

# Understanding the Structure of TRXC



As you are already aware, The Region X Championships (a.k.a. TRXC) in 2016 follows a completely different show format than other shows that are held in Region 10 throughout the year. The typical show has a class list which divides the horses by breed type (Light, Draft, Pony, Stock etc) with or without a performance division and anyone from anywhere can enter any class as long as your horse is suitable for that class. With TRXC 2016, it is structured differently from other shows and from past TRXC and RXR shows. This year, we have decided to reverse the original TRXC class list so that what used to be Stakes classes are now called “Maiden” and what were known as Open classes are now called “Stakes”. In a nutshell, we’ve kept the same class list but changed the criteria for entering each class. The new format will reward showers who have attended one or more of the shows in the region and give the top horses from each show a chance to compete against one another with a few of them being crowned the best of the best. This allows us to have a show that is more in keeping with a true “championship” show.

These changes are to create a show format that is more in keeping with this being a championship show than previous incarnations of TRXC. We are not saying that earlier TRXC show holders were doing it wrong. Far from it! We just all know it is time to take the opportunity to move forward and change things up a bit after more than 10 years with the prior format.

TRXC is broken down into Divisions for model type (i.e. OF, AR, CM, C/R), then into sub-divisions with Maiden and Stakes classes for both Halter and Performance. Each subdivision is comprised of a “Maiden” class paired with two or more “Stakes” classes. **Maiden** classes are for “novice” horses; horses who have never earned a card and are new to your herd, haven’t been shown in Region 10 in the past, or haven’t won first or second in the past at a Region 10 show. **Stakes** classes are strictly for horses who have earned a card in the past three years. TRXC requires all entrants’ horses to either have a current Region 10 card (green, yellow or pink) or never have earned a R10 card. It’s either you do or you don’t have a valid card. Horses with expired cards cannot show in Maiden nor in Stakes classes. In addition, if your horse has a current card from a previous owner, he can go in Stakes with that card. If he has expired cards, he is ineligible for either Maiden or Stakes, even though he hasn’t yet earned cards with you.

Why are we calling the classes “Maiden” and Stakes”? Here is the definition, per Wikipedia:

**Maiden:** Horses that are Maidens have one thing in common. They have NEVER won a race (*a.k.a.class*). They might have tried 2 times, 22 times, or are making their first try today.

**Stakes:** Stakes races (*a.k.a. classes*) are where the top racehorses (*a.k.a. show horses*) compete. These have the highest purses (*a.k.a. awards*), and carry the most prestige when winning.

There has been plenty of opportunity to qualify for the Championships. There are usually between ten to fourteen shows per year in Region 10. This means you could potentially have more than 30 chances to earn a Region 10 card for your horse in three years' time and thereby be able to show in a Stakes class. Your horse only needs one card to be able to show in a Stakes class. Yes, if you want to show in multiple Stakes performance classes or if you want to be judged on both Breed and Workmanship/Collectability, you need a card for each class and judging criteria. (Don't worry: you'll get them back after the class is judged.) Oh, your horse hasn't yet qualified? The Maiden class allows one more chance to win and move on to the Stakes classes. Please note that there is a limit of 2 entries per person in each Maiden class with a \$1.00 buy-in for one additional halter horse.

You may have noticed that Maiden classes are judged before the rest of the sub-division. This allows the first and second place horse to move up into the appropriate class within the rest of that division of Stakes classes. So, if your pony wins #618 "Maiden Pony" and is a Connemara, you will then move it into #619 British Pony. Just like at a typical show, your pony will also earn a green breed card or yellow collectability/workmanship card, depending on the reason for placing. Maiden classes will pin back to 10<sup>th</sup>, but only the top two in the class move on to the Stakes classes. Although we would love to split the Maiden classes to make it easier to judge and give more horses the chance to move on, we will not be doing that at this show in order to keep the number of classes manageable and get everyone home at a reasonable hour.

Halter classes are fairly straight forward as to who can show in what class. In regards to Performance Stakes classes, things can get a little more confusing. There is more diversity in the sub-divisions and everyone needs to understand that if your horse qualifies for even one of the Stakes classes in a sub-division, it can't show in any of the other Stakes classes in that division if you don't already have a pink card which matches the class. If your horse already has a pink card that lets it into one of the Stakes classes in a sub-division, that horse cannot also show in the Maiden class in that sub-division. Let's take the "Action English" sub-division for example. This sub-division is comprised of the Maiden Action English class followed by the Stakes Cross Country, Stakes Jumper, and Stakes Hunter over Fences. If your horse has never won a Hunter over Fences class and you have a brand new hunter jump you want to enter, then go for it and enter the "Maiden Action English" class. Should you win first or second, you can then move your entry into the Hunter Over Fences class. Here's the tricky part: if that same horse has already qualified to enter Jumper Stakes and you have a brand new Hunter fence you want to show it with, you can't show in the Action English Maiden Class. Being able to show in ANY Stakes class in that sub-division precludes you from backing up and entering the Maiden class with the same horse, even if it is with a different set-up. You would need to have already qualified the horse in both Hunter and Jumper to be able to show in the corresponding Stakes classes in the Action English sub-division. You'll have to try out your new set-up at another show in the Region later on down the road but not at TRXC.

As this is a Championship show, the Stakes class prizes are in keeping with wins of that caliber. The Champion and Reserve Champion for each stakes class will get a rosette and the remaining three horses will receive Top 5 two-streamer rosettes. In addition, the Grand and Reserve for each class will get a Blue Stakes Region 10 card that can be used towards Merit awards. Rosettes have exterior streamers

that match the color of the award (i.e. yellow for collectability/workmanship) and the brighter color is for Champion and the muted is for Reserve. Pretty clever, eh?

At no time will the sub-division have more than one judge. The same judge will judge both Maiden and Stakes and cannot show in any of the classes of that sub-division or judge her own work (if customized). In addition, you must have your cards with you to present to the ring steward when placing your horse on the table to ensure that every horse meets the qualifications for Stakes Classes. If you don't have a card, your horse can't be entered in the class or judged. Don't forget them at home.

Some of you may want to know why this isn't a NAN qualifier. Everyone loves to get NAN cards, right? The reason is simple: NAMHSA prohibits shows that have restrictive qualifications for entering. By limiting access to Stakes and Maiden classes to show horses that meet certain criteria, we are automatically ineligible under NAMHSA standards to be a member show. However, by also not being a NAN qualifier, it allows us to use multiple judges in a division and not prohibit them from showing in sub-divisions that they are not judging in that division. This allows us more flexibility to schedule judges throughout the day and not tie one or two people to a full division. Keep in mind that there is not an overall champion to be judged at the end of the day, so there will be no risk of a judge judging her own horses. Judges can only judge sub-divisions that they are not showing in: alternately, they can show in sub-divisions they are not judging.

Just to clarify one more time, the show is made up of Divisions (i.e. Artist Resin Halter) and Sub-Divisions which are comprised of Maiden and Stakes classes (i.e. Stock Breeds). Maiden classes are for horses who have not earned cards before and Stakes classes are for horses that have current R10 cards.

Lastly, the show holders welcome any feedback you may have about the structure or the content of the show. There are lots of changes this year and we know some will work and some won't. Please be patient with us as we figure out solutions to problems that arise and feel free to make suggestions on how to make the show even better. Remember – this is everyone's show and we want everyone to have fun and want to come back next year. Thanks for coming to The Region X Championships and remember....

**Region 10 is having more fun than you!**