



Ranch Cutting Horse Event Rules

American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches

2016 General Rules

1. *The announcer will read the rules of the class before each class.*
2. Cutters will have 2 ½ minutes to complete their run.
3. The announcer will announce the cutter's name and call the start time. Then inform the cutter when one minute is remaining, and then call time. Cutters should stop immediately when time is called. Each cutter may use two herd holders and two turn back men.
4. The AFCC Church sponsoring the outreach event will be responsible for hiring a judge.
5. *The Judge and/or Ranch Cutting Team member will go over the rules with the contestants before the Ranch Cutting event begins.*
6. All RCH events are judged using a modified version of the NCHA's official rules. The modifications will pertain only to scoring as it relates to reining a horse. Contestants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules. i.e. back fence, hot quit, etc.
7. Consideration shall be given to the content of a run completed without reining a horse. A participant shall not be penalized for guiding or reining a horse on a loose rein. A participant excessively reining a horse or using direct force by jerking or pulling a horse around may be penalized. This rule may be subject to each individual judge's interpretation.
NOTE: Using 2 hands is not a deduction.
8. **Dress Code** while competing will be a button up shirt with a collar, long or short sleeve, and Cowboy Hat. Chaps are optional.
9. Rider eligibility for the year will be determined October 1st of each year and will remain the same for the next 12 months. (Example: If a person has not earned NCHA, WCHA or ACHA money by October 1st of the physical year, and then earns NCHA money October 15th, he or she will be eligible to continue showing in the current class they were eligible for on October 1st. If a horse has not won NCHA, WCHA or ACHA money by October 1st and wins NCHA money during the year, it is still eligible for the class it was eligible for October 1st.)
10. *Call-Ins prior to event are permitted and should be advertised to estimate the number of entries for event.*

11. Permission may be granted for anyone to show another owner's horse in any class, as long the horse and rider meet Ranch Cutting Horse requirements.
12. A horse may be entered in multiple classes with the same rider at an RCH event provided the horse and rider meet the minimum requirements for that class.
13. All horses must have current negative Coggins (within one calendar year of event.)
14. Proof of horse eligibility may be requested by the AFCC Ranch Cutting Team at any point. All information will remain confidential.
15. Any rider and/or horse may move up in class and not affect their current classification. But if you become a professional cutting horse trainer you will no longer be eligible to compete as a Non-Pro.
16. If you feel you or your horse has been put in the wrong class and should be re-classified, or you would like to protest someone else's eligibility for another class, you may file a written appeal as to why you should be re-classified and the other person, mail it to AFCC Ranch Cutting Team, PO Box 6852, Texarkana, TX 75505. If you do win your appeal, it will not have any effect on the results of past shows, only on future shows.
17. The Judge and/or AFCC Ranch Cutting Team Member present has the right to move any horse or rider that does not fit the class requirements. The AFCC team will also review any written protest of wrong class entries and enforce rules as required. All protests should be mailed to: AFCC Ranch Cutting Team, PO Box 6852, Texarkana, TX 75505.

If you have any questions call one of the following AFCC Ranch Cutting Team Representatives:

Brian Cross	903-335-9830, AFCC National Team Leader
Homer Dickey	903-570-7000, AFCC Field Representative
Dustin Adams	469-396-8388, AFCC North Central Team Member
Tuffy Loftin	979-412-1484, AFCC South Central Team Member
Seth Prichard	432-703-0899, AFCC West Team Member
Calvin Court	903-691-0515, AFCC Ark-La-Tex Team Member
Mike Legg	256-565-6206, AFCC Southeast Team Member
James Prater	972-880-9730, AFCC DFW Area Team Member
Brandon Darnold	432-272-9249, AFCC West Texas Team Member
Mike Combs	817-219-1380, AFCC Central Texas Team Member

Classes

Cutting Classes:

1. **Open Class** – Any rider (Including professional cutting horse trainers) on any horse. The horse can be a NCHA, ACHA or WCHA money earner.
2. **Non-Pro Class** – Any rider who has earned money in the NCHA, ACHA or WCHA and has not trained cutting horses professionally within the last 5 years, on any horse that has earned NCHA, ACHA or WCHA money.
3. **\$3,000 Novice Horse Class** – Any rider, on a horse that has won less than \$3,000 **Combined** NCHA, ACHA, WCHA and AFCC.
4. **Amateur Class** – Any rider who has won less than \$15,000 **Combined** in the NCHA, ACHA, WCHA **and** AFCC money. If rider has won more than \$15,000 in the NCHA, ACHA, WCHA and AFCC, they must move up to the Non-Pro Class.
5. **Youth Cutting Class** – 18 years and under as of 10/01/15. Herd work is required. Horse or Rider can have won NCHA, ACHA or WCHA money.

Ranch Classes:

1. **Youth Ranch Class** – 18 years and under as of 10/01/15. Herd work is required. Horse or Rider **cannot** have won any NCHA, ACHA, WCHA or **Any** Stock/Cow Horse Associations, APHA, AQHA etc. money.
2. **PeeWee Class** – Non Competitive Class. 11 years of age or younger as of 10/01/15. PeeWee must declare on the Entry form if working herd or single cow. Participants can work the cow anywhere in pen. Suggested entry fee for PeeWee is \$10 of that \$5 goes back to AFCC for buckles for Finals.
 - PeeWee that work the herd will be given 2 minute time limit with a 1 minute warning.
 - PeeWee that work single cow will have one cow at a time in pen for one minute each.
3. **Ranch Horse Class** – Any rider who has not trained cutting horses professionally within the last 5 years, on any age horse that has not earned any NCHA, ACHA or WCHA money.
4. **\$500 Limited Ranch Horse Class** – Rider is limited to \$500 as of 10/01/15 in **combined lifetime earnings** from AFCC, **Any** Ranch, Cutting, or Cow Horse Assoc etc. Or, 5 points in these associations not including the AFCC. Rider cannot have won any money in the NCHA, ACHA or WCHA. Any Rider who has not trained cutting horses professionally within the last 5 years.
5. **\$250 Novice Ranch Class** – Rider is limited to \$250 **combined lifetime earnings** as of 10/01/15 from AFCC, **Any** Ranch, Cutting, or Cow Horse Assoc etc. Or, 5 points in these associations not including the AFCC. Any Rider who has not trained cutting horses professionally within the last 5 years.
6. **Exhibition Class** – (*optional*) Non Competitive Class. Suggested \$10 fee for any rider to run after end of show on re-run cattle. The class is a non-qualifier for finals. This is an ideal class for riders new to cutting. Pre-work for any horse at any level.
 - Suggest having Exhibitions run after each class throughout the show. Maximum of 5 runs on re-run cattle.

2016 Point System

NOTE: To be eligible for the AFCC Ranch Cutting Finals, you must fill out an Eligibility Form for the rider and the horse prior to showing at the first event of the year. If this form is not complete, you will not be eligible for the AFCC Finals. Sorry, no exceptions.

1. 30 finalists will be eligible per class for the 2016 Finals.
2. **To qualify for the AFCC Finals** – The horse and rider combination shown in the finals must be the same combination shown throughout the year. Classes at the finals will be filled from greatest to least shows attended with a minimum of 3 shows. Tie breakers will be determined by the amount of points earned that year.
3. **At each RCH event during the year, points will be awarded by the AFCC Bookkeeper in reciprocal order starting with 30 points. In the case of a tie, the total points available for those placings will be divided evenly between the riders involved.**
 - a. Example – 30 entries per class – 1st place will receive 30 points -- 30th place will receive 1 point.
 - b. Example – 10 entries per class – 1st place will receive 30 points -- 10th place will receive 21 points.
 - c. Example – 35 entries in a class – 1st place will receive 30 points -- places 30 through 35 will receive 1 point each.
4. Riders can compete in as many AFCC sanctioned shows in the US as possible, but **only the points from their top 3 shows will count towards qualifying for the AFCC Finals**. This is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.
5. **Points remain with the rider / horse combination throughout the year.**
6. All horses and riders that qualify for the AFCC Finals must be approved by the AFCC Ranch Cutting Team before showing in the finals, as specified in the AFCC Ranch Cutting rules.
7. At the AFCC Finals, the points will start over at the event.
(Points from the year will not be used. **Everyone starts over.**)
8. Earnings will be tracked on All Riders / Horses in AFCC classes for the 2016 season.

Entry Fees and Cattle Charges

NOTE: All entry fees and paybacks percentages are determined by the Arena Team sponsoring the ranch cutting event, based on related expenses and payback preferences.

Suggested Entry Fees and Cattle Charges:

Fees: These are suggested fees.

Adult – \$30.00

Youth – \$20.00

PeeWee – \$10.00 Half (50%) of entry to AFCC and half (50%) to Church.

Cattle Charge: Cattle Charges will vary from Cutting classes to Ranch Cutting classes as much as \$10.00, however Youth Class should be less than Adults and no cattle fee for PeeWee Class.

❖ **Recommend 1.5 head of cattle per cutter if possible**

Annual Finals Entry Fee Refund Policy: Cancellation of horse and or rider must be made 48 hours prior to Annual Finals Event to receive Entry Fee refund. Notifications made after the 48 hour deadline, contestant will forfeit all Entries paid.

***** Note – Cattle Charges will not be refunded. *****

Helpful Information:

Payout Options

Example 1:	Places Paid	Entries	Payout	Percentages
	1	1-6	1	100%
	2	7-12	2	60-40%
	3	13-18	3	50-30-20%
	4	19-24	4	40-30-20-10%
	5	25-30	5	30-25-20-15-10%
	6	31 & over	6	29-24-19-14-9-5%

Example 2:	Places Paid	Entries	Payout	Percentages
	1	1-3	1	100%
	2	4-7	2	60-40%
	3	8-12	3	50-30-20%
	4	13-16	4	40-30-20-10%
	5	17-21	5	30-25-20-15-10%
	6	22-26	6	30-24-18-12-9-7%
	7	27-31	7	28-23-16-12-9-7-5%
	8	32-37	8	25-20-15-12-10-8-6-4%
	9	38-43	9	23-18-15-11-9-8-7-5-4%
	10	44-50	10	20-16-14-11-9-8-7-6-5-4%
	12	51 & over	12	20-16-13-11-8-7-6-5-4-4-3-3%