

2018 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS – APPROVED CHANGES

Rules to take effect January 1, 2018.

SECTION 1 – Proposals for a change to current practice

05-01-18

APPROVED

A. RULE CHANGE PROCEDURES

Section 4. In the best interest of the NRHA and its members, the Executive Committee ~~officers of the Association~~ is empowered to make clarifications as needed to the NRHA Handbook, during day to day management, in instances where the rules are not clearly written or defined. Any changes under this provision will then be corrected in the manner outlined in the NRHA Handbook.

Section 5. After a rule has been changed and made effective, but contradictory or incomplete references still exist in the NRHA Handbook, the Executive Committee may approve for corrections to be made effective and updated on the current year's electronic version. The corrections will be included in the following year's NRHA Handbook.

13-02-18

APPROVED

F. CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION (PROTEST OF COMPLAINT NOT REQUIRED)

Section 5. Failure to Comply with Suspension. In the event a suspended member enters a horse as an owner, rider, agent or entity at any NRHA approved event during the suspension period, the NRHA will automatically impose an additional six (6) months of suspension, and all show prizes and awards will be forfeited to the NRHA as per the NRHA Handbook. **In the event a suspended member is found to be involved with the management or production of an NRHA approved event, the NRHA Executive Committee may impose additional suspension on that member. Additionally, show management's future show approvals may be denied.**

25-01-18

APPROVED

A. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Memberships: Beginning in 2019, NRHA memberships commence when the application and fees are received in the NRHA office. Annual **(12-month period)** and three-year **(36-month period)** memberships **expiration dates shall coincide with the purchased membership period and the commencement date** end December 31. ~~Members will receive their first print issue of the NRHA Reiner 6-8 weeks after the membership is activated.~~ Memberships and **applicable NRHA Reiner** subscriptions are not retroactive. NRHA memberships and Non Pro Declarations that are submitted to NRHA with show results will be made **to commence on** the first date of the respective show.

27-01-18

RESCINDED 6/15/17

B. NON PRO MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS

(1) ELIGIBILITY:

(a) A Non Pro is defined as a person who, at the time of application, has not won more than \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) in Open reining competition (Categories 1, 2 and 6) and who has not received direct (money) or indirect (goods or services) remuneration for:

(1) Training or showing astride in any equine discipline. **Even without remuneration, a Non Pro may not train or participate in mounted preparation of a horse not owned or leased by the non pro or the non pro's immediate family, at or for, a show. It is the intent of the NRHA to limit the ability of a non pro to assist a trainer or other person in the training or preparation of the horse while mounted for a show if that horse is not owned or leased by the non pro or the non pro's immediate family.**

(2) Giving instruction (**lessons**) on showing or training or **riding** of a **western** performance horse (Reining, Cutting, Cow Horse).

(3) Sponsorships or endorsements unless approved by the Executive Committee due to celebrity status gained outside the reining industry.

(b) An ineligible person may obtain Non Pro status by meeting all Non Pro requirements for a period of three (3) years:

(1) During the ineligible time period, the member may show only in NRHA Open competition. **Non Pro ownership rules apply.**

(2) After obtaining Non Pro status, the member is eligible for any **Non Pro** classes based on his/her current eligibility.

35-01-18

APPROVED

D. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION AND CLASS ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY 4

(NRHA approved Breed Restricted classes (excluding aged shows) restricted by breed **or Para-Reining classes**. NRHA rules to apply. **World Para-Reining (WPR) rules concerning grades and patterns apply for Para-Reining classes.** ~~but not~~ Not for NRHA World Champion and Top Ten awards. Requires a NRHA Professionals, Non Pro, Youth or Youth Non Pro membership in order to show.

Jr. Reining Sr. Reining All Age Reining Amateur Reining
Youth Reining Open Reining Non Pro Reining

Any WPR, USA Reining or approved breed restricted para-reining class

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F. GENERAL SHOW CONDITIONS

(2) All exhibitors and owners/co-owners must be current NRHA members **in good standing**. The only exemption is for Category **4 and** 10 horse owners.

41-01-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

G. EVENT APPROVAL

(3) Official NRHA event approval forms must be submitted to the NRHA office by the deadline as follows:

Level of Event	Event Approval deadline
AA, A	Not less than ninety (90) days prior to the entry closing date
<u>B, BB & Top Ten Events</u>	Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the entry closing date
C & D	Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the entry closing date

41-02-18 **APPROVED**

G. EVENT APPROVAL

(3) Official NRHA event approval forms must be submitted to the NRHA office by the deadline as follows:

Level of Event	Event Approval deadline
AA, A	Not less than ninety (90) days prior to the entry closing date
B, <u>BB & Top Ten Events</u>	Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the entry closing date
C & D	Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the <u>first day of the show</u> entry closing date

Any changes made to information on a submitted event approval form must be done in a timely manner. It is at the NRHA's discretion as to whether the changes can be accepted. **Any event approval form received in the NRHA office after the required deadline, or a form that is not completed in full, may be subject to a \$100 late fee.** Any changes to added money, entry fees, or retainage fees for classes that count toward NRHA Top Ten standings must be submitted 90 days prior to the event's entry closing date. ~~Any event approval form received in the NRHA office after the required deadline, or a form that is not completed in full, may be subject to a \$100 late fee.~~

50-01-18 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

H. ANCILLARY SHOW CONDITIONS

(9) Category 7 classes are exempt from H. Ancillary Show Conditions. (4). Added Money as listed in the chart. Remaining restrictions in H. Ancillary Show Conditions. (4). still apply. Entry, judges and trophy fees will be set by the NRHA Affiliate Committee or appropriate Regional Council.

51-01-18 **APPROVED**

Add the following to the existing AGED SHOW AND CLOSED AGED SHOW CONDITIONS:

- (5) Show management may use the Single Purse Structure for an aged show.
- (a) **Eligibility.** Any level rider can enter the class. Eligibility only helps determine the payout tier(s) a rider can earn a paycheck. (This is not a system with separate classes to running concurrently and paying separate purses. It is one class with one purse.)
- (b) **Payout.** Using a formula and pay schedule, four tiers of payouts are created within the complete placing of the class, all entries. A rider's eligibility determines the tier in which he/she is eligible to win a paycheck. Any level rider can win the class, or place in a tier above his/her ranking. Rider's are eliminated from the placings (or tiers) based on their eligibility. In other words, a rider cannot win money in a tier below his/her level of eligibility. As shown below, level 4 riders will need to place in the top of the class in order to get a check. Level 1 riders will be eligible for any of the pay spots.

Example: A Single Purse class with 25 entries:

1st.
2nd.
3rd. _____ Level 4 Tier: 1st–3rd place. L1 – L4 riders can win money in this tier.)
4th.
5th.
6th. _____ Level 3 Tier: 1st–6th place. L1 – L3 riders can win money in this tier.)
7th.
8th.
9th. _____ Level 2 Tier: 1st–9th place. L1 and L2 riders can win money in this tier.)
10th.

11th.
12th. _____ Level 1 Tier: 1st – 12th place. L1 riders can won money in this tier.)

(Staff note for proposal: See Appendix A for more examples. Available online.)

(c) Tier Calculation.

- (i) Determine the total number of entries.
- (ii) Determine the total number of placing's based on total entries using the placing scale.
- (iii) Determine the total number of level 1 entries.
- (iv) Determine if Level 1 riders are more or less than 25% of the total entries.
- (v) If the number of Level 1 riders is less than 25%:
 - (A) Use the placing scale to determine the number of spots for the level one tier based on level one entries.
 - (B) Divide the remaining pay spots equally among the other three tiers.
 - (C) If equal spots are not possible, the remaining spots will be allocated one at a time starting with tier 4 and working in descending order.
- (vi) If the number of Level 1 riders is more than 25%:
 - (A) Divide the total number of pay spots equally among the 4 tiers.
 - (B) If equal spots are not possible the remaining spots will be allocated one at a time starting with tier 4 and working in descending order.

(d) **Awards.** The Level 4 champion will be the rider with the highest score. The level 3 champion will be the next highest score that is not a level 4 rider. The level 2 champion is the next highest score that is not a level 3 or 4 rider. The level 1 champion is the highest placing level 1 rider that has not already been named champion of another level.

(e) **Standard Ties.** In the event that there is a tie in the placings, other then for 1st or a level championship, the money associated with those placing will be added together and split equally between the tying riders. (See Show Rules and Regulations. O. Ties. (7)). When two or more equally ranked riders tie for level champion, they may choose to have a run-off to determine a winner or elect to be co-champions.

(f) **Other Ties.** Certain situations require that ties be broken.

- (i) For a tie that must be broken, the higher ranked riders with the same score as the lower ranked riders will be awarded the higher placing.
- (ii) When riders of different ranks tie to be a level champion, the win will go to the higher ranked rider. The lower ranked rider will then be named champion of the next level down.
- (iii) In the event that there is a tie that crosses the tier levels that involves higher ranked riders than there are higher tier spots, it is determined that tie must be broken. Again, the tie goes to the higher ranked riders and they split the money available in the fewer corresponding spots in their tier. The lower ranked rider/riders take the full spots below those.

53-02-18

APPROVED

The Lawson Bronze must be presented when \$2,000 or more in added money is offered and other special Lawson Bronze qualifications are met.

54-01-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

P. SHOW RESULTS

(1) Show management is required to send official show documents (results, ~~original~~ judge's score cards, membership applications, competition licenses, transfers, non pro declarations, fees, and other NRHA forms)... Show management will also maintain copies of the results, original judge's score cards if an electronic version is sent to NRHA and official show entry forms for at least twelve (12) months. Prior to sending the documents to the NRHA office, the original judge's score cards sheets must remain in the show secretary's custody...

54-02-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

O. TIES

1(a) In the case of a tie, the exhibitors or representatives shall be at the gate by the completion of the class to notify show management if they wish to run-off or remain co-champions.

1(b) If the riders decide to have a run-off all riders involved in the tie must be present, with their horses, and ready to enter the pen within a maximum of ten minutes after the last horse in the class exits the pen. If one or all of the horses involved in the tie competed within the last five runs of the class, it will be up to the judge's and show management's discretion on the amount of time the rider has before competing in the run-off.

(3) If a tie exists after the run-off, the entrants will be named co-champions and they will evenly split ~~1st and 2nd~~ the prize money **from their placings**, but must determine the winner of the awards by a mutually agreed upon tiebreaker.

(Related reference on page 79, (B) SCORING (2) also will be updated.)

72-01-18

APPROVED

Pg. 72

FREESTYLE REINING. B. Judging of Freestyle Reining

(6) All five (5) point penalties may apply except holding the saddle or saddle horn with either hand or touching the horse with the freehand, which is are allowed.

Pg. 83

RULES FOR JUDGING. B. SCORING.

(8) The following will result in a penalty of five (5) points:

- (a) spurring in front of the cinch;
- (b) use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
- (c) holding saddle with either hand, except in the **Freestyle Reining, Entry Level or Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup** class where holding the saddle is allowed;
- (d) blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking;
- (e) touching the horse with the free hand, except in the Freestyle Reining, Entry Level or Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup classes where this is allowed**

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JUDGES' GUIDE. 5 POINT PENALTIES.

Section 1. There are ~~four~~ **five** situations that require a judge to apply a five (5) point penalty. These situations are: spurring in front of the cinch, use of either hand to instill fear or praise, holding the saddle with either hand (except in the **Freestyle Reining or Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup** class), **touching the horse with the free hand (except in the Freestyle Reining, Entry Level or Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup classes)**, or blatant disobedience...

JUDGES' GUIDE. FREESTYLE REINING. B. Scoring Penalties. (4) Penalty Application and Scoring.

(d) All five (5) point penalties apply in Freestyle except holding the saddle or touching the horse with the free hand...

78-01-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

D. GUIDELINES

(10) NRHA judges who judge unapproved reining classes will be subject to an Investigative Judge Review. The following exceptions exist where judge(s) may judge unapproved reining classes:

- (a) classes that do not coincide with NRHA classes and therefore cannot be approved by NRHA
 - (b) beginner or green classes
 - (c) affiliate level classes that are held concurrent with NRHA approved classes **and added money can not exceed 10% of the added money of the NRHA approved class**
 - (d) shows with less than \$500-added money
 - (e) breed association classes [Jr., Sr., Amateur, and Youth breed classes]
 - (f) National Federation or FEI events
 - (g) shows held by an NRHA breed association affiliate and/or affiliated discipline association
-

122-01-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

PRE/POST CHECK

Section 3

(e) In all NRHA approved classes with added monies of \$500 or below (in a concurrent class set, the threshold applies to the highest added money offered), a random equipment check by the chair judge is permitted. It is recommended at least three horses in each class are checked, selected by the chair judge when each horse is finished with the pattern. Any horse, at any time may be stopped by the chair judge in the event of abuse or unsafe conditions.

126-01-18

APPROVED

Page 83

(8) The following will result in a penalty of five (5) points:

- (a) spurring in front of cinch;
- (b) use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
- (c) holding saddle with either hand, except in the Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup class where holding the saddle is allowed;
- (d) **the act of a horse dropping to its knees or hocks;**
- (e) blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking.

Page 126 - 5 POINT PENALTIES

Section 1. There are **four five** situations that require a judge to apply a five (5) point penalty. These situations are: spurring in front of the cinch, use of either hand to instill fear or praise, holding the saddle with either hand (except in the Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup class) or blatant disobedience. **Also included, is the act of a horse dropping to its knees or hocks that cannot be considered a fall since its shoulder and/or hip and/or underline did not touch the ground.** The application of the spurring rule requires the judge to ensure that contact with the horse was made...

SECTION 2 – Proposals for clarification or ease of use

06-01-18 **APPROVED**

Section 3. In support of the International Affiliate Program, NRHA will agree to the following:

Add a new item (e):

(e) **The NAA may take other action such as prohibiting the member from attending or competing in events hosted by the NAA, provided that such action is handled in accordance with the NAA's bylaws.**

Move down and renumber current (e) and (f).

06-02-18 **APPROVED**

D. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Section 1. NRHA membership carries responsibilities as well as certain rights. Any member may be disciplined, fined, or have his/her membership revoked or suspended for good cause. The Executive Committee may deny membership when it, in its sole discretion, establishes that a non-member is not a worthy candidate. See NRHA Bylaws. ~~Article II. Membership.~~

(Additionally, staff is granted the ability to update any other out-of-date bylaw references found during the process of updating the Handbook as recommended by legal counsel and approved by the Board of Directors.)

25-02-18 **APPROVED**

A. MEMBERSHIP

Membership Categories:

General: A non-competing membership for an individual or business entity **who does not wish to compete as a rider.** This includes horse owners and breeders who wish to complete nominations and/or licenses for their horses and to participate in other NRHA programs. General members have full NRHA rights, responsibilities and voting privileges.

Associate, ~~Associate Non-Pro, and Associate Youth~~: An Associate membership is for individuals who wish to show or enter horses in Category 10 (entry level) **and/or Para-Reining** classes only. An associate membership does not include the right to vote, nominate, or officiate, nor does it include an *NRHA Reiner* print subscription. However, access to the *NRHA Reiner* magazine digital edition is free at nrha.com.

To license, transfer or lease a horse, the individual or business entity must be a member in good standing with NRHA. Any of the above listed memberships meet this requirement.

27-02-18

APPROVED

B. NON PRO MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS

(1) ELIGIBILITY:

(a) A Non Pro is defined as a person who, at the time of application, has not won more than \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars)...

(c) Non Pro Relinquishment: A Non Pro who gives up his/her Non Pro status to become an NRHA Professional ~~member~~ member must complete and submit the Non Pro Relinquishment form within 30 days of **becoming an NRHA Professional or a professional trainer. When the form is received, NRHA may back out the applicable previous earnings** ~~the change.~~ The Non Pro earnings in any category/class will not be utilized in determining current eligibility, with the exception of the Category 2 or 6 Level 1 Open and Rookie Professional class.

29-01-18

APPROVED

Page 29 (Non Pro leases)

(f) Leases: A leased horse may be shown in Non Pro competition under the following guidelines:

...

(5) Only one lease at a time per horse per year will be recognized.

(6) The lessor may not show the horse during the term of the lease.

(7) Lessor must be a current NRHA member in good standing. An Associate membership is acceptable.

(8) During the term of the lease, all points and/or monies earned will be credited to the lessee.

Page 65 (Youth leases)

(4) Leases: A leased horse may be shown in Youth competition under the following guidelines:

...

(5) Only one lease at a time per horse per year will be recognized.

(6) The lessor may not show the horse during the term of the lease.

(7) Lessor must be a current NRHA member in good standing. An Associate membership is acceptable.

(8) During the term of the lease, all points and/or monies earned will be credited to the lessee.

NOTE: NRHA Professionals may show a leased horse in any open competition they are eligible for, even if they are the owner (lessor) of the leased horse. This includes Category 2 & 6 classes. Lessors with Non Pro, Youth, Youth Non Pro or Associate memberships may show the leased horse in Category 10 (Green Reiner, Ride & Slide), Rookie (Rookie L1, Rookie L2, Prime Time Rookie, Youth Rookie) and Unrestricted Youth, as there are no ownership restrictions in these classes. Refer to the current policy set forth by the Board regarding Eligibility. Additionally, lessors may show the leased horse in any Open competition for which they are eligible.

32-01-18

APPROVED

D. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION AND CLASS ELIGIBILITY

Class Eligibility for the current year for horses and riders are based on NRHA... When a suspended exhibitor is reinstated as an NRHA member in good standing, his/her eligibility will resume at the level held prior to suspension. Anyone showing in NRHA approved competition is subject to **NRHA rules**

including those in Section F. General Show Conditions as outlined in this NRHA Handbook. Current eligibility requirements...

CATEGORY 2

NRHA Approved Aged Shows (Futurity, Derby and other approved Aged Shows; see G. Aged Show Conditions. **Not for NRHA World Champion and Top Ten awards.** ...

CATEGORY 4

NRHA approved Breed Restricted classes (excluding aged shows) restricted by breed. ~~NRHA rules to apply, but n~~ **Not for NRHA World Champion and Top Ten awards.** ...

CATEGORY 5

NRHA approved Ancillary classes, ~~NRHA rules to apply, but n~~ **Not for NRHA World Champion and Top Ten awards.**...

CATEGORY 7

NRHA Approved Affiliate Championship classes; requires qualification through the NRHA Affiliate Championship program to enter. **Not for NRHA World Champion and Top Ten awards.** ...

CATEGORY 10

Entry Level Ride & Slide Non Pro Level 2
Entry Level Ride & Slide Non Pro Level 1
Green Reiner Level 1
Green Reiner Level 2

General **members** Riders must obtain Non Pro status...
General **members** Riders must obtain Non Pro status...
General **members** Riders must obtain Non Pro status...
General **members** Riders must obtain Non Pro status...

66-01-18

APPROVED

Move NATIONAL FEDERATION section (currently on page 66) to directly after CATEGORY 8. NGB & FEI COMPETITIONS (page 37).

Current wording from page 37 (minor change tracked):

CATEGORY 8

NGB & FEI COMPETITIONS

NGB-National Governing Body, FEI-Federation Equestre Internationale; to include recognized and/or approved events such as World Equestrian Games, Pan Am Games, CRIs-Concours de Reining International, CRIOS-Concours de Reining Internationale Official, etc. (See ~~National Federation~~ **below** for more guidelines.)

Approved Category 8

Events that are run concurrently with NRHA classes and seek NRHA approval. Ex: CRI classes that are run concurrently with NRHA Open

Recognized Category 8

Events that are run separately from NRHA classes or events but seek NRHA approval. Ex: FEI World Equestrian Games

Add this language directly below (from page 66) (A few minor were made to flow better into the new location. Those changes are tracked):

~~NATIONAL FEDERATION~~

~~A-~~ Category 8 National Federation Approval **Requirements:**

~~(1) The National Reining Horse Association wishes to promote the sport of reining with the approval of FEI/National Federation reining events.~~

~~(a) Owners and riders competing in NRHA/NF Dual Approved competition will be~~

required to be members in good standing of the NRHA.

(b) An event must declare its intent to seek approval or recognition to the NRHA by supplying to NRHA the completed Show Approval Form and following the same guidelines as regular NRHA Events. See Show Rules and Regulations.

(c) The NRHA Executive Committee ~~will~~ **may** examine the merits of events requesting approval or recognition. See Show Rules and Regulations.

(d) Monies earned in Approved or Recognized Events will count towards NRHA Lifetime Earnings.

75-01-18

APPROVED AS AMENDED

B. JUDGES COMMITTEE

(1) **The NRHA Board of Directors may establish a Judges Committee and its purposes as provided for in the NRHA Bylaws and committee charter.** ~~President will appoint a Judges Committee Chairperson. The Chairperson will then appoint the committee members. It shall be the duty of the Judges Committee to administer judges' tests, conduct seminars, may review any and all judging after NRHA sponsored events or approved events, and review judging performances on recommendation of show representatives or by official protest. The Committee shall be empowered to take all action necessary to improve the quality, integrity and performance of the judging system.~~

(The last two sentences deleted from the Handbook will be added to Resolution #08-16: 2017-2018 Advisory Committees.)

84-01-18

APPROVED

Pg. 84

(16) Judges may not confer on any penalty or maneuver score prior to submitting a score. If a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, a zero (0), **a two (2) point**, or a five (5) point penalty) is unclear, a judge will submit his/her score and ask that the score be held... all entries have been videotaped. **Refer to the Handbook's Event Classifications section to determine when judges are allowed to review 2-point penalties.**

Pg. 129 - REVIEWS

Section 1. If the judge is unsure as to whether a major penalty has occurred (i.e., no score, a 0 score, **a 2-point penalty**, or a 5-point penalty) the judge will submit his/her score... each judge's decision is an individual call. **Refer to the Handbook's Event Classifications section to determine when judges are allowed to review 2-point penalties.**

114-01-18

APPROVED

Change all references to Short Stirrup Patterns from numbers to letters:

Pattern 14 to Pattern A

Pattern 15 to Pattern B

124-01-18

APPROVED

PENALTY SCORE ZERO

Section 1. The NRHA Handbook specifies certain situations in which a horse will receive a score of 0

regardless of its execution of the pattern... The NRHA Handbook prohibits the use of more than the index finger between the reins, the changing of hands on the reins, or use of two hands on the reins; however, it specifically outlines situations in which the rider's free hand may be used to untangle excess rein (any place the horse is allowed to be completely stopped during the pattern). (See "Rules for Judging" B.(5))...

Section 2. When using a romal, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the hand closed around the reins; no fingers between the reins are allowed... Consistent with NRHA rules regarding split reins, a rider using a romal may untangle excess rein (romal) **anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand.** any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during the pattern.

126-02-18 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

JUDGES' GUIDE. 2 POINT PENALTIES

Section 1. A judge is required to apply a two (2) point penalty should a horse break gait.... on requirements. **Note: Simple lead changes are allowed in NRHA Green classes; no break of gait penalty should be applied during the lead change. NRHA Ride & Slide classes may use altered patterns and if simple lead changes are specified, no break of gait penalty should be applied during the lead changes.**

154-01-18 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Add labels to Figure #6 to better describe the following:

LEAD PENALTIES (pg. 127)

Section 3. In the instance where a pattern requires a 1/2 circle prior to beginning a run down to the other end of the arena (i.e., patterns #2 & 4), failure to be on a specified lead should be penalized as follows:

- (a) 1 point: beyond one stride up to 1/4 circumference of circle
- (b) 2 points: beyond 1/4 circumference of circle up to the entire half circle. (See Figure #6.)

Additions shown in red on Figure #6

Figure #6 - Out of Lead on Run-around

