

# **Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series**

## **Official Rulebook & Bylaws – Updated March 2026**

### **Introduction**

The **Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series** was created to provide a welcoming and competitive environment for riders of all levels to develop their horsemanship and cattle work while supporting the continued growth of the cow horse community in our region. The focuses on good cattle, fair judging, and an encouraging atmosphere where both new and experienced riders can improve their skills and enjoy the sport.

### **1. Management & Authority**

The Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series is produced and managed by **Bond Ranch LLC**. All decisions regarding rules, eligibility, disputes, class structure, and event management are made solely by **Steven Bond and Alyssa Bond**. All decisions made by management are **final**. Bond Ranch management reserves the right to **interpret, modify, or enforce these rules as necessary** to ensure the safety, fairness, and integrity of the event. Bond Ranch management also reserves the right to **accept or refuse any entry** for any reason deemed necessary. Individuals with **unpaid fees, prior rule violations, or conduct issues** may be denied entry into current or future events.

### **2. Classes Offered**

The Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series may offer the following classes:

#### **Horse Classes**

- Junior Horse – Fence
- Senior Horse – Fence
- Junior Horse – Box Drive
- Senior Horse – Box Drive
- Junior Horse – Boxing
- Senior Horse – Boxing

#### **Youth Classes**

- Junior Youth – Boxing
- Senior Youth – Box Drive

#### **Beginner Class**

- Never Won A Buckle (NWAB) – Boxing

Class formats will follow **National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA)** rules unless otherwise stated.

All tack and headgear must comply with **American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA)** legal equipment rules.

Bond Ranch management reserves the right to **add, combine, modify, or cancel classes** depending on entry numbers or event circumstances.

### **3. Horse & Rider Eligibility**

#### **Horse Age Divisions**

- **Junior Horse:** 5 years old and under
- **Senior Horse:** 6 years old and over

#### **Youth Divisions**

- **Junior Youth:** 13 years old and under
- **Senior Youth:** 14 years old and over

Youth competitors may show **horses of any age.**

#### **Cross Entry**

Horses and riders are allowed to **enter multiple classes.**

All applicable **entry fees and cattle fees apply to each class entry.**

### **4. Never Won A Buckle (NWAB)**

The Never Won A Buckle class is designed for **beginner competitors** who have not previously won a buckle in a cow horse versatility ranch horse or stock horse competition.

Class rules include:

- Riders **may show two-handed.**
- A **humane bit must be used.**
- Bond Ranch management reserves the right to determine **class eligibility.**

### **5. Jackpot Eligibility**

The following classes **do not include jackpot payouts:**

- Junior Youth
- Senior Youth
- Never Won A Buckle (NWAB)

Jackpot payouts apply only to **open horse classes** unless otherwise announced.

### **6. Entries**

Entries for each show:

- **Open:** Saturday prior to the event
- **Close:** Wednesday prior to the event

Late entries may be accepted **at management discretion.**

### **7. Scratches & Cattle Fees**

Competitors who scratch **after 8:00 PM on the Friday prior to the show** are responsible for paying the **cattle fee.**

Competitors with **unpaid cattle fees will not be allowed to enter future Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series events** until those fees have been paid.

## 8. Series Awards Qualification

To qualify for **year-end series awards**, competitors must participate in the **majority of the shows held during the series season**.

The exact number of required shows will be determined based on the **total number of events held during that season**.

Example:

If **3 shows** are held, competitors must compete in **at least 2 shows** to qualify.

Series awards will be determined by **total accumulated cow scores throughout the series**.

## 9. Tie Breakers

In the event of a tie for placing at an individual show or in series standings, the **highest cow work score** will determine the winner. In the event of a tie in the series standings, the highest composite cow score will determine the winner.

If a tie still remains, the **judge's discretion** will determine final placing.

## 10. Judge Authority

The judge's decisions regarding scoring, penalties, and rule interpretation within the arena are **final**.

Competitors are expected to show respect toward judges, staff, and other contestants at all times.

## 11. Arena Etiquette & Warm-Up

Open arena or warm-up times may be made available before or during events when possible. Arena access is **at the sole discretion of Bond Ranch management** and may be limited due to cattle management, arena preparation, weather, or event scheduling.

All riders must practice **safe arena etiquette** and maintain awareness of other riders and horses.

Reckless riding or behavior creating an unsafe environment may result in **removal from the arena**.

Cattle may only be worked in **designated areas and at designated times approved by management**.

Bond Ranch management reserves the right to **close or restrict arena access at any time**.

## 12. Cattle Management

The number of cattle used in each class may be **adjusted based on entry numbers**.

Bond Ranch management reserves the right to modify cattle rotation, fresh cattle placement, or rerun procedures as necessary to ensure **fairness and livestock safety**.

## 13. Conduct & Sportsmanship

Participants are expected to demonstrate **good sportsmanship** and respect toward judges, staff, fellow competitors, and livestock.

Unsportsmanlike conduct or disruptive behavior may result in **penalties, disqualification, or removal from the event** at management discretion.

## 14. Animal Welfare

The Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series is committed to the **humane treatment of horses and livestock.**

Any abuse, excessive discipline, or mistreatment of horses or cattle may result in **immediate disqualification or removal from the event.**

## 15. Facility Use & Restricted Areas

For safety reasons, the following areas are **restricted to authorized personnel only:**

- Cattle pens
- Sorting pens
- Stall barn
- Any designated livestock handling areas

Participants and spectators are not permitted in these areas without **permission from Bond Ranch management.**

Children must be supervised at all times.

## 16. Dogs

For the safety of horses, cattle, and participants,

**dogs are not allowed on the premises during events.**

Bond Ranch management reserves the right to require **any dog be removed from the property immediately.**

## 17. Liability

All participants, riders, spectators, and guests attend

Bond Ranch Cow Horse Series events **at their own risk.**

Bond Ranch LLC, its owners, employees, volunteers, and staff assume **no responsibility for accidents, injuries, loss, or theft** involving horses, riders, spectators, equipment, or property.

By participating in or attending events, individuals acknowledge the **inherent risks associated with equine activities and livestock events.**

Participants will be required to **sign a liability waiver prior to competing.**