

LOPING PEN

Guidelines for Event Management

It is strongly recommended that show committees and event managers have a system of monitoring the Loping Pen Rules at all shows.

The Loping Pen is the workplace for many who attend cutting shows and activities. It is the duty of every show committee or employer to provide a safe place of work. This can be achieved by placing a person at the entry gate of the loping pen giving them authority to implement Loping Pen Rules or designating a Loping Pen monitor who is responsible for overseeing the area (this can be a competitor or an employee of a Trainer who is a member of the NCHA).

The Loping Pen must be free of dangerous objects, have a level, dust free, sand or soft surface, with safe fences that have secured rails for tying horses. The area must be free of pot holes, rocks and slippery surfaces. If the show is held after dark, the loping pen must have lighting adequate to illuminate the entire area.

Loping Pens should have water points in or near to the area.

Loping Pens should be large enough to allow ample space for horses to lope, trot or walk in a circle as well as have an area for dry work. There should also be an adequate area for tying up horses and for grooming purposes.

The number of horses allowed in the Loping Pen at any one time is determined by the number of horses in the herd that is being judged (17 is the maximum numbers in any herd). Horses in the next herd of cattle can be allowed in the loping area if sufficient room is provided. This means, enough room that horses can move freely without coming into contact with other horses. Horses that have been shown in the herd being judged are encouraged to leave the loping area to provide room for horses in the next herd.

Horses that are not entered in the cutting events (other than help horses) must not enter the loping area during the competition times. Green or recently broken horses should not enter the Loping Pen. Inexperienced riders must not ride in the Loping Pen. Anyone under the age of 18 who is not entered in the cutting competitions of the show must wear a riding helmet. No one under the age of 5 years old should ride a horse in the Loping Pen or Arena.

The Loping Pen is the workplace for many of our members and non members. The space is designed for show horses not for joy riding or learning to ride. It is a place of business and should be treated as such. The number of persons on foot should be restricted to competitors and unattended children should not enter the area. Any item or object that might frighten a horse should be removed or covered. **Remember, a safe workplace is the right of every worker and the duty of every employer to provide.**

