

# Reining Australia Para Reining Policy & Show Rules

## POLICY

Open to riders with physical and or alternative disabilities. Riders must submit a RA (Reining Australia) Para Reining Classification Request Form and Medical Diagnostic Form (found under forms and documents on the RA website)

<https://www.reiningaustralia.com.au>

### GRADE 1

Riders are typically wheelchair users with impairment to all four limbs, with core instability. The rider may be able to walk but only with assistance. Walk only patterns are included in this grade. Compensating aids are allowed.

### GRADE 2

Riders are typically wheelchair users or walking frame, with some varying levels of limb movement and core instability. The rider may be able to walk, but with limited balance and limb function. Jog and modified lope patterns are included in this grade. Compensating aids are allowed.

### GRADE 3

Riders can walk with or without support but have minimal use of limbs with core stability. Full lope patterns are included in this grade. Compensating aids are allowed.

### GRADE 4

Riders are impaired in one or two limbs (upper or lower) or are vision/hearing impaired. Full lope patterns are included in this grade. Compensating aids are allowed.

### GRADE 5

Riders with alternative disabilities that do not fall under Grades 1 to 4. Full lope patterns are included in this grade. Compensating aids are allowed.

#### *\*Visual Impairment*

*Visual impairment with a disability will be graded according to the physical impairment. Visual impairment with no other disability will be classified as Grade 3 or 4, according to their needs.*

## **Compensating Aids**

Riders are allowed to use the general provisions included in the list below. Provisions outside of the list will be considered at the discretion of show management.

- Specialty braces, and/or belts
- Trainer or handler may be present in the arena
- Boot adaptations
- Rein hand holds
- Rubber bands
- Saddle blocks
- Wedges and/or cushions
- Seat savers
- Safety stirrups
- Whips
- Communication devices

## **EA, FEI & RA Classification/Grade Process**

1. If a rider is EA/FEI classified, then that classification/grade will be honoured by RA. A EA/FEI classified rider is able to ride one grade above unless deemed unsafe by RA.
2. All riders who are not classified by the above, will be required to submit a RA Para Reining Classification Request Form and Medical Diagnostic Form (found under forms and documents on the RA website) effective 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 to receive their RA Para Reining Classification or a rider may choose their grade using the RA grading outline above but RA shall retain the right to place a rider in an appropriate grade if necessary.
3. RA retains the right to defer to the organising Show Affiliate Rules and Regulations at any time.

## **RA SHOW RULES**

- a) A rider may ride up to, but no more than three (3) horses per class. A horse maybe shown twice in the same class under two (2) different para reining riders.
- b) Helmets are **optional** in RA para reining classes. (Reining Australia endorses, and encourages use of helmets, but it will be left to the discretion of riders).
- c) Para reining classes may have added money.
- d) All riders must be a RA & an affiliate member. Affiliate Memberships are done through the club and RA (Reining Australia) are done through the Nominate App.
- e) The judges fee cannot exceed the entry fee.
- f) Show management can retain up to 50% of the entry fees.
- g) Riders may choose the size and speed of the circles when it is not specified in the pattern. "A judge(s) may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition caused by the horse and/or the rider. While each judge is required to disqualify any horse exhibited in the manners described above, it should be noted that in every case the exhibitor should be given the benefit of any doubt should any doubt exist".
- h) Riders are allowed to hold the saddle without penalty.
- i) Closed reins maybe used and include but are not limited to romal, roping, crossed, knotted or taped reins.
- j) Riders are allowed to change from one (1) handed to two (2) handed or vice versa as often as needed during the class except Grade 4 where only one (1) handed is specified in the Pattern.
- k) Exemption from dismounting during the post-check as long as an assistant is present with a halter and lead rope to aid in the post check areas.
- l) Riders may use any style of legal bit as outlined in the RA rulebook.
- m) Riders may enter in the "any handed class" riding their grade pattern knowing that they will receive a zero score. They will be at the end of the draw so that riders are not endangering para riders or vice versa in the arena, warm up arena and in-the-hole.
- n) Riders are able to compete in other classes provided they are able to perform the pattern at the specified lope/gait.
- o) One (1) handler per rider (unless disability calls for further handlers, in which case this is to be noted on the Judges Brief Form) may be present in the arena to facilitate the safety of the rider whilst competing and/or during presentations if deemed by the rider and/or show management. They must be eighteen (18) years or over and appropriately attired as required by arena rules. They must have a halter and lead for use if needed (lead must be attached to the halter and not to the bit) halter can be placed over, or under the bridle. Handler can stand in the corner of the arena or designated area. During presentations handlers may stand in a group.

- p) A companion horse maybe present in the warmup pen during competition, or present in the arena during presentations if deemed necessary by the para reiner and/or show management.
- q) Riders who use a specialty braced saddle may cease a pattern in order to be repositioned in the saddle and judges will cease scoring at this point. A handler or handlers are able to enter the arena to reposition the rider and make a saddle adjustment. There is no set limit on the number of adjustments in any set pattern.
- r) The rider or family members do not have to own the horse.
- s) Only geldings or mares can be shown in a para reiner class.

All RA approved shows will offer a para reiner class for each grade. Each para reiner will advise the show affiliate of their Grade, the pattern they wish to do and if a handler/handlers are being used using the Judges Brief Form (found under forms and documents on the RA website). <https://www.reiningaustralia.com.au>

The winner and place getters of each grade will receive ribbons and or prizes set aside for that class.

1. At RA National shows, there will be a Buckle awarded to the winner of each Grade and a Championship Buckle will be awarded to the overall winner. All ties for 1st place will be worked off if the tied exhibitors agree to participate in a run-off (but must complete the same pattern that they previously ran in their grade) Tied exhibitors have the alternate option of agreeing not to run-off and to be named co-champions but must determine the winner of the awards by a mutually agreed upon tiebreaker such as a flip of a coin.
2. A perpetual trophy (independently supplied by ACPH Australian coloured performance horses) will also be awarded to the para reiner with the highest score at the National Show.
3. Para Reiners are not required to qualify to compete at the State and National Shows