VRHA SOUTHERN SLIDERS
www.vrha.com.au

NRHA OCEANIA

YOUR INTRODUCTION TO REINING

A Entry Level guide to discovering the sport

meeting the VRHA Reining community and taking your first steps.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A REINING RIDER TO START REINING.
Come along, have a look, ask questions and discover what Reining is all about.



Welcome to the VRHA community

Whether you participate in another discipline, or are simply curious about Reining, VRHA welcomes people from all equestrian backgrounds. This booklet will help you understand reining and find a comfortable way to get involved.

Start where you are. Learn at your own pace. Enjoy the journey.

1. What is reining?

Reining is a western equestrian discipline that demonstrates the athletic ability, responsiveness and partnership between horse and rider. Horse and rider perform a set pattern in an arena, completing manoeuvres assessed by a judge.

You may see manoeuvres such as:

- Circles: Large and small circles performed at different speeds.
- Lead changes: Changing the horse's leading legs while maintaining the canter.
- Spins: Controlled turns performed around a hind foot.
- Sliding stops: A controlled stop from a lope, with the horse sliding on its hind feet.
- Rollbacks: A 180-degree turn following a stop.
- Back-ups: Moving backwards in a straight and controlled manner.

Reining is about precision, communication and partnership. You do not need to understand every manoeuvre when you first attend a show — watching and asking questions is a great place to start.

2. Do I need a western horse or saddle?

No. You can come along and learn about reining without owning a western horse or having a western saddle. Some introductory activities may accommodate English or Stock saddles, depending on the activity and instructor. Always check the requirements before attending a ridden session.

The most important thing is to get started.

3. What happens at a reining show?

A reining show is a great opportunity to watch different levels of competition and see the sport in action. At a typical show:

- Riders nominate for their selected classes.
- Each competitor is allocated a draw position.
- The rider enters the arena and performs the required pattern.
- Judges assess the performance and allocate a score.
- Results are recorded and placings are determined.

You are welcome to attend as a spectator, meet competitors and ask how the show works.

4. Which classes can Entry Level beginners enter?

Depending on the show program, patterns and current eligibility requirements, introductory opportunities may include:

CLASS / OPPORTUNITY	WHAT IT OFFERS
Introductory non-sanctioned classes VRHA membership only required	A relaxed opportunity to experience competition where offered. Come & Try, Green Rider, Beginner, Novice Green Horse.
NRHA Green Reiner Level 1 / Level 2	An introductory pathway for riders developing their reining skills and stepping up to NRHA membership and Competition with modified class rules for 2 handed and simple lead changes
NRHA Rookie Level 1/ Level 2	A class for eligible riders who are developing experience in NRHA reining competition with one handed and lead change requirements
Introductory non-sanctioned classes	A relaxed opportunity to experience competition where offered.

The most suitable class depends on your riding experience, horse and eligibility. Contact VRHA before nominating if you are unsure.

5. What should I bring to my first event?

If you are visiting as a spectator:

- Your curiosity and plenty of questions!

If you are attending a ridden activity:

- Your horse and suitable legal tack and equipment.
- An approved riding helmet is recommended; Western Hats are permitted.
- Appropriate riding clothing and footwear.
- Horse licensing where required by the classes entering.
- Equipment your horse needs.

Always check the event information for specific requirements before travelling.

6. How do I get involved with VRHA?

Come and watch

Attend a VRHA show and see reining for yourself. Meet competitors and ask questions.

Attend a Come and Try day

Experience the sport in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Join a beginner clinic

Learn about manoeuvres, patterns, scoring and preparation for competition.

Enter your first show

When you feel ready, VRHA can help you understand nominations and suitable introductory classes.

Become a member

Stay connected, receive club updates and become part of the Victorian reining community.

7. VRHA membership

VRHA encourages new members to become part of our association. Membership is an opportunity to connect with other riders, receive club communications and support the growth of reining in Victoria.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	CURRENT FEE / DETAILS
Adult	$75
Youth (18 years and under)	$40
Eligible additional youth sibling	Complimentary where another sibling holds a full Youth membership
Three-year membership	Available — check current membership form

Day membership may be available for your first show. If you decide to join as a full member, the day membership fee can be deducted from your full membership fee, subject to the club's membership arrangements.

Please check the current membership form for fees, eligibility and payment details. Membership and class eligibility requirements can change.

8. Your first competition — what should you expect?

- Read the show schedule before entering.
- Make sure you understand which class you are entering.
- Check your draw position and be ready when your class is called.
- Ask the show office if you are unsure about anything.
- Introduce yourself to other competitors.
- Remember that everyone had a first show once!

You don't have to get everything perfect. Your first competition is about learning, gaining confidence and enjoying the experience.

9. Meet your VRHA community

One of the best parts of joining a club is the people you meet along the way. VRHA is supported by volunteers, competitors, horse owners, families, sponsors and supporters who all contribute to the sport.

We encourage new members to get involved, ask questions, attend club activities and make connections. Whether you are a beginner, an experienced rider or someone who simply enjoys watching horses, you are welcome.

10. Frequently asked questions

Do I need to own a reining horse?

No. You can attend as a spectator or come along with your horse, learn about the sport and explore opportunities before deciding whether reining is right for you.

Do I need a western saddle?

Not for every introductory activity. Some Come and Try sessions may accommodate English or stock saddles. Check the individual activity requirements.

Do I need to be an experienced rider?

No. There are opportunities to learn and develop your skills. The right activity will depend on your current riding ability.

Do I need to be a VRHA member to attend?

You can generally attend as a spectator without being a member. Membership requirements apply to particular competition classes, so check the event conditions before entering.

Can young riders participate?

Yes. VRHA welcomes youth participation, with suitable classes and activities depending on the show program.

Who can I ask if I don't understand something?

Contact VRHA or speak to a committee member at an event. We would much rather you ask questions than feel unsure about getting involved.

Ready to take your first rein?

We would love to meet you! Follow VRHA to keep up to date with upcoming shows, Come and Try days, clinics, beginner opportunities and membership information.

VICTORIAN REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Website: www.vrha.com.au

Facebook page: Victorian Reining Horse Association

Membership form: www.vrha.com.au/membership

Upcoming events / show calendar: www.vrha.com.au/calendar

Contact email: vrhacommittee@outlook.com





COME ALONG. HAVE A LOOK. MEET OUR MEMBERS.
DISCOVER WHAT REINING IS ALL ABOUT