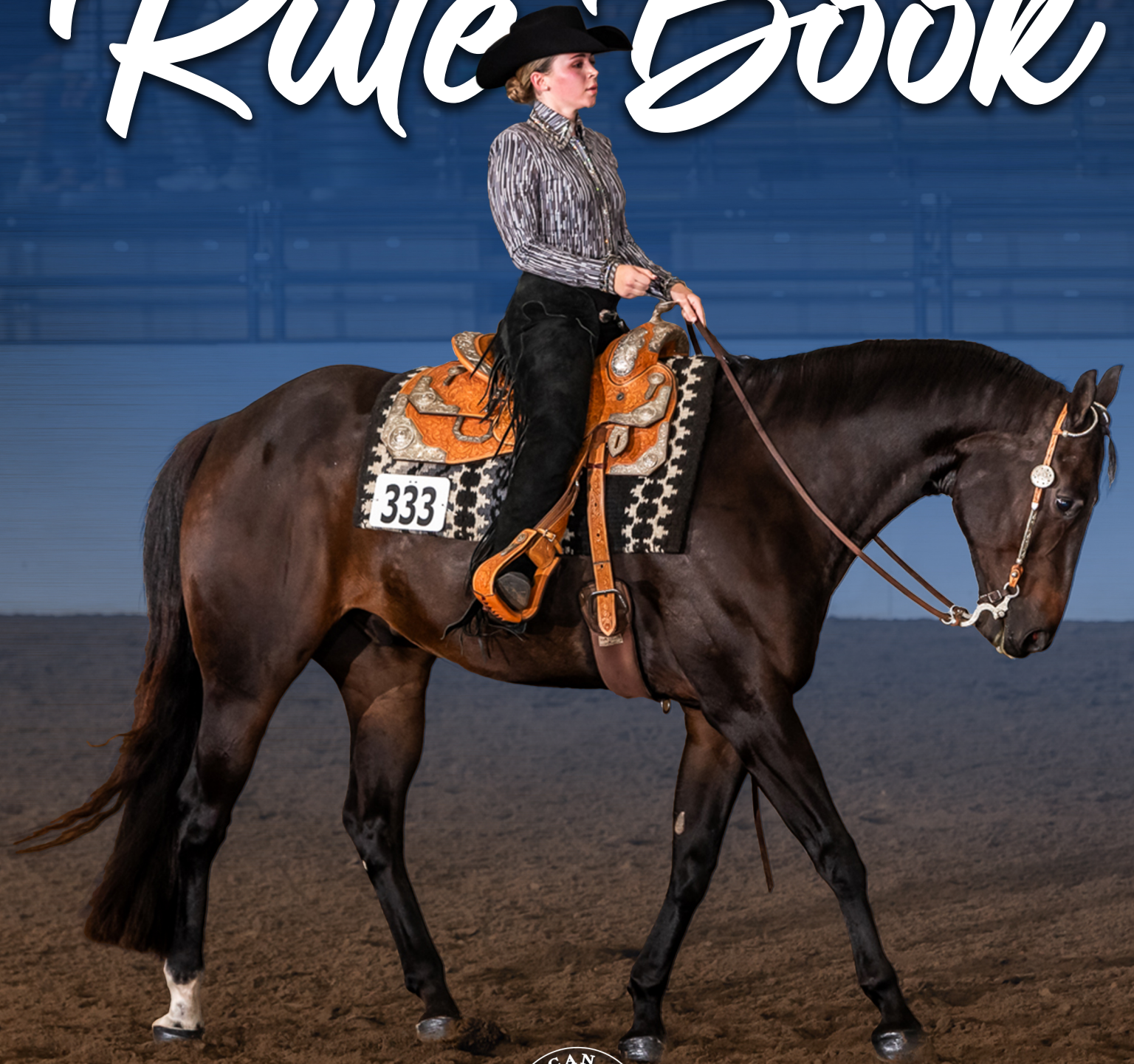


2026 ROYAL SHOWCASE

Rule Book



The American Royal: Royal Showcase

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2026

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SHOW RULES

1. **Competition:** Exhibitors are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable rules and regulations. An exhibitor who violates any part of the rules may be subject to forfeiture of privileges and premiums and to such other penalty as the Executive Committee may order.
2. **Interpretation:** The American Royal reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations used to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, or connected with, or incident to, the Show, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. The American Royal maintains the final and absolute discretion regarding the use or allocation of forfeited premiums or sale proceeds.
3. **Entry Information:** Go to <https://americanroyal.com/events/the-royal-showcase-a-youth-open-horse-show/> to enter the show online. The show will only accept online entries. All exhibitors must be pre-entered. Entries made after August 7th will be considered a post entry and will not receive the pre-entry discount. Exhibitors may enter additional classes on horses that are pre-entered at no surcharge on standard class fee cost. New exhibitors on a pre-entered horse after the deadline will not receive the discount.
4. **Erroneous Entry:** Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in filling out entry forms. Equine that have been entered in a wrong class will be transferred to their proper class upon application to management who will determine the matter upon its merit. If such classes have been judged, they will not be reopened.
5. **Fees:** Entry Fees are \$25 per class. The following classes have no entry fees: Lead line, Stick Horse, Stable Dog, and Ride a Buck. Warm-Up Classes will have a \$20 entry fee. Jackpot Classes will have a \$30 entry fee. Both Tack and Horse stalls are \$60 each. Feed, grain, shavings, and straw are available through pre-orders on entries or for purchase through the show office. Feed room prices are subject to change depending on the fair market value.
6. **Jackpot:** Jackpot Classes are open to any age division and will offer a purse of 2/3 of all entry fees in the following classes: 25. Western Pleasure and 89. Hunter Under Saddle
 - a. Payback in classes with less than five horses will be as follows: Five horses pay back to 3rd place, Four horses pay back to 2nd place, Three horses pay back to 1st place
7. **Refunds:** Requests for refunds must be received in the Horse Show Office with a veterinarian certificate. Entry fees, less a \$40.00 vet-out fee, may be refunded. There will be no refunds on stalls, bedding, parking, offices fees, or nomination fees (where applicable). The amount to be refunded may not be used as a credit toward a future event.
8. **Add/Scratch:** Exhibitors can add and scratch with the paddock manager before the class. There will be no refunds for scratches and adds will be applied to the show bill assigned to the back number.

- 9. Class Splits:** Classes may be split at the discretion of show management.
- 10. Returned Checks:** A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for all returned checks. Anyone with a balance due will not be eligible to enter future shows. No refunds will be given in the event of disqualification of exhibitors and/or animals.
- 11. Exhibitor Age Requirements:** Riders must be 8 years of age or older on January 1, 2026 to compete in this horse show in any division except Leadline 7 & Under, Walk-Whoa 8 & Under, and Stick Horse 5 & Under. All ages calculated as of January 1st.
- 12. Load In and Load Out:** Load in begins the Friday before the first show day at 10 am. Horses and tack are not allowed on property before this time. Horses can load out anytime during the show. Horses and tack must be out of the building by 7:00 am the Monday immediately after the show. There will be a fine if tack and horses are left in the building after 7:00 am on Monday.
- 13. Exercise Hours:** Warm up arena will be open 24 hours beginning Friday at 10:00 am. Ranch Arena will be available for warm-ups all day Friday. It will be closed Saturday and Sunday. Main Arena will be open to warm-up all day Friday. On show days, Main Arena will be open until an hour before the show then open immediately again after the show. Lunging will be allowed in Main Arena only on Friday.
- 14. Back Numbers:** Back numbers will be per horse and assigned by the show secretary when checking into the show office.
- 15. Show Office:** The show office will be open during move in from 1 pm – 7pm. The show office will open an hour before the show starts on show days and close an hour after the last class.
- 16. Assignment of Stalls:** The assignment of stalls will be made by the Show Manager. If unassigned stalls are used, the exhibitor will be charged for the additional stall(s). Every horse must have a stall. There are no jump outs.
- 17. Stall Area:** Any exhibitor defacing stall areas or any property within the American Royal Complex with nails, screws, paint, or any other substance will be charged an amount sufficient to repair damage. Exhibitors are not allowed to sell merchandise in their stall area. Please contact Sarah Davis at (816) 569-4012 or email marketplace@americanroyal.com if you are interested in vendor space.
- 18. Stallions:** Stallions are not permitted in any class for riders 18 & Under. Stallions are permitted in the regular (walk/trot/canter) 19 & Over Division, but not in Novice Classes 19 & Over.
- 19. Judges:** Judges are requested to be familiar with the rules and regulations of this show. Due to unforeseen circumstances substitute judges may be made without notification.

- 20. Decision of the Judge is Final:** The decision of the judge is final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is proven. In such case, the management or such referee as may be appointed may make the decision; or at its discretion, the case may be appealed to the Executive Committee, from whose decision there can be no appeal.
- 21. Lameness:** The judge shall examine and check for lameness of each horse in every class. The signs of lameness the judges will note include but are not limited to marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride, minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest, or the inability to move truly. The judge shall communicate any lameness to their ring steward who must remove an entry from the arena at the judge's discretion. Obvious lameness is cause for disqualification.
- 22. Code of Ethics:** To maintain a high degree of integrity, the American Royal Show Management reserves the right to disqualify any animals or exhibitors due to conduct, lameness, or any other reasons management seems fit.
- 23. Dogs:** Dogs must be under control of owner at all times and are restricted in certain areas.
- 24. Photographs:** Photographs of any animals or exhibitors taken at the show may be used for promotion of the American Royal without compensation to the exhibitor. All such photographs are to become the property of the American Royal, but exhibitors and other interested parties may order prints from the Official Photographer at their expense. Only photographers displaying the badge of "Official Photographer" are authorized to take photographs for sale on the show grounds.
- 25. Media Purposes:** By participating in an American Royal event, you consent to your voice, name, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in any and all media or any other purposes by the American Royal Association, its affiliates and representatives. You hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the American Royal Association from all claims and demands related to the use of these images. If you do not wish to appear in images, please speak with the American Royal communications department prior to the event.
- 26. Vendors:** If you wish to sell goods or services at the American Royal, you must register as a vendor. Anyone found selling items without the permission of the American Royal or outside of their designated vendor space may be fined an amount two times the cost of a standard booth space and asked to leave the property. For more information on becoming a vendor, please contact Sarah Davis at (816) 569-4012 or marketplace@americanroyal.com.
- 27. Weapons:** All weapons, concealed or otherwise, are prohibited on the American Royal Complex.
- 28. Phone Calls:** All phone conversations with American Royal staff or volunteers are informative only and are not to be considered binding in any litigation or entry acceptance.

29. Conduct of Exhibitors: If an exhibitor, in any way, whether in person or by agent, employee, or independent contractor, interferes with a judge during the exposition or demonstrates disrespect to the judge or the show, the management may exclude such exhibitor from competition and may also withhold from such exhibitor any premiums.

All exhibitors, parents, agents, employees, and independent contractors are expected to conduct themselves in proper fashion. Any disorderly conduct, theft, loud, profane language, or disturbances of any nature may be cause for disqualification from all American Royal events and shows and banishment from the premises.

EQUINE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

In order to maintain the integrity and biosecurity of the American Royal equine events and facilities, all Equus must provide the following documentation upon entering the American Royal property. All showing, non-showing, haul-in, or stabled Equus must provide health documentation. Failure to do so may result in the inability to enter the respective equine show until proper certification has been obtained or removal from the American Royal facilities.

Upon arrival to the American Royal facilities, all Equus must provide the following to the show office. Competition numbers will not be issued until the following information is provided:

Event Participation Declaration

- This [document](#) must be signed by the owner, agent, or trainer stating that the horse has been healthy with no sign of disease and has not had a fever above 102° within 72 hours (3 days) of arrival. Participation in multiple shows requires a signed Event Participation Declaration for each individual show at the American Royal. The Event Participation Declaration can be found at the end of this document, online at americanroyal.com, and in the show prize list.

Proof of Equine Health Documentation

- All Equus must provide the following documentation to the show office, regardless of state of origin. This includes horses residing in Missouri.
 - 30-day Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian
 - Negative EIA (Equine Infectious Anemia) test results (a Negative Coggins)
- The American Royal has the right to change the duration of the Health Certificate under guidance of the American Royal Veterinary staff.
- Failure to present these documents to the show office will result in proper testing by the American Royal Official Equine Veterinarian at the expense of the horse owner. The cost of testing will be \$85 at a minimum. Horses may be quarantined until a vet inspection is completed.
- Please keep a copy of all equine health documents in an easily accessible spot during the duration of the show. Random equine health checks will occur. Any horses showing questionable signs of illness are subject to examination by the Official Equine Veterinarian and/or show officials who then have the authority to place the horse in quarantine or take further action if necessary.

CLASS GUIDELINES

Tack: Western and Ranch tack may cross enter to allow exhibitors to enter both ranch and western classes more efficiently.

Novice: Novice classes are intended for beginner riders and may not cross enter in any loping or cantering classes. Novice classes are Walk/Trot only.

Walk-Whoa: We will offer six “Walk-Whoa” classes for children under the age of 8 and just beginning to show. These classes will be eligible for high-point awards.

Class Descriptions:

Warm-Up Classes: Warm-Up classes will not be judged. This is an additional opportunity for horses and riders to school in a class/show environment.

Western Horsemanship: This class is judged on the rider’s ability to control and show basic maneuvers of the horse. The rider’s ability to correctly execute the maneuvers of the provided pattern shall be considered more important than the horse’s performance.

Western Pleasure: This class is judged on the quality of movement, attitude, and mannerisms of the horse. Horses will be judged on the rail both directions at the walk, jog, and lope as well as on the back, and all transitions between gaits. In this class, the emphasis is on manners, performance, conformation, and soundness, as well as on neatness and cleanliness of horse, tack, and rider.

Versatility: This class is judged on the ability of the exhibitor to show both the Western and English riding disciplines. The class will start with the exhibitor and horse in the English style, then change tack and attire while in the ring to western. Each discipline will show both directions on the rail. Three “grooms” will be allowed to come into the ring to assist with the tack and outfit change. Carts are allowed.

Ranch Reining: This class is judged on the exhibitors to individually perform a specified pattern. The horse should rein and handle easily, fluently, and smoothly with reasonable speed through the pattern. Movements of the horse should be limited to those indicated in the pattern. Any additional movements will be considered lack of control.

Ranch Rail: This class is judged on the attitude and mannerisms of the horse as it maneuvers through a pattern that contains obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work.

Ranch Riding: This class is judged on the ability of the horse to complete the pattern in a smooth, responsive manner. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits.

Ranch Horse Conformation: This class is judged on the form-to-function combination of the horse. Each horse will be evaluated by the judge to find the best combination of balance, structure, substance/muscle, and way of going.

Ranch Horse Pleasure: This class is judged on the horse's responsiveness to the rider and smooth transitions between gaits. The horse should be quiet and willing to perform.

Showmanship: This class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to exhibit the animal at halter. Only the exhibitor is to be judged. The exhibitor will be asked to follow a combination of maneuvers to demonstrate their skills.

Hunter Under Saddle: This class is judged on the horse's functional correctness, way of going, manners, and condition. Horses will be judged going both directions at the walk, trot, and canter as well as on the back and transitions between gaits. Horses should be shown with light contact on the horse's mouth.

Hunt Seat Equitation: This class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to maneuver the horse through a pattern that shows the rider's equitation skills. Only the exhibitor is judged. The exhibitor should look comfortable, confident, and relaxed.

Lead Line: This class is open to exhibitors 7 & under. An adult or older junior exhibitor will lead the horse in hand as the young exhibitor is mounted on the horse.

Ride a Buck: This class is a winner takes all class. Exhibitors will enter the class bareback with a dollar placed under one leg. The class will show all gaits in both directions. The exhibitor who keeps the dollar under their leg the longest is the winner.

Stable Dog Class: This class is judged on the talent of the stable dog. There will be one dog per exhibitor. They will first show all entries at a walk. Then exhibitors and dogs will line up and take turns showing off their best trick.

AWARDS AND HIGH POINT

Ribbons: Ribbons will be awarded to 1st-10th place in each class. Warm up classes will receive warm up ribbons.

Awards: A first-place award is given to 1st place in each class. The awards will be available in the Main Arena. There will be a variety of first place awards, but once one type of award runs out for the day it is out for the day.

High Point: Points will be awarded per judges' placings. Points are based on how many horses show in a class. If there are 9 or more horses, the highest points go to the top placing horses. In this case the first-place horse would receive 9 points, second place will receive 8, etc. If there are 4 horses in the class, then only points 4-1 will be awarded (See chart below). High point is based on horse rider combination. The rider and horse must be entered in *at least one eligible class in a division* (see below) to be qualified and pay a one-time eligibility fee of \$5. There will be no bonus points and all class placings are final. The horse rider combination with the most points will be High Point Champion. In the event of a tie, the horse rider with the most 1st will win.

High point eligibility fee must be paid by 4:00 pm Saturday to be eligible for High Point. Any riders who have not paid the fee by the 4:00 pm deadline will NOT have their points counted for High Point. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

High Point Scale by Placing and Entry Number

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
9+	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1						
3	3	2	1							
2	2	1								
1	1									

High Point Awards

Champion: Belt Buckle

Reserve: Stool

ELIGIBLE CLASSES for High Point:

High Point 9-13: 1, 12, 21, 65, 76, 85

High Point 14-18: 2, 13, 22, 66, 77, 86

High Point 19 & Over: 3, 14, 23, 67, 78, 87

High Point 40 & Over: 4, 15, 24, 68, 79, 88

High Point Walk Whoa: 5, 16, 26, 69, 80, 90

High Point Novice 8-13: 6, 17, 27, 70, 81, 91

High Point Novice 14-18: 7, 18, 28, 71, 82, 92

High Point Novice 19 & Over: 8, 19, 29, 72, 83, 93

High Point Novice 40 & Over: 9, 20, 30, 73, 84, 94

Ranch Horse 9-13: 44, 49, 53, 57, 61

Ranch Horse 14-18: 45, 50, 54, 58, 62

Ranch Horse 19 & Over: 46, 51, 55, 59, 63

Ranch Horse 40 & Over: 47, 52, 56, 60, 64

Warm Up, Versatility, and Jackpot classes are not eligible classes for high point.