

WWHSA Speed Rules (Feb. 2026)

WWHSA Speed Division will be governed by the following set of rules:

1. It is the responsibility of each member or competitor to read, understand, and abide by any and all rules of WWHSA.
2. The use of the term "horse" for WWHSA purposes shall refer to grade and registered horses, miniature horses, ponies, mules or donkey's.
3. Competitors must be a member of WWHSA and a member of a club (registered with WWHSA) for their points to count for WWHSA. They must also be registered with the treasurer of WWHSA before points will count. If wanting to join WWHSA the membership can be completed and submitted to the show secretary before any classes in order for them to count in year end points for WWHSA.
4. WWHSA speed and hosting clubs teamed together for shows. Please familiarize yourself with each of the hosting club rules.

Your Horse

1. Points are accumulated as a horse/rider combination. Multiple rider events held at shows will not count in WWHSA points calculations.
2. Only speed classes in which one rider remains mounted and in control of the same horse for the entire duration of the class are eligible for Year-End Points. Classes will not be eligible for Year-End Points if they involve: A rider dismounting at any time during the class More than one rider competing on the same horse Rider substitutions, exchanges, or relay-style participation All eligible speed classes must be individually ridden, timed, and judged with a single horse-and-rider combination from start to finish. Only classes that are specific to wwhsa age divisions are included in year end points calculations.
3. Membership will follow the rider if the horse is sold. Points will start over for new horse/rider combinations.
4. Age of the horse: there is no stipulation as to a horse's age that can be shown. The horse must be in good health.
5. All host clubs are to require a negative coggins test. Clubs may request to keep a copy and to see an original. All clubs should keep a copy on file.
6. Riders may show horses that they do not own.
7. Stallions may NOT be handled by anyone under 18 years of age.
8. Additional horses may be added during the year. Please contact the points keeper. There is no extra charge for additional horses per rider in the same division.
9. In the event of a deceased horse, you may substitute a horse and continue to accumulate year end points. ROM points will start over as a new horse/rider combination.
10. The use of speed enhancement drugs on horses in WWHSA is prohibited! Use of them could cost you your membership.
11. A horse may NOT compete against itself in the Senior Select Senior or Junior division classes. A class is defined: when a group of riders compete. After the class is over and the times are stated and placed out a new class begins. A horse MAY compete in different age groups at the same show. As an example a horse can compete in the Senior Select age group and Senior age group with different riders.
12. A horse MAY compete against itself in the same class in Tiny Tot division ONLY. Questions about this rule, please contact the points keeper/V-P speed.
13. **Leadline:** Riders must be **led at all times** by one handler on foot using a lead line attached to the horse's halter or bridle. The handler and must remain with the rider/horse throughout the pattern and cross the timer at the same time on the start and finish of the pattern. Riders must

remain mounted for the duration of the class. The handler may assist the rider for safety and direction but **may not ride or be mounted** at any time. Handlers may run/jog to keep pace but **must not pull, drag, or carry** the horse through the pattern. Excessive assistance, unsafe handling, or failure to complete the pattern may result in disqualification. If the rider moves to riding on their own throughout the year they must move up to their appropriate age division and their points do not follow them into that division. ROMS are not calculated for Leadline.

14. WWHSA speed division does not have novice class group. If the hosting club has one, no points will count for WWHSA. Rider must ride in WWHSA speed age groups for points to count for WWHSA.

Conduct:

1. Each host club or organization as well as WWHSA has the authority to excuse any unruly or unsafe horses or riders.
2. All exhibitors and patrons (including family, friends, etc.) are expected to conduct themselves with a positive sportsmanship attitude. Each host club or organization, judge, or show committee has the right to remove those who do not conduct themselves in this manner.
3. Any misuse (excessive hitting, jerking, abusing, yelling, etc.) of horses, other riders, fans, may be grounds for removal. The just or show committee will determine this.
4. Attire: Helmets are strongly recommended and can be required by hosting clubs. Hard sole shoes/boots are strongly recommended and can be required by the club. **NO SLIP ON SPURS!**

Hosting Clubs/Organizations Rights and Responsibilities:

1. At each hosting club show the show judge or show committee's decisions shall be final.
2. A designated person for each hosting club or organization shall be responsible for sending final placings to the WWHSA Speed points keeper within 2 weeks of the every show.
3. Each hosting club or organization has the right to run their organizations points system any way they choose, and NOT necessarily the way WWHSA does.
4. Each hosting club or organization has the right to run the events that they choose. Multiple rider events will not count toward WWHSA points. These events must be set up as close to the attached regulations as possible. However, if the event is deemed to be unsafe and cannot be run to regulation points may not count for WWHSA.
5. Each hosting club/organization has the right to run an open or shut gate and size of pattern as long as the pattern is complete and safe. Material for the arena is up to the club. The show judge or committee can determine safety matters as well as what events will be run and participant attire decisions.
6. All hosting clubs/organizations shall have an electronic timer. If it breaks and the show goes on the show judge or committee will make a determination on what kind of timer will be used.
7. Electric timer failure will result in a re-ride per club rules.
8. Any refunding of class entry money for any reason is the sole responsibility and decision of the hosting club/organization.
9. Tack failure can result in a disqualification and can be determined by club rules.
10. . Class Specifications:
 - A. Plug Race: 55-gallon barrel will be placed at least 100 feet from the timing line. The rider must go around the barrel and back across the timing line. The rider can turn the barrel in either direction. Tipping the barrel will result in a 5 sec. per barrel penalty or DQ depending on club rules.

- B. Keyhole Race: Six poles will be set up to form a tunnel with three on each side. The tunnel will be four feet wide and ten feet long. The rider must ride through the tunnel, turn around, and ride back through the tunnel and across the timing line. The rider can turn either direction on the turn around. Tipping of any pole will result in a 5 sec. per pole penalty Or DQ depending on club rules.
- C. Jumping Figure 8: A jump will be placed no more than 50 feet from the timing line. This jump will be no more than eighteen inches high and from eight to twelve feet wide. Three barrels will be placed in a straight line across the arena parallel to the timing line and at least 21 feet from the jump. These barrels will be 30 feet apart from each other. The barrels can be run either to the left or right. As the figure "8" pattern ends the rider rides back over the jump and across the timing line. Knocking down any equipment will be a 5 sec. per penalty upon the club's prior discretion. Breaking pattern will be a disqualification.
- D. Barrel Race: Three 55 gallon barrels will be set up in a triangular pattern. The first two barrels will be at least 50 feet from the timing line and 50 feet apart horizontally from the timing line. The third barrel will be 50 feet from the dead center between the first two barrels to make the tip of the triangle. The rider will ride a cloverleaf pattern. The first turn will be one direction with two turns in the other direction. The rider may go either to the left or right on the first turn. The run ends with the rider crossing the timing line. Knocking over any barrels will be either a five second penalty or disqualification, upon the club's prior discretion. Breaking pattern will be a disqualification.
- E. Speed and Action: A box 12 feet square will be marked out three feet in front of the timing line. The corners of this box will be marked with either cones or poles. A barrel will be placed at least 75 feet from the timing line. The rider will ride into the box, stop forward motion and wait for the judge to tell them to start. The rider must exit the front of the box; ride to and around the barrel in either direction, return across the timing line and stop in the box. Horse and rider shall remain in the box for five seconds. Disqualifications shall consist of: horse backing out of the start box, horse not starting their run from the front of the box, knocking over the barrel, leaving the start box prior to the judge's approval, running through the stop box after completing the run, or not remaining in the stop box for the full five seconds.
- F. Pole Bending/Weaving: Six poles will be placed with the first being 21 feet from the timing line and each of the five succeeding poles being 21 feet from the previous pole line. The last pole must be at least 21 feet from the arena fence. In weaving, the rider crosses the timing line and begins to do a spiral pattern around each pole and a turn around the final pole and then continues to spiral pattern on the return to cross the timing line. In pole bending, the rider crosses the timing line and proceeds directly to the far end of the poles, begins the weaving pattern back toward the timing line, makes a turn around the first pole from the timing line, then proceeds weaving back away from the timing line. After weaving the last pole, they turn and run directly across the timing line. Knocking down any poles on either part of the run will be either a five second penalty or disqualification, upon the club's prior discretion. Breaking pattern will be a disqualification.
- G. Other events: Individual Clubs can determine other events to offer. The rules will be explained by the individual club and patterns explained. If the rider has questions about the pattern they should be sure to ask the show office. Only single rider timer events will be counted for WWSHA points. I.e. No "double or more" rider events.

Age Groups:

1. WWHSA age groups are determined by the riders age on January 1st of said year. Please remember this when completing registration forms. The riders age shall be listed for the year as their age on Jan. 1, not on the show date.
2. Age groups are as follows:
 - Tiny Tot: 10 years and under
 - Youth: 11-13 years of age
 - Junior: 14-18 years of age
 - Senior: 19-39 years of age
 - Senior Select: 40 years and over

Points:

1. Points are given out in the following order regardless of how many riders are in the class:
 - 1st: 5 points
 - 2nd: 4 points
 - 3rd: 3 points
 - 4th: 2 points
 - 5th: 1 point

*each rider is also awarded 1 point for participating in the class.
2. A horse/rider combination team must complete at at least 5 speed shows in the year in order to qualify for year end awards. Points will still count toward ROMS as long rider/horse combination has been registered and membership has been paid for WWHSA in that year.
4. Points will always go on the first run. Even if the hosting club/organization allows for training runs.

Year End Awards:

1. All WWHSA awards shall be presented at the designated year end awards banquet at the time and place announced by WWHSA.
2. Only WWHSA may give out awards. No one person can choose to hand out individual awards unless approved by WWHSA in the event of a special circumstance, such as: death of horse, participant/rider, accident, disease, handicap etc. This must be approved by the V-P of speed prior to the awards banquet and approved by the WWHSA board who's decision will be final.
3. WWHSA reserves the right to combine awards due to low numbers in specific categories.
4. Awards are to be given out in the following classes: as a Grand Champion, Reserve, 3rd, 4th, and 5th.
 - a. Overall (in each age group)
 - b. Overall Barrels (in each age group)
 - c. Overall Pole Bending (in each age group)
 - d. Combination events (which includes all other horse/rider events) (per age group)

*other classes events will be added if approved and/or special awards as outlined above.

Special Accumulative Awards

1. 50 point – Register of Merit. The award shall be earned upon accumulating 50 points in the overall class.
2. 250 points – Superior – The award shall be earned upon accumulating 250 points in the overall class.
3. 500 points – Champion – This award shall be earned upon accumulating 500 points in the overall class. At least 50 points must be earned in the barrel class and 50 in the pole bending class to earn this ROM.

4. 1,000 points – Grand Champion - This award shall be earned upon accumulating 1,000 points in the overall class. At least 100 points must be earned in the barrel class and 100 in the pole bending class to earn this ROM.
5. 1,500 points – Supreme Champion - This award shall be earned upon accumulating 500 points in the overall class. At least 150 points must be earned in the barrel class and 150 in the pole bending class to earn this ROM.

Complaints:

1. All complaints to WWHSA must be submitted in writing to the disciplinary committee and accompanied with a \$10.00 fee. This must be sent within 7 days of the time of the incident that warranted the complaint. If the complaint is verified, the money will be refunded. If the complaint is voted down, the money will not be refunded. The complaints will be decided upon by the majority.
2. Any questions regarding these rules and the corresponding class rules shall be sent to the WWHSA president. The board will review and answer said question/s.