS

- 1. ILRHA may provide an Overall High-Point Award for an ILRHA-hosted event.

- a. Entries (same horse/rider combo) must show in both/all event shows under the same class and conditions at a single ILRHA-hosted event to be considered for the Overall High-Point Award.
2. The following classes will be included in the ILRHA Year-End Awards Circuit:
 - a. Youth 13 <
 - b. Youth 14-18
 - c. Green Reiner Level I
 - d. Green Reiner Level II
 - e. Rookie Level I
 - f. Rookie Level II
 - g. Novice Horse Non-Pro Level I
 - h. Novice Horse Non Pro Level II
 - i. Novice Horse Open Level I
 - j. Novice Horse Open Level II
 - k. Limited Non-Pro
 - l. Intermediate Non-Pro
 - m. Non-Pro
 - n. Prime Time Rookie
 - o. Prime Time Non-Pro
 - p. Rookie Professional
 - q. Limited Open
 - r. Intermediate Open
 - s. Open
3. It is the responsibility of the owner/rider to be aware of the NRHA/ILRHA status of the horse and rider.
4. All other class conditions are as shown in the NRHA Handbook.
 - a. Entries found to be in violation of class conditions will forfeit all points/scores accumulated toward ILRHA Year-End Awards for each class the rider/horse combination or horse (class dependent) has been in violation of class conditions during the current show year.

AFFILIATE SHOW AND NON YEAR-END AWARD CLASSES & CONDITIONS

1. ILRHA may provide an Overall High-Point Award for an ILRHA-hosted event for the following classes, but the listed class(es) will NOT be included in the ILRHA Year-End Awards Circuit. Entries (same horse/rider combo) must show in both/all event shows under the same class and conditions at a single ILRHA-hosted event to be considered for the Overall High-Point Award.
 - a. Green Horse
2. The following classes will NOT be included for an Overall High-Point Award in an ILRHA-hosted event and will NOT be included in the ILRHA Year-End Awards Circuit:
 - a. Ride & Slide Level I
 - b. Ride & Slide Level II
 - c. Short Stirrup
 - d. Youth Rookie
3. It is the responsibility of the owner/rider to be aware of the NRHA/ILRHA status of the horse and rider.
4. Green Horse class conditions:
 - a. A horse may compete in ILRHA-hosted events if the horse has won less than \$500 in NRHA lifetime earnings, or has 25 or fewer points in any recognized reining competition as of January 1st of the current calendar year.
5. Affiliate show and non year-end class conditions are as shown in the NRHA Handbook.
 - a. Entries found to be in violation of class conditions will forfeit all points/scores accumulated for each class the rider/horse combination or horse (class dependent) has been in violation of class conditions during the current show.

YOUTH CLASS STANDINGS FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

1. This section pertains to standings for the Youth 13 < and Youth 14-18 classes in ILRHA approved shows.
2. Standings “year” encompasses ILRHA Year-End Award Circuit approved shows falling between January 1st and December 31st of the current year.

3. ILRHA Youth will be assigned points and placed for their respective age classes using the ILRHA point and tiebreaker systems as defined in this rulebook.
4. 50% Rule: Horse/rider combination must show in a minimum of 50% of the approved ILRHA Year-End Circuit shows in a designated class to qualify for that class's Year-End Award.
 - a. The rider must be a paid-up ILRHA member prior to the end of a show for that show to count toward the 50% rule.
 - b. In the event of an odd number of total shows in the circuit, standard rounding will be used to determine the 50% minimum – e.g. 9 shows total, 50% rule is 4.5 which rounds up to 5 shows required to meet the 50% qualification.
5. Current ILRHA standings for year-end awards will be published on the ILRHA website, and may be included in mailed newsletters. Standings will be updated after each show and reflect the following:
 - a. Class
 - b. Horse/rider names
 - c. Point totals to-date
 - d. An “*” will be displayed for any horse/rider combo having earned points and also having met the 50% rule to-date.
 - e. For the final year-end standings, only horse/rider combos who have both earned points and met the 50% rule will be reflected.

CLASS STANDINGS FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

1. This section pertains to standings for all ILRHA Year-End Award classes excluding the Youth 13 < and Youth 14-18 classes in ILRHA approved shows.
2. Standings “year” encompasses ILRHA Year-End Award Circuit approved shows falling between January 1st and December 31st of the current year.
3. ILRHA members will be assigned points and placed for their respective classes using the ILRHA point and tie-breaker systems as defined in this rulebook.
4. 50% Rule: Horse/rider combination in the following classes: Green Reiner Level I and II, Rookie Level I and II, Novice Horse Non-Pro Level I and II, Limited Non-Pro, Intermediate Non-Pro, and Non-Pro; and horse in the following classes: Novice Horse Open Level I and II, Rookie Professional, Prime Time Non-Pro, Prime Time Rookie, Limited Open, Intermediate Open, and Open must show in a minimum of 50% of the approved ILRHA Year-End Circuit shows in a designated class to qualify for that class's Year-End Award.

- a. The rider in all classes must be a paid-up ILRHA member prior to the end of a show for that show to count toward the 50% rule.
 - b. The owner(s) of the horse in the following classes: Novice Horse Open Level I and II, Rookie Professional, Limited Open, Intermediate Open, and Open must be a paid-up ILRHA member prior to the end of a show for that show to count toward the 50% rule.
 - c. In the event of an odd number of total shows in the circuit, standard rounding will be used to determine the 50% minimum – e.g. 9 shows total, 50% rule is 4.5 which rounds up to 5 shows required to meet the 50% qualification.
5. Current ILRHA standings for year-end awards will be published on the ILRHA website, and may be included in mailed newsletters. Standings will be updated after each show and reflect the following:
- a. Class
 - b. Horse/rider names for Green Reiner Level I and II, Rookie Level I and II, Novice Horse Non-Pro Level I and II, Limited Non-Pro, Intermediate Non-Pro, Prime Time Non-Pro, Prime Time Rookie, and Non-Pro classes.
 - c. Horse/rider(s)/owner(s) names for Novice Horse Open Level I and II, Rookie Professional, Limited Open, Intermediate Open, and Open classes.
 - d. Point totals to-date
 - e. An “*” will be displayed for any horse/rider combo or horse (class dependent) having earned points and also having met the 50% rule to-date.
 - f. For the final year-end standings, only horse/rider combos or horse (class dependent), who have both earned points and met the 50% rule will be reflected.

ILRHA POINT SYSTEM

1. The ILRHA point system will operate as follows for determining the ILRHA Year-End Awards:
 - a. Points will be assigned for each horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) participating in ILRHA Year-End Award classes at each of the current year ILRHA approved shows.
 - b. Points will be assigned to the horse/rider combos in the following classes: Green Reiner Level I and II, Rookie Level I and II, Novice Horse Non-Pro Level I and II, Limited Non-Pro, Intermediate Non-Pro, Prime Time Non-Pro, Prime Time Rookie, and Non-Pro where the rider is a paid-up ILRHA member.
 - c. Points will be assigned to the horse in the following classes: Novice Horse Open Level I and II, Rookie Professional, Limited Open, Intermediate Open, and Open where the owner(s) and rider(s) are paid-up ILRHA members.

- d. Points for each class will be determined by the number of paid-up ILRHA members participating in the respective class, at the respective show, e.g.:

If there are 7 riders in the class, of which 4 are paid-up ILRHA members, points for that class will be assigned on the following scale:

- 1) Highest scoring ILRHA horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) - 4 pts
 - 2) 2nd highest scoring ILRHA horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) - 3 pts
 - 3) 3rd highest scoring ILRHA horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) - 2 pts
 - 4) Last scoring ILRHA horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) - 1 pt
- e. ILRHA member horse or horse/rider combos receiving a score of “0” (zero), or scratching, will not receive points for that class.
 - f. ILRHA member horse or horse/rider combos receiving a score of “0” (zero) will receive credit for that class toward the 50% rule.
 - g. The total “starting” number points being assigned for each class will be determined by the total number of paid-up ILRHA members participating in the class, and will not be affected by ILRHA horse or horse/rider combos earning a score of “0” (zero) in that class.
 - h. In the event of scoring ties in a class between paid-up ILRHA member horse or horse/rider combos, the total points to be assigned for those tied places will be added together, then averaged and an equal number of points assigned to each of the ILRHA horse or horse/rider combos.

ILRHA TIEBREAKER SYSTEM

1. In the event of a tie for an ILRHA Year-End Award class, the tie will be broken using the following methods in succession until a year end champion is determined:
 - a. Cumulative total of points earned by the horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) for the respective ILRHA approved class for that year.
 - b. Cumulative total of scores earned by the horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) for the respective ILRHA approved class for that year.
 - c. Co-Champions
2. In the event of a tie for an ILRHA event’s High-Point award, the tie will be broken using the following methods in succession until a champion is determined:
 - a. Cumulative total of points earned by the horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) for the respective ILRHA event classes.
 - b. Cumulative total of scores earned by the horse or horse/rider combo (class dependent) for the respective ILRHA event classes.

c. Co-Champions

CHANGES TO THE ILRHA RULEBOOK

1. Changes to this Rulebook may be made with a majority vote of the ILRHA Board.
2. Approved changes will become effective on January 1st of the following calendar year unless via majority Board vote a change is deemed to require immediate implementation in the current year.