

2026 NRHA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS

This program is designed for the NRHA European affiliates to give them the freedom necessary to structure shows effectively to meet the needs of their members and location. In addition, this program provides a format by which the local champions can compete against their European competitors for NRHA awards. It is the aim of the NRHA and the European Council for this program to increase and promote the “up-and-coming grass roots” reining and continue to promote our sport at all levels.

The NRHA Board of Directors reserves the right to interpret, modify or amend conditions for the 2026 NRHA European Championships. If requiring immediate attention, those rights will be deferred to the NRHA Executive Committee.

GENERAL SHOW CONDITIONS

1. A country must hold a minimum of one event to qualify riders during the qualifying period. All events must be NRHA approved and meet the requirements for approval as stated in the *NRHA Handbook*.
2. The European Championships will offer the following classes: Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open, Rookie Professional Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18, and Rookie I.
3. For these conditions, it is not mandatory for an affiliate to offer all classes at their event(s). However, it is recommended that affiliates offer as many of the classes as practical for their event(s).
4. In the event a corporate sponsor is procured, the management of the European Championships must agree to abide by contract stipulations between the NRHA and said sponsors.
5. The National Reining Horse Association reserves the right to amend these conditions at any time with immediate notice of such changes being made to the recognized affiliates.

QUALIFICATION

1. To qualify to compete in the 2026 NRHA European Affiliate Championships, there will be no other requirements other than those listed below:

A rider must be a member of their home country NRHA European Affiliate in the year of 2025 and/or 2026 and must also have competed in at least one NRHA-approved European affiliate event (does not have to be in your home country) in the class they wish to compete at the Championships and receive a score (above zero).

There will be two qualification periods. The first period will run January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The second qualification period will run January 1, 2026 through May 15, 2026. If show results for events on or prior to May 15, 2026 are not received by NRHA by May 20, 2026, they will not count towards qualification.

The NRHA will provide a list of NRHA European members who have competed in NRHA European events in 2025 and 2026 in each class to the European Championship host no less than 30 days from the first day of the Championships. The list of those qualified will be posted on the NRHA European Championship website, and it will be the responsibility of each affiliate to monitor if their members have paid their affiliate membership dues.

If a rider competes in a class in 2025 and is no longer eligible for that class in 2026, he will be able to compete in that specific European Affiliate Championship class.

The membership requirement and qualification will be based strictly off the rider, and any horse may be used to compete in the classes.

2. Those entries qualified for the European Championships may enter only the European Championship classes in which they have qualified, even if they are no longer eligible for that class at the time of the European Championships. **Category 1 eligibility will be used to determine rider eligibility.** Riders qualified in Non Pro classes including Rookie I must have current NRHA Non Pro status to enter.
3. A rider may show only three (3) horses per class at the European Championships.

YOUTH TEAM TOURNAMENT

1. All of the Youth entries in the European Championship classes and any NRHA ancillary youth classes that are running concurrent with the EAC Youth classes will be automatically entered into the Youth Team Tournament.
2. Youth will be separated into two categories: Youth 13 & Under and Youth 14-18.
3. On each team there will be four riders, at least one Youth 13 & Under and at least one Youth 14-18.
4. All teams will be drawn at random prior to the run of the Youth Classes after the classes entries have closed.
5. These teams will be posted either online, on the show grounds, or both so they are visible for all to see.
6. If there are more riders in one division than the other, the youth will be redrawn in the division that has less riders to make up the teams for the division with more riders, and will therefore be a part of multiple teams. For Example if there are twelve 13 & Under riders and only ten 14-18, then two 14-18 riders will be redrawn at random to fill the team for the additional 13 & Under riders, and these two 14-18 riders will have their score count for two teams.
7. The lowest score in each team will be dropped.
8. Scratches will be considered the dropped score.
9. An awards ceremony with all youth present (if possible) will follow the completion of the Youth Classes and individual Youth awards ceremonies.