

BOXING

Victorian Reined Cowhorse Boxing Guidelines. Boxing is an entry level event designed for Rookies and Novice Horses, as well as Youth, however the VRCHA includes Boxing on most programs for our Open competitors. Boxing helps develop the skills needed for the more advanced Fence Work classes.

General Overview of VRCHA Boxing – GUIDE ONLY

Objective:

The goal in Boxing is to demonstrate control over the cow, maintaining correct position, reading the cow's movements, and showing smooth and confident horsemanship.

Required Manoeuvres and General Rules in Boxing

1. Time Limit

- **Each rider has 50 seconds to work the cow.**
- **Time starts when the horse crosses the centre line of the arena.**

2. Cow Work

- **The rider must keep the cow at the short end (or "end of the arena") and show control.**
- **Ideal work demonstrates:**
 - **Correct position (horse stays between the cow and the centre of the arena)**
 - **Control of speed (rider controls how fast or slow the cow moves)**
 - **Smooth transitions between turns and stops**
- **The rider should hold the cow for the majority of the time limit at the short end, showing dominance and control.**

3. Turns

- Riders are expected to perform several turns in both directions, always turning into the cow.
- Turns should be:
 - Sharp and correct (horse's front end crosses over cleanly)
 - Fluid and confident, showing cow sense

Judging Criteria and Scoring System

Scoring is based on a 0 to 80 scale, with 70 being average. Judges are looking for:

Element	Points Earned/Lost For
Position and Control	Maintaining proper position and control while working the cow
Courage	Anticipating the cow's movements and reacting appropriately
Degree of Difficulty	Successfully working a fast or difficult cow earns more credit
Eye Appeal	Clean transitions, controlled stops and turns

Common Penalties

- Penalties apply for:
 - Loss of control (cow escaping down the fence)
 - Excessive spurring, jerking, or poor horsemanship
 - Not keeping the cow at the short end
 - Dangerous riding

★ **Additional Guidelines**

- **Horses must work on a loose rein where appropriate, showing trust and relaxation.**
 - **The rider should demonstrate minimal visible cues. Obvious over-cueing (kicking, pulling, jerking) is penalised.**
 - **Equipment must conform to VRCHA rules (legal bits, reins, etc.).**
 - **Riders may be disqualified for abuse, excessive schooling, or unsafe behaviour.**
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Tips for Success

- **Stay calm and composed — overreacting or rushing often loses points.**
- **Read the cow — watch its head, ears, and body position to anticipate its movements.**
- **Aim for smooth and controlled riding, rather than flashy or aggressive moves.**
- **Keep your horse balanced and collected, especially during turns.**

