

Boxing Cow Work Judging Criteria

- The goal of this class is to introduce the rider to the “boxing” phase of the cow work. Judging begins when the contestant enters the arena.
- There shall be no schooling between the completion of the rein work and the cow work, or between cows if a new cow is awarded. The penalty for this is -0-.
- Each contestant, upon receiving a cow in the arena, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow.
- It is legal to hold the reins and romal in one hand (rein hand) while boxing the cow.
- Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena.
- The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. The horse will be scored using the “Boxing cow work scoring guidelines”.

New Cow:

- When enough cows are available, the contestant should receive a new cow if the cow drawn is unreasonably difficult or unworkable. The judge will indicate new cow by blowing his/her whistle twice – indicating the awarding of a new cow.
- Allowing the horse to quit working before the judge signals for a new cow will result in a zero score. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work.
- If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, he or she must initiate the pull up immediately: instantly, at once, without delay.
- If the exhibitor is using a bridle or two-rein setup, he/she must not use two hands at any time; either when pulling up from the cow being worked, or while waiting for the new cow.
- From the time the exhibitor enters the arena until the final whistle, signifying the work is complete, the pair are being judged.
- If two hands are used on the bridle reins at any time, a score of zero will be applied. With a multiple judge system, any one of the judges may terminate the work or signal for a new cow.
- In the case of an emergency (Such as a person falling into the arena or part of the arena falling apart) the judge may blow two whistles for a second time. At this point, the contestant has no option to continue and must receive a new cow. Contestant must pull up immediately or a score of zero will be given.
- During the cow work, when a cow leaves the working area, it is automatic that the contestant will receive a new cow and scoring will begin again with the new cow, unless the contestant has been awarded a new cow and opted to continue working the current cow.
- Once a rider has committed to circling a cow, if the cow falls down no new cow will be awarded. The rider should complete the run by riding around the fallen cow to fulfill circling requirements.
- In the case that a rider is awarded a third cow, the rider will have the option to work their new cow or to rest their horse and work their new cow at the end of the next set. If the rider is in the last set of the class, they shall be afforded up to 20 minutes for their horse to recover before working the third cow. If the rider elects to leave the show arena, the horse must stay in the warm-up area adjacent to the show arena. If the horse leaves the warm-up area or works a cow, the run will result in a 0 score.

Terminating the Work:

- If at any time a judge feels that the contestant is out of control endangering themselves and/or their horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a score of zero will be given.
- The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. The horse will be scored using the “Boxing cow work scoring guidelines”.

Boxing Cow Work - Penalty Points:

1 point penalties:

- Loss of working advantage
- Working out of position
- Excessive hollering

3 point penalties:

- Dangerous Position
- Loss of control and animal leaves the end of arena

5 point penalties:

- Spurring or hitting in front of cinch at any time or excessively whipping or spurring the horse
- Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking or obviously insubordinate

-0- score:

- Turn tail
- Using 2 hands on the reins when using a bridle or two rein
- Fingers between the reins, except when using a two rein
- Balking
- Extremely out of control
- Bloody mouth (inside)
- Illegal equipment
- Leaving the work area before the pattern or work is complete
- Fall of horse or rider
- Schooling of the horse between the rein work and cow work
- Schooling of the horse between cows if a new cow is awarded
- Improper Western Attire
- Failure to work in the proper working order

N-E

- Failure of an exhibitor to attempt to complete the work (call for cow)

No Score

- Abuse
- Lameness of the horse

Credits:

- Maintaining control of cow at all times
- Maintaining proper position
- Degree of difficulty
- Eye appeal
- Time worked