

# 2022 Official Handbook of Rules & Regulations

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National Cutting Horse Association  
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## **Mission Statement**

The National Cutting Horse Association promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its Western heritage.

By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor.

NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals.

## **About this Handbook of Rules and Regulations**

The official rules of the NCHA that have been considered and approved by the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association.

NCHA rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced by the Executive Director, staff, and the Executive Committee of the NCHA. In determining whether violations of the Rules have occurred, the Executive Committee or members of any Hearing Committee assisting in such determinations may consider, but are not bound by, prior determinations and interpretations of the Rules by the Executive Committee or any Hearing Committee.

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The official rules of the National Cutting Horse Association are maintained online on the NCHA website at [www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com). This printed Handbook is provided as a resource for easy reference to the NCHA rules. The official online version of the rules is controlling and should be consulted for the most up-to-date version of the rules.

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## **Officers**

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Ora Diehl, President — Ruskin, Florida

Ted Sokol, President-Elect — Seville, Florida

Toddy Pitard, Vice-President — El Dorado, Arkansas

Executive Director Jay Winborn — Fort Worth, Texas

## **Members of the Executive Committee**

Ernie Beutenmiller Jr.—Union, Missouri

Byron Green— Campbellsburg, Indiana

Rock Hedlund—Wilton, California

Skip Jones—Amarillo, Texas

Matt Miller—Poolville, Texas

Sharon Overstreet—Kenansville, Florida

Casey Green - Perrin, Texas

Tommy Williams - Rosie, Arkansas

Tatum Rice—Weatherford, Texas

Kirby Smith —Grand Island, Nebraska

Kristen York—Saratoga, Wyoming

## **Honorary Lifetime Past Presidents**

Sam Wilson-1979-1981

Leon Harrel-1982

Tom Lyons-1985

Dennie Dunn-1990-1991

James Hooper-1994-1995

Punk Carter-1998

Edley Hixson Jr.-1999

Jim Milner-2000

Lindy Burch-2001

Mike Mowery-2005

Bill Riddle-2006

Bronc Willoughby-2008

Chubby Turner-2009

Chris Benedict-2010

Keith Deaville-2011

Ernie Beutenmiller Jr.-2012

Barbara Brooks-2013

Bruce Richerson-2014

Jo Ellard-2015

Chuck Smith-2016

Lewis Wray-2017

Phil Rapp-2018

Ron Pietrafeso-2019

Steve Norris-2020

# Changes in the 2022 NCHA Rule Book

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The table of contents is on the next page, the layout of the Rule Book has changed.

The Constitution & Bylaws have been moved to the front.

The Standing Rules are in numerical order followed by Horse & Rider Awards and the Show Management Handbook and the Judge's Rules & Casebook.

Throughout this book, new rules and updates or changes in the 2022 rules are indicated in bold italic type.

The following important changes have been made to the Rule Book this year, but this list is not comprehensive.

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## *2022 Rule Changes since print*

New Unlimited Amateur Approved Weekend Class Open to Amateur card holders that are NOT in the Rider Hall of Fame AND are:

- 1) Age 60 and over OR
- 2) Under the age of 60 and have not won more than \$250,000 in Non-Pro money. Non-Pro money:
  - a. Includes all earnings from Limited Age Event Non-Pro classes
  - b. Includes all earnings from Championship show Non-Pro classes EXCEPT
    - i. \$25,000 Novice-Non Pro, \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro and \$35,000 Non-Pro
  - c. Does NOT include Challenger shows

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# Amended and Restated Constitution & Bylaws of the National Cutting Horse Association

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*Amended and Restated: December 14, 1997, June 14, 1998, December 4, 2000, December 11, 2010, June 19, 2011, November 20, 2013, June 22, 2014, June 21, 2015, June 3, 2018, and August 2, 2021.*

## Article I — GENERAL

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**Section One.** This Association shall be known as the NCHA (the “Association”). The Association is a non-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

**Section Two.** The term for which it will exist shall be perpetual.

**Section Three.** The Association is organized and shall be operated exclusively as an agricultural organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision or provisions of any subsequent United States Internal Revenue law or laws (the “Code”). With the scope of the foregoing purposes, and not by way of limitation thereof, the Association is organized and operated to encourage, promote, advertise, and develop the cutting horse as a unique and excellent equine athlete. The Association shall carry out the foregoing purposes by, among other things, conducting and sponsoring cutting horse activities, events, and contests world-wide; establishing standards, rules, and regulations for the efficient promotion and management of the sport of cutting; establishing qualified and/or affiliated groups and organizations; establishing requirements, categories and criteria for membership in the Association; establishing standards for judging the performance of cutting horses; maintaining achievement records of individual cutting horses and riders; establishing appropriate recognition for such achievements; maintaining the traditional and historical connection of the cutting horse with the ranching and livestock industry; and cooperating with other equine breed associations having common purposes.

**Section Four.** The principal office or place of business of the Association shall be located in Fort Worth, Texas. The legal address of the Association shall be the same.

**Section Five.** There shall be no capital stock of the Association. In lieu of stock certificates, membership cards signed by the Executive Director of the Association shall be issued to all members. Said membership cards shall be non-transferable.

**Section Six.** The fiscal year of the Association shall be October 1 through September 30 of the following year unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section Seven.** The Association shall have a seal which may be used by causing it to be impressed, affixed, or reproduced on official documents of the Association, although the absence of same shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any such document. A sample of said seal shall be impressed, affixed, or reproduced upon this Constitution and Bylaws.

## Article II — MEMBERSHIP; RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Membership in the Association is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made on forms and by fees and procedures prescribed from time to time by the Association. Membership, or application, therefore, may be terminated or rejected by the Executive Committee or

Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of the Association, or to its programs, policies, objectives, or the harmonious relationship of its members, as determined by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors. Termination or application rejection proceedings under this paragraph shall be conducted under the Association's disciplinary procedures for notice, hearing, and temporary suspension; the effect of termination or rejection may be the denial of the privileges of the Association, as set forth in the Association disciplinary procedures. The categories of membership in the Association, and the fees, benefits, qualifications, and guidelines for each category, shall be set forth in the Association's Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations, as such handbook may be amended from time to time

(Hereinafter referred to as the "Rules and Regulations"). Each member of the Association hereby acknowledges the Executive Committee's authority to promulgate and amend the Rules and Regulations, subject only to the Board of Directors' right to approve the Rules and Regulations or any amendments thereto.

### **Article III — MEMBERS**

**Section One.** An annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held each year at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given to each member stating the date, time, and place of said meeting not less than ten days nor more than sixty days prior to the date of said meeting.

**Section Two.** Special meetings of the members may be held whenever called in writing by direction of the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors, or by the written direction of not less than ten percent of the members in good standing. Said notice shall state the date, time, place, and purpose of said meeting and shall be given not less than ten days nor more than fifty days prior to the date of said meeting. Only such business as is set forth in the written notice of said special meeting shall be transacted at said meeting.

**Section Three.** Those members present shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members of the Association and a simple majority vote of such quorum shall decide any question that may come before the meeting; provided, however, that any action taken by vote of the members may not be revoked, rescinded or altered for a period of fourteen (14) months from the date of the action, unless the proposal to revoke, rescind or alter the vote or the action receives at least the same amount of affirmative votes (with respect to both number of votes and voting percentage) as the vote or action initially taken.

**Section Four.** *Each member in good standing of the Association shall be entitled to one vote at a meeting of the members. Voting shall be in person, online, by mail ballot or by other electronic means prescribed by the Association. Only ballots meeting the foregoing requirements shall be accepted and counted. Ballots may not be transmitted in any other form, including but not limited to facsimile transmission. No voting by proxy shall be allowed. A member shall be in good standing if the member is not in arrears with respect to the payment of dues and is not suspended from membership for a violation of the Association's rules and regulations.*

**Section Five.** Concerning all NCHA elections in which online voting or mailed ballots are utilized:

- (a) All NCHA ballots and voting practices shall be in such form as to prevent anyone from discovering the specific identity of the voting member marking such ballot form by inspection of the ballot form required for completion in all elections; and

- (b) The voting entity used by the NCHA shall be selected by the Executive Committee and shall be an independent entity not utilized by the NCHA in any other capacity.
- (c) All NCHA members with email addresses on file will receive notification by email containing voting instructions and a unique login password that must be used with their identification information to place their vote. Once a vote has been placed under an NCHA membership (whether online or by a mailed ballot), no other votes will be allowed by that membership. Instructions will contain information about how a paper ballot may be obtained if a member chooses to not vote online.
- (d) All NCHA members without a valid email address or who request a paper ballot, will be mailed a paper ballot with instructions. This paper ballot must contain an individual's identification number in order to be tabulated. The ballot will be sent to the same voting entity tabulating the on-line voting and will be entered manually.

**Section Six.** The order of business at any regular meeting of the members shall be as follows:

- (a) Roll call
- (b) Proof of due notice
- (c) Reading and disposal of minutes
- (d) Report of Officers and Directors
- (e) Election matters (if any)
- (f) Unfinished business
- (g) New business
- (h) Adjournment.

## **Article IV – DIRECTORS**

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**Section One.** *The Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to law, or this Constitution and Bylaws, as they deem necessary concerning the conduct, management and activities of the Association, the admission, classification, qualification, supervision and expulsion of members, removal of officers, the rules and regulations setting the procedure of such suspension, expulsion or removal, the fixing and collecting of dues and fees, the expenditure of money, the auditing of books and records, the conducting of shows, contests and exhibitions and other details relating to the general purposes of the Association. However, in cases of substantial changes to NCHA Rules (as determined by the NCHA President), the Board of Directors shall first seek input from all impacted committees, when possible. Further, any changes to this Constitution and Bylaws shall not go into effect until approved by the members as provided in Article III. Further, other decisions made by the Board of Directors are subject to approval, revision or amendment by the members at any regular or special meeting of the members called in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws.*

**Section Two.** The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of one director for every seventy-five members in good standing of the Association in a Director District as outlined below. The Board of Directors shall include the President, President-Elect, Vice President of the Association, and members of the Executive Committee. In addition, subject to the provisions herein regarding removal of Directors, all past Presidents of the Association shall be lifetime "Life Directors" and shall continue to possess full voting privileges. The Executive Director shall be an Ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.



**Section Three.** The Board of Directors shall be elected in the following manner:

- (a) By September 30 of the year prior to the annual meeting of the members, the Executive Director shall cause to be determined the identity and total number of all members in good standing of the Association and categorize the membership into geographical areas (Director Districts) based upon each member's state or country of residence. Except as set out below, each state shall be considered one separate Director District; Western Canada, Central Canada and Eastern Canada shall each be considered one separate Director District; and all other foreign countries shall each be considered one separate Director District. Any state with less than seventy-five members in good standing shall be combined with other state(s) in geographical proximity thereto to make up one Director District. Establishment of all Director Districts shall be by or at the direction of the Executive Director, with the approval of the Executive Committee. Any state, section of Canada or other foreign country having at least seventy-five members in good standing shall constitute its own Director District and not be combined with any other state, section of Canada or other foreign country. Any state, section of Canada or other foreign country which constitutes a Director District may request of the Association that it be divided into two Director Districts at any time after such state, section of Canada or other foreign country has 1,500 or more members in good standing and may request of the Association that it be divided into three Director Districts at any time such state, section of Canada or other foreign country has 3,000 or more members in good standing. Such a request shall be in writing and must be signed by a majority of the Directors within said state, section of Canada or other foreign country. Such request shall include proposed boundary lines for each new Director District. Said boundary lines shall be drawn so that each new Director District shall contain approximately an equal number of members. In no event may any state, section of Canada or other foreign country be divided into more than four Director Districts.
- (b) Not later than December 20 prior to the annual meeting of the members, the Executive Director shall cause to be published Director Consent Forms in the *Cutting Horse Chatter* and available on the NCHA website. The Director Consent Form shall contain an explanation of the eligibility requirements and commitments for service on the Board of Directors which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (i) membership in the Association in good standing for a minimum of three years
  - (ii) attainment of at least twenty-one years of age
  - (iii) agreement to attend Directors' meetings as set forth herein
  - (iv) permanent or primary residence in the Director District the member seeks to represent, which shall be determined by the address used by such member for governmental election voting purposes, or, if such member is not registered to vote, by the address used by such member in the member's most recent federal income tax return; and
  - (v) absence of any felony convictions on record.

Any member in good standing who meets the above eligibility requirements, including any incumbent Director eligible for reelection, and is willing to make the commitments necessary to serve on the Board of Di-

rectors if elected shall so indicate on the Director Consent Form (which may request a resume and personal statement as to why that individual desires to serve) and return same via U.S. mail, email or website submission to the Executive Director or their designee by January 15 in order to be eligible for election to the Board of Directors. Any incumbent Director who does not return a Director Consent Form in a timely manner shall not be eligible for re-election. The Executive Director shall cause to be tabulated all Director Consent Forms, and those persons meeting said requirements and indicating assent to the commitments necessary to serve on the Board of Directors shall be categorized according to their respective Director Districts. Any questions regarding whether a member meets such eligibility requirements shall be resolved conclusively by a majority vote of the President, the President-Elect, and the Executive Director.

Any incumbent director who has two or more unexcused absences from regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be ineligible to run for Director for the next term.

- (c) The Executive Director shall cause to be determined the number of Directors to be elected from each Director District on the basis of one Director for every seventy-five members (or fraction thereof) within said Director District. Each Director District shall be entitled to be represented by at least one Director, and a Director District whose membership exceeds seventy-five members and totals a number that is not equally divisible by seventy-five, shall be entitled to an additional Director if its membership totals at least thirty-eight members more than a number divisible by seventy-five. By March 1, the Executive Director shall cause a Director Election Ballot to be placed on the NCHA website and sent via email (and/or by U.S. mail) to each member as outlined in Article III, Section Five, as determined pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section Three, listing the names of all persons in said member's Director District from whom a properly completed Director Consent Form has been received in a timely manner; provided, however, if the number of Director Consent Forms timely received from eligible members resident in a particular Director District is less than or equal to the number of Directors to be elected from such Director District, any member resident in such Director District who has timely submitted a properly completed Director Consent Form shall be deemed to be elected as a Director representing such Director District, and it shall not be necessary to submit Director Election Ballots to the members in such Director District.
- (d) Not less than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of the members, the Executive Committee shall obtain the voting results as tabulated by the voting entity placed in a timely manner by the members of the Association. Those nominees within each Director District receiving the greatest number of votes shall be deemed elected to the Board of Directors effective as of the commencement of the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors. For example, in a Director District entitled to two Directors, the two out of six nominees on the ballot receiving the largest number of votes will be elected as Directors. Any incumbent Director who does not return a Director Consent Form in a timely manner shall not be eligible for re-election. In the event a tally of all ballots received from a particular Director District results in two or more nominees within said Director District tying for the last available Director's position, the tie vote shall be resolved as follows:

- (i) A runoff ballot shall be prepared as soon as possible after the tie vote has been determined listing the names of those nominees who received an equal number of votes. The runoff ballots shall be distributed online (and/or by U.S. Mail) as outlined in Article III, Section Five to the membership of the Director District involved and each member within said Director District shall be requested to indicate their choice from among the two or more nominees listed. All runoff election ballots shall be tabulated online or returned via U.S. mail to the tabulation voting entity designated by the Executive Committee within the time period that shall be prescribed in such runoff election ballots.
  - (ii) Not later than thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the members, the runoff ballots submitted in a timely manner from each Director District shall be tabulated. The nominee receiving the greatest number of votes shall fill the Director's position for which the nominees were tied on the first ballot.
  - (iii) In the event a runoff ballot results in a tie vote being cast for two or more previously tied nominees, a second runoff ballot shall be prepared, and the procedure set out in this subsection (d) shall be repeated.
- (e) The Executive Committee shall cause the results of the balloting for Directors to be tabulated and will report or cause to be reported such results at the next annual meeting of the members, or in the next issue of *Cutting Horse Chatter*. Directors shall serve for staggered three-year terms. Each Director shall hold office for the term for which they are elected and until their successor shall be elected and qualified.
  - (f) A Director's term of service will be terminated immediately if the Director serves as an officer or director of an organization which either has affiliates or is affiliated with an organization using in its name the words "cutting horse" and which is not affiliated with the Association.

**Section Four.** During their term of service, any Director who misses two regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be immediately terminated as a Director unless the Director has been granted an excused absence with respect to any such meeting by the President. The President may grant excused absences for illness or other emergency or other good cause, as determined in the President's sole discretion. A Director shall be considered in attendance at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors only if the Director attends all sessions, which includes the regional directors meeting, and Sessions 1 and 2 of the Board of Directors. Any director who fails to attend two consecutive annual meetings or fails to attend two annual meetings within their three-year term will be dismissed and will be ineligible to run as a director for the following three years.

**Section Five** *In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, whether caused by death, resignation, disqualification, termination or any other cause, the President, after polling area directors and regional Executive Committee member, shall have the authority to appoint an individual who meets the qualifications set forth in Section Three (b) of this Article IV to fill any vacancy on the Board of Directors.*

**Section Six.** *The Board of Directors shall meet annually, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors. This meeting shall be held immediately preceding or following the annual meeting of the mem-*

*bers of the Association. Unless approved by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (¾) of the Directors present, only such business as is set forth in the written notice of such annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be transacted at said meeting. Meetings of directors may be held in person, by video conference or by any other electronic communications system prescribed by the Association.*

**Section Seven.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or by action of at least thirty percent of the members of the Board of Directors at any time or place, provided valid notice is given to all members of the Board of Directors at least ten days in advance thereof. Only such business as is set forth in the notice of such special meeting shall be transacted at said meeting.

**Section Eight.** *A quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of not less than forty percent of the number of Directors then in office. A simple majority of such quorum shall decide any questions that may come before the meeting; provided, however, that any action taken by vote of the Directors may not be revoked, rescinded or altered for a period of fourteen (14) months from the date of the action, unless the proposal to revoke, rescind or alter the vote or the action receives at least the same amount of affirmative votes (with respect to both number of votes and voting percentage) as the vote or action initially taken. All meetings of the Board of Directors may be adjourned from day to day or from time to time until a quorum is obtained. Voting may be made in person or by any electronic means prescribed by the Association. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.*

**Section Nine.** The order of business at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be the same as that for a meeting of the members set out in Section Five of Article III. The President, President-Elect, and Executive Director (by a majority vote of the three) shall have the sole discretion to determine the circumstances, if any, under which individuals other than members of the Board of Directors shall be invited to attend meetings of the Board of Directors, and the sole discretion to determine the circumstances under which the Board of Directors shall go into a closed session from which all persons other than directors are excluded.

**Section Ten.** The Board of Directors, from time to time, may create and empower committees, general or special.

**Section Eleven.** Any Director who engages in conduct which is, or may be, detrimental to the Association, shall be removed from office upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (⅔) of the Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present. The determination of whether a Director has engaged in conduct which is, or may be, detrimental to the Association, shall be within the complete discretion of the Directors in attendance.

## **Article V—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section One.** There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the President, the President-Elect, the Vice President and such Regional Directors and at-large members as described herein as shall be elected from among the Directors and the Life Directors. The President, President-Elect and Vice President shall each serve on the Executive Committee during their respective terms of office.

- (a) Beginning with the June 1998 meeting of the Board of Directors, the Association shall phase in a revised system for the election of the Executive Committee which shall endeavor to promote diverse geographical representation on the Executive Committee. At that time, the Association shall establish eight geographically based Regions

of approximately equal membership, from which certain members of the Executive Committee shall be elected. The revised Executive Committee Election process incorporating regional representation shall be phased in over a three-year period. At the completion of such phase-in period, the Executive Committee shall thenceforth consist of fourteen members and shall be composed as follows:

- (i) eight Regional Directors consisting of one Regional Director from each Region, each of whom shall have been nominated and elected by the Directors residing in such region from among the eligible Directors and Life Directors residing in such Region;
  - (ii) three executive officers, consisting of the President, President-Elect and Vice President; and
  - (iii) three at-large members, each of whom shall have been nominated and elected by the entire Board of Directors from among the Directors and Life Directors.
- (b) The Association shall establish eight geographically based Regions of approximately equal Association membership, from which the Regional Directors shall be elected. The eight Regions initially so established shall be as follows:
- Region I: Washington, Alaska, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Western Canada, Central Canada.
- Region II: California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada.
- Region III: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois.
- Region IV: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, Eastern Canada, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, District of Columbia, Europe.
- Region V: Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina.
- Region VI: East Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas. Region VII: West Texas, South Texas, New Mexico. Region VIII: North Texas, Oklahoma.
- (c) If the above listed Regions shall cease to contain approximately equal numbers of Association membership, appropriate adjustments may be made upon the recommendation of the President and the approval of a majority of the members of the Association at an annual or special meeting of members pursuant to Article III hereof. In the event that such adjustment shall become necessary, every effort shall be made to retain the basic geographical structure of the initial Regions. In addition, any Director District composed of a foreign country (other than Canada) may be assigned to any of the above Regions as deemed appropriate, by and upon the recommendation of the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- (d) Because of the staggered terms of membership on the Executive Committee, the election system shall work as follows:
- (i) Commencing with the June 2003 annual meeting of the Board of Directors and thereafter, all at-large members and Regional Directors shall rotate off the Executive Committee as their respective three-year terms shall expire. Upon the expiration of their respective terms, each at-large member shall be replaced by an at-large member, and each Regional Director shall be replaced by a Regional Director elected from that same Region. Each at-large member and each Regional Director so elected shall receive a three-year term.

- (ii) At each annual meeting of the Board of Directors thereafter, the Board of Directors shall elect as many members of the Executive Committee as shall be necessary to fill the expiring terms.
- (e) Except as otherwise provided herein, all at-large members and Regional Directors who are elected to the Executive Committee shall serve on the Executive Committee for staggered three-year terms. Elections to fill all ordinary vacancies of at-large members of the Executive Committee shall be by the Directors and the Life Directors and shall be held at the annual meeting of Directors.
  - (i) Nominees for all at-large members must complete an At-Large Nominee application form and return the completed form to the Executive Director by March 1 in order to be eligible for the At-Large Election. A digital picture should accompany the application for website posting, if possible. Distribution to Directors of the completed applicant form should take place by April 15 either by posting on the NCHA website or by email to the Directors. Voting for the at-large members at the annual meeting of Directors will be by show of hands or written ballot as determined by the President. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes from the Directors and the Life Directors shall become the new at-large members of the Executive Committee.
  - (ii) Nominees for all Regional Directors shall complete a Regional Director application form and return the completed form to the Executive Director 90 days before the Regional Director Election in order for the Nominee to be eligible for the Regional Director Election. Nominee forms should be distributed to specific region directors 60 days ahead of Regional Director Election. Nominations from the group of candidates qualified for the Regional Director Election shall be taken from the floor of certain special regional nominating committee meetings (held during the annual meeting of the Directors) by the Directors and the Life Directors of any Region with respect to which a vacancy shall exist in a Regional Director position. Such special regional nominating committee meetings shall be conducted and supervised by the officers of the Association. Voting shall be by show of hands, or, upon the request of any Director or Life Director from such Region, by written ballot. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes from the Directors and Life Directors resident in such Region shall become such Region's Regional Director and shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
  - (iii) During their term of service, any member of the Executive Committee who misses two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee shall be immediately terminated as a member of the Executive Committee unless the Executive Committee member has been granted an excused absence with respect to any such meeting by the President. The President may grant excused absences for illness or other emergency or other good cause, as determined in the President's sole discretion. In no event may a person be elected to serve as a member of the Executive Committee for more than two consecutive three-year terms, or for more than eight consecutive years.

**Section Two.** Any Executive Committee member who was elected to the Executive Committee as a Regional Director or an at-large mem-



ber and who is then elected to the office of President, President-Elect or Vice President of the Association shall, upon assuming such office, be deemed to have vacated their Executive Committee position as a Regional Director or at-large member. The unexpired term of the vacated Executive Committee position shall be filled pursuant to an election conducted in accordance with Section One (e) of this Article V.

**Section Three.** *The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Board of Directors, and all powers of the Board of Directors shall be vested in the Executive Committee except the power to amend this Constitution and Bylaws and except as otherwise limited by the Board of Directors or by statute. The Executive Committee shall, except in emergency situations (as determined by the President or a majority of the Executive Committee), seek input of impacted committees, legal counsel, the finance committee and the Board of Directors before making any substantial changes to NCHA Rules. At all times, the Executive Committee shall be subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, and the authority of the Executive Committee may be limited by the Board of Directors as the Board deems best.*

**Section Four.** *The Executive Committee may hold meetings at any time and place and for any purpose pertaining to the welfare of the Association, which meetings may be called by the President, or any eight members of the Executive Committee acting together. Such meetings may be in person or by teleconference. The call of said meeting must be by notice to all members of the Executive Committee at least 24 hours prior to said meeting, except in circumstances of emergency (as determined by the President) in which case the notice may be shorter. Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be sent to all members of the Executive Committee and to all Directors.*

**Section Five.** A quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of not less than eight members thereof and a simple majority of such quorum shall decide any questions that may come before the meeting. Voting at meetings of the Executive Committee must be in person (or by teleconference, if the meeting is held by teleconference), and voting by proxy shall not be allowed. The President shall have the sole discretion to determine the circumstances, if any, under which persons other than members of the Executive Committee may be invited to attend meetings of the Executive Committee, and the sole discretion to determine the circumstances under which the Executive Committee shall go into a closed session from which all persons other than members of the Executive Committee are excluded.

**Section Six.** Except where an Executive Committee member is elected as an officer of the Association, in which case the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section Two of this Article V, in the event there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee caused by death, resignation, disqualification, or any other cause, a special election under this Article will be held to fill the position being vacated and the winner of such election, shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. In cases where there is less than 6 months left on the unexpired term of the Executive Committee member being replaced, the Executive Committee may, by majority vote, choose to leave that seat vacant until the next annual meeting of the members.

**Section Seven.** The Executive Committee shall report in writing to the Board of Directors on the activities, programs, and decisions of the Executive Committee, at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and as otherwise requested by the Board of Directors.

## **Article VI—OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**Section One.** There shall be three elected officers of the Association: The President, President-Elect, and Vice President. Such officers shall be elected as follows:

- (a) Prior to each annual meeting of the members, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for purposes of electing a Vice President. Four members of the nominating committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be from a different director district, and no more than two of whom may be from the same region. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chair for among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet 120 days prior to each annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate two candidates for the office of Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension or probation, for a period of seven 7 years prior to nomination. The candidates must have completed three 3 years of continuous service as a director of the Association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served as a member of a Standing Committee for three 3 continuous years within 10 years of nomination. In determining the nominees for the office of Vice President the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be elected to a one-year term.

**Section Two.** A ballot listing the name of each candidate for Vice President, shall be provided either by online voting or by U.S. mail to each member of the Association not later than forty-five days prior to the annual meeting of the members. The position of each candidate's name on the ballot shall be determined by chance draw conducted in the presence of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The voting process for the Office of Vice President shall be conducted in the same manner as outlined in Article III, Section Five. The voting tabulation shall conclude not less than ten days prior to the annual meeting of the members. With respect to the 1999 election and all elections thereafter, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be the duly elected Vice President. The Vice President, President-Elect and President shall each serve for one-year terms. At the expiration of each such term, the Vice President shall become President-Elect, the President-Elect shall become President, and the President shall be ineligible for a period of one (1) year to serve the Association as an officer or as a member of the Executive Committee.

**Section Three.** The President shall be the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee. The President shall not be authorized to enter into contracts or agreements binding on the Association without the prior approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors, anything contained herein to the contrary this paragraph shall prevail. The President shall be Ex-officio, non-voting member of all committees with respect to which the President is not a voting member. All past Presidents of the Association (other than any President removed from office) shall be honorary Vice Presidents for life, permanent voting Life Directors and lifetime members of the Association. In the event of the death,



resignation, retirement, disqualification, or removal from office of the President, the President-Elect then serving shall assume the office of President and shall serve as President for the remainder of the vacating President's term and for the next succeeding term.

**Section Four.** The President-Elect shall assist the President in the discharge of their duties and shall serve on the Executive Committee. In the event of the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or removal from office of the President-Elect, the Vice President then serving shall assume the office of President-Elect and shall serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the vacating President-Elect's term and for the next succeeding term.

**Section Five.** The Vice President shall assist the President and the President-Elect in the discharge of their duties and shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee. In the event of the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or removal from office of the Vice President, the officer candidate receiving the next highest number of votes in the immediately preceding election of officers shall serve as Vice President for the remainder of the vacating Vice President's term and for the next succeeding term.

**Section Six.** The Executive Director shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Association. The Executive Director shall be responsible for running the day-to-day business operations of the Association and shall report directly to the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall have charge of the physical facilities and personnel of the Association. The Executive Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Association, and in such capacity keep minutes of all meetings, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws or as required by law, keep, and safeguard the records and funds of the Association, and in general exercise such duties and powers incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties and powers as the Executive Committee may from time to time assign or confer. The Executive Director shall make a report of the activities of Association at each annual meeting of its members. The Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee shall issue all notices of meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the members of the Association; keep the membership roll; issue membership cards and certificates; and perform such other and further duties as designated from time to time by the Executive Committee. A surety bond shall be provided for the Executive Director.

**Section Seven.** The Treasurer shall be appointed by and report directly to the Executive Director. The Treasurer shall collect all monies due the Association in the course of its regular operations and for its special events. The Treasurer shall be required to make reports of current receipts and disbursements of funds to the Executive Director and to the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make a report of all receipts and disbursements of funds since the last meeting at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and at the annual meeting of the members and shall furnish copies of the Association's annual audited financial statements to each Director. A surety bond shall be provided for the Treasurer.

**Section Eight.** The Executive Committee shall have authority from time to time to create additional appointed offices and may delegate and assign to any such office the duties and responsibilities it deems in the best interest of the Association and necessary for its efficient operation. The authority granted herein shall include the authority to subsequently abolish any such office.

**Section Nine.** Any officer who engages in conduct which is, or may be, detrimental to the Association, as determined by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Directors or Executive Committee present at any meeting at which a quorum is present, may be removed from office by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Directors or Executive Committee present at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee at which a quorum is present.

#### **Article VII—STANDING COMMITTEES**

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Each of the NCHA's Standing Committees (with the exception of the Finance & Audit Committee and the Stallion Owners Committee) shall have a minimum of one representative from each of the NCHA's eight regions. Any additional members to the committees shall be satisfied from the appointment of members from the Association who are in good standing. These appointments shall be made in the manner outlined in the Standing Committee Guidelines.

#### **Article VIII—POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE(S)**

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**Section One.** The Association, from time to time may cause to be created Political Action Committee(s), herein referred to as "PACs", by majority vote of the Executive Committee or majority vote of the Board of Directors, to represent the Associations in the sole pursuit of the Associations "Mission Statement". Upon approval, the Associations Executive Director and President shall cause the applications and/or forms be filed with the appropriate State Agency or Commission

**Section Two.** The Executive Committee shall serve as the Association's "PACs" committee.

**Section Three.** The Executive Committee, at its sole discretion, shall provide for the lawful collection of PAC contributions and lawful distribution(s) of all PAC funds.

#### **Article IX—NOTICES**

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*The Cutting Horse Chatter is the official publication of the Association. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, all notices, Director Consent Forms, ballots or other material to be provided to members, Directors or committee members of the Association pursuant to this Constitution and Bylaws may be provided by publication in the Cutting Horse Chatter, by email or other electronic means prescribed by the Association, or by any other means permitted under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act or any successor statute. If published in the Cutting Horse Chatter, said material shall be deemed delivered when the issue of the Cutting Horse Chatter containing the same shall be deposited in the United States mail, addressed to said member, Director or committee member at the address of such member, Director or committee member appearing in the records of the Association, postage prepaid. If mailed, said material shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to said member, Director or committee member at the address of such member, Director or committee member appearing in the records of the Association, postage prepaid. If sent by email, fax or other electronic means prescribed by the Association, said material shall be deemed delivered upon successful transmission of such communication. If sent via electronic message, said material shall be deemed delivered upon successful transmission of such electronic message.*

**Article X—AMENDMENTS**

The Board of Directors of the Association shall have the power to repeal, revise, modify or amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association at any annual, regular, or special meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to approval, revision, or amendment by the members at any annual, regular, or special meeting of the members called in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. The notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors or members of the Association at which the repeal, revision, modification or amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws is to be considered shall include the proposed changes to be made to the Constitution and Bylaws and shall be sent by mail or email to the Board of Directors or the members at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.

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The undersigned, being the duly appointed and qualified Secretary of the Association hereby certifies that the foregoing Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws of the Association was duly adopted by the members of the Association at a meeting held August 2, 2021, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout.



Jay Winborn  
Executive Director

# Membership Categories, Fees and Benefits

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1. Membership shall be in three categories: Annual Membership, Youth Membership and Affiliate Membership.
2. Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or organization of good character and reputation interested in cutting horses may become an active member of this Association.

## Existing Life Members

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3. Life Memberships were previously offered on an individual basis to individuals, companies, partnerships, and ranches. NCHA no longer offers any new Life Membership options. The NCHA will continue to honor and maintain all Life Memberships in existence. Each existing Life Membership will receive one vote in NCHA elections and one copy of the *Cutting Horse Chatter* magazine per household.
4. Existing Life memberships are non-transferable and shall cover the current named holder only.

## Annual Membership

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5. Any individual, company, partnership or ranch may become an individual annual member of the Association by making a payment of **\$100 annually** (term January 1 to December 31), each member will receive one vote in NCHA elections and one copy of the *Cutting Horse Chatter* magazine per household.
6. The annual memberships listed in sections 5 above shall cover the member's fees for membership, Amateur/Non-Pro and/or trainer status. In the case that any member is seeking Non-Professional or Amateur status; they must send a Non-Professional or Amateur application into the NCHA and meet all NCHA requirements for Non-Professional or Amateur Status.
7. Annual Memberships are offered on an individual basis to individuals, companies, partnerships, and ranches. Each must have its own membership.
8. Annual memberships are non-transferable and shall cover the holder only.

## Youth Membership

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9. Any youth 18 years of age and younger who is of good character and reputation and is interested in cutting horses may become a Member of the National Youth Cutting Horse Association. For horse show purposes, the age of an individual on the first day of the point year shall be maintained throughout the entire point year. Youth Point year is June 1 to May 31. (For example: A member who has a birthday in July of 2012 and is 18 years of age on the first day of the 2012 youth point year may show throughout the 2012-point year as an 18-year-old.)
10. Annual dues for NYCHA Membership shall be \$25 per year, NYCHA Membership is due January 1st of each year. Youth membership includes a printed copy of the youth specific issue of the magazine. The youth membership shall cover the member's fees for membership and Amateur/Non-Pro. In the case that any youth member is seeking Non-Professional or Amateur status; they must send a Non-Professional or Amateur application into the NCHA and meet all NCHA requirements for Non-Professional

or Amateur Status. A youth must have a Non-Professional or Amateur card to compete in Non-Professional or Amateur classes.

11. Lifetime Youth Membership is no longer offered, however NCHA/NYCHA will continue to honor all existing NYCHA Youth Life memberships.

### **Affiliate Membership**

12. Organizations qualifying for NCHA affiliate status shall pay an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25); said fee to become due on January 1 of each year and to be considered delinquent if not received within ninety (90) days. ***Beginning with the 2022 point year, Affiliates may pay an additional fifty (\$50) to receive a banner with both the NCHA and the Affiliate logo and stating, "Proud Affiliate of the NCHA". Affiliate total dues with banner option would be seventy-five (\$75).***
13. Each new affiliate organization shall pay in the first year an annual fee of fifty dollars (\$50) which represents a membership fee; total, fifty dollars (\$50). ***Beginning with the 2022 point year New Affiliates may pay an additional fifty (\$50) to receive a banner with both the NCHA and the Affiliate logo and stating, "Proud Affiliate of the NCHA". Affiliate total dues with banner option would be one hundred (\$100).***
  - a. Each new application for Affiliate Membership must include a petition signed by 25 NCHA members.
  - b. When an application for a new Affiliate is received in the NCHA office, NCHA will send by U. S. mail or email to all Directors within the area of the applicant's home office plus all Directors residing within 125 miles of the applicant's home office a notice and ballot for voting on the Affiliate Membership application. The ballot must be returned by the designated date by way of U. S. mail or email or Fax to the NCHA office. Affiliate membership approval will require a majority vote of all returned ballots. In the event that no ballots are returned, the affiliate will be approved.
  - c. Any Affiliate membership that is denied will require a 12-month waiting period before being allowed to reapply.

### **Affiliate Guidelines**

14. Organizations having interest in cutting horses may be designated as Affiliates of the NCHA upon acceptance of their application and payment of required fees.
15. Every NCHA Affiliate shall have within its membership at least twenty-five (25) members who are also active individual members of the NCHA.
  - a. Members of NCHA Affiliates may join the NCHA by payment of annual fees only.
16. In order to retain the designation of NCHA Affiliate, each affiliated organization must:
  - a. pay its annual fee by January 1.
  - b. provide NCHA with a copy of its Constitution and Bylaws.
  - c. provide the NCHA with the results of all cutting classes said Affiliate sponsors, which results shall be forwarded to this Association in a business-like manner and without undue delay, postmarked within 5 (five) days of last show date.
  - d. conduct its affairs in compliance with the Bylaws and Standing Rules of this Association including, but not limited to:

- (i) the annual election of officers and directors.
  - (ii) the holding of annual membership and directors' meetings, as well as documentation on the election of officers.
  - (iii) providing a fidelity bond for any officer, director, or member whose duties require the handling of organization funds. The bond must be in the amount of the maximum funds for the purse payout plus the NCHA designated approval fee for the largest show produced. The bond must include the producer's name and the individuals covered along with the expiration date.
  - (iv) the use of due process, as outlined in the NCHA Rule Book, in all matters of discipline or suspension of its members.
- e. A person may serve as a President, Vice-President, or Treasurer of only one NCHA Affiliate at one time and must be an NCHA member.
  - f. Any Affiliate found not in compliance with all sections of this rule on April 1 of each year will be denied membership renewal and placed on "Inactive Status" until all of the above rules have been satisfied.
  - g. An NCHA certified secretary must be used at all NCHA approved shows.

### ***Cutting Horse Chatter***

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- 17. The publication of the NCHA is *Cutting Horse Chatter*, a magazine that is published quarterly and covers current cutting horse activity. *Cutting Horse Chatter* is dedicated to the well founded and ever-increasing popularity of cutting horses.
- 18. The online version of the *Cutting Horse Chatter* can be found on the NCHA website at [www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com).

## Standing Committees

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19. There shall be Standing Committees for the purpose of making recommendations to the Executive Committee and fulfilling the functions described in Paragraph 23. Each Standing Committee shall consist of not less than six (6) nor more than fifteen (15) members who shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. In order to meet the requirements of the NCHA's Constitution and Bylaws, new members of Standing Committees will be appointed to ensure that each committee will have at least one member from each of NCHA's geographic regions. Any member of the Association in good standing shall be eligible for committee assignment; however, preference shall be given to Directors of the Association. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. No committee or committee member has the authority to make contractual or other obligations for the NCHA.
20. The term of a committee member's assignment shall be stated in the appointment. Should a committee member be absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without prior excuse from the Association President or Executive Director, that member shall be automatically removed from their committee assignment. In addition, the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, may relieve a member of their committee assignment for cause.
21. In order to provide for continuity and experience of members, standing committee assignments may be made for a term longer than one (1) year, but in no event may a person be selected to serve as a member of a specific committee for more than two consecutive three-year terms, or for more than eight consecutive years.
22. Each Standing Committee shall be headed by a Chairman, assisted by a Vice-Chairman, each of whom shall be elected annually by the committee members by written ballot, email ballot or roll call vote as determined by sitting Chairman. No voting by proxy shall be allowed. The committee member receiving the greatest number of votes shall serve as Chairman and the committee member receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve as Vice-Chairman. The Chairman shall vote only in case of a tie vote concerning committee action. The Vice Chairman shall serve as presiding officer in the Chairman's absence or incapacity. No individual may serve as Chairman for more than three (3) consecutive years.
23. A quorum at any meeting of a Standing Committee shall consist of not less than six (6) members thereof, (for those committees with the maximum 15 members or 40% of the membership of smaller committees) and a simple majority of such quorum shall decide any questions that may come before the meeting.
24. The present Standing Committees are:
  - Affiliate Officers/Secretaries
  - Amateur
  - Approved LAE Show Producers
  - Finance and Audit
  - Governance
  - Growth and Development
  - Judges Rules
  - Limited Age Event
  - Non-Professional
  - Professional Trainers
  - Youth
  - Weekend Show

### **Affiliate Officers/Secretaries Committee**

1. Recommend guidelines for producing and conducting NCHA approved shows. Address problems and conflicts which affiliates and show producers might incur when producing and conducting NCHA approved shows.
2. Conduct a seminar/meeting open to all show producers, affiliate officers and secretaries at least once a year. Offer assistance or training sessions for new affiliates, show producers, and show secretaries to instruct them in the proper manner of producing and conducting shows under the NCHA rules and guidelines.
3. Work with the NCHA Show Department staff to get new data, rules, and other information promptly to affiliates and show secretaries. Work with show secretaries on improving prompt and correct reporting of show results to the NCHA office.
4. Work with NCHA in the development of new or improved methods of submitting reports to the NCHA and form test groups to pilot new ideas and report back to the NCHA on the effectiveness of the programs.

### **Amateur Committee**

1. Recommend the rules governing those who hold an NCHA Amateur card.
2. Make recommendations regarding Amateur classes held at Limited Age Events and Weekend Shows.
3. Make recommendations regarding rules for determining and maintaining Amateur eligibility.
4. Make recommendations on new ideas that will encourage participation and growth of the Amateur division.

### **Approved LAE Show Producers Committee**

1. Recommend the guidelines and procedures for submitting of LAE show applications and their approval process.
2. Review LAE show date approvals and make recommendations on problems that may arise with overlapping dates or other situations in the allocation of show dates.
3. Make recommendations on new ideas or improvements to recognition and awards programs for NCHA- approved limited age events.
4. Protect the interest of NCHA members, the welfare of the horse, and ensure that cutters in all parts of the country have access to quality Limited Age Events.
5. Protect the investments of existing Show Producers.
6. Provide opportunities for new shows and producers to be successful.

### **Finance and Audit Committee**

1. Make recommendations related to overseeing the financial health of NCHA currently and to ensure that programs and policies are in place to provide for the continued financial strength of NCHA in the future. The Committee shall review audit and control procedures, current accounts, including allocation of costs and revenues, and budgets for past, present, and future years.
2. The Committee must review and make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding approval of all unbudgeted expense items to insure budget soundness.
3. Shall make recommendations concerning the Association's policy in all financial matters including investment of Association funds and capital expenditures and make recommendations for implementation of policies and programs.



4. Provide an open avenue of communication between independent auditors, management, and the Board of Directors.
5. Review the annual audit report and management letter with the outside auditor and management. Identify any significant changes or disputes in accounting principles, financial disclosure, or audit scope.
6. Identify with the auditor and management significant audit and internal control risks and exposures of the association. These are to be reported to the Executive Committee along with recommended corrective actions to be taken by management to address them.
7. Evaluate quality and independence of external audit firm and the appropriateness of the firm's retention. Review recommendations for replacement or appointment of new auditors for presentation to the Executive Committee.
8. The Committee shall be made up of members independent of the Executive Committee.

### **Governance Committee**

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1. Make recommendations for effective governance structure of the NCHA as set forth in its Constitution and Bylaws
2. Recommend planning and implementation of programs which promote the cutting horse and benefits of NCHA membership focusing on membership stability.

### **Growth and Development Committee**

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1. Make recommendations with regard to the direction of the NCHA for future growth, promotion, and development.
2. Recommend policies and coordinate with the Directors of NCHA Marketing & Sponsorship on all phases of annual marketing campaigns for sponsorship growth.
3. Recommend planning and implementation of programs which promote the cutting horse and benefits of NCHA membership focusing on membership growth.

### **Judges Rules Committee**

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1. Make recommendations with regard to amending or interpreting the NCHA Rules for Judging Cutting Horses to promote fairness and equality.
2. Make recommendations to update and keep current NCHA rules governing judge classifications (on an annual and evaluation basis) to assist the Director of Judges in holding judges accountable.
3. Make recommendations to update and keep current an annual "Casebook" to assist both judges and cutters in their understanding of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses.
4. Assist the NCHA Director of Judges in the planning and conduct of judging seminars and clinics to further improve the quality of judging through awareness and insights into the process of judging.
5. Evaluate, subject to executive committee review, the expertise, integrity and personal character of judge applicants and judges pertaining to such person's qualification or ability to be afforded the privilege of being designated an NCHA judge.

### **Limited Age Events Committee**

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1. Recommend the rules under which all limited age events sponsored by NCHA are held including their locations and schedules.
2. Recommend policies and guidelines for the Executive Committee and the NCHA staff to use in producing these events.

3. Make recommendations through a sub-committee in obtaining top quality cattle to assure the success of the NCHA limited age program.
4. Consider and evaluate all suggestions for improvement of NCHA sponsored events and recommend those suggestions which are felt to be practical and possible.

### **Non-Professional Committee**

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1. Recommend the rules governing those who hold an NCHA Non-Professional card.
2. Make recommendations regarding Non-Professional classes held at Limited Age Events and Weekend Shows.
3. Make recommendations regarding rules for determining and maintaining Non-Professional eligibility.
4. Make recommendations on new ideas that will encourage participation and growth of the Non-Professional division.
5. Publish a Casebook covering these Non-Professional and Amateur rules.

### **Professional Trainers Committee**

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1. Recommend rules governing those NCHA members who have identified themselves as Professional trainers.
2. Recommend class structure changes for Professional trainers to encourage participation.
3. Recommend ways NCHA can support Professional trainers through identification on NCHA website, educational seminars, ranch management programs, equine health, small business principles, etc.
4. Obtain information from Professional trainers on critical issues to make recommendations to NCHA as decisions are made.
5. Promote leadership, Professionalism, and positive customer relations to encourage NCHA membership growth.

### **Stallion Owners Committee**

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1. Develop programs and incentives which promote the subscribed stallions, the mares that breed to them, the nominated offspring and the Breeders and Owners.
2. Ensure that all subscribed stallions receive equal promotion.
3. Develop and maintain a successful Triple Crown purse based on Stallion Subscriptions and Foal Nominations.

### **Youth Committee**

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1. Recommend the rules governing NCHA approved Youth contests.
2. Recommend the rules and format for conducting the NCHA Youth Scholarship Cuttings.
3. Serve as the Advisory Committee to the National Youth Cutting Horse Association and its Board of Directors.
4. Plan and recommend fund raising projects for the Youth Association's fiscal year budget.
5. Serve the NYCHA by building membership and making recommendations in the development of Youth programs.

### **Weekend Show Committee**

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1. Recommend rules and standards for the naming of NCHA circuit leaders and champions.
2. Recommend rules and standards to be used in qualifying for the NCHA affiliate and National Championships, in addition to recommendations to purse, entry fees and the like.
3. Recommend rule changes to NCHA approved cutting horse contests not limited by age of horse.

4. Recommend the requirements for participation in the World Championship Finals.
5. Review the rules and procedures used in naming the Top Fifty Open Cutting Horses and Non-Professional Riders, as well as Top Fifty for other approved classes, and makes recommendations to insure fair competition for these valued honors.
6. Work closely with World Championship Finals sponsors and/or possible sponsors to ensure the success of the event for all concerned.

### **Other Committees**

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In addition to the Standing Committees listed above, the NCHA also maintains the other committees listed below. Those other committees act in accordance with the policies and procedures established for those committees by the NCHA and include the following:

#### **Grievance Committee**

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The Grievance Committee is appointed by the NCHA President to investigate and consider complaints made under Standing Rule 37. However, complaints relating to alleged medication violations shall be referred to and reviewed by the Medication Review Committee and complaints concerning all violations of NCHA Non-Pro/Amateur rules will be referred Non-Pro/ Amateur to and reviewed by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee.

#### **Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee**

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The Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee is appointed by the NCHA President with the approval of the Executive Committee. Members of the Review Committee shall each be either former Presidents, former members of the Executive Committee, former or current Directors or former Chair/Vice Chair of a Standing Committee of the NCHA. The Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee will review and make determinations on Non-Pro and/or Amateur status applications, all Exception Rule applications along with reviewing, investigating, and conducting hearings on possible Non-Pro/Amateur rule violations.

#### **Medication Review Committee**

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The Medication Review Committee appointed by the NCHA President and is charged with the initial review of the lab results from any random drug testing conducted under the Medication Rules, determining if the lab results indicate that a violation has occurred and taking disciplinary action for any rule violations shown in those lab results. The Medication Review Committee may also conduct hearings to determine whether a violation of the Medication Rules has occurred, if necessary.

#### **Ad Hoc Committees**

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The NCHA Executive Committee may also appoint (and disband) ad hoc committees, on an as needed basis, to perform specific tasks as may be needed to serve the Association and its members.

# STANDING RULES

## Standing Rules 1-4 General

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### STANDING RULE 1.

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The NCHA has its basic purpose for the public exhibition and constant promotion of the cutting horse.

### STANDING RULE 2.

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NCHA approved events are restricted to NCHA members only. (All owners and riders must be members in good standing with NCHA to compete in an approved show). Original or copies of NCHA membership cards for both owner and rider must be submitted to the secretary when entering approved NCHA shows. NCHA will provide a grace period to prior year members until March 1.

1. Show management may assess a \$5 fine per occurrence when NCHA membership cards are not submitted.
  - a. In the event that a person competes in an NCHA approved contest and is not a current NCHA member, money or points won will not count towards eligibility, awards or standings for rider or horse until membership dues are paid. No money or points will be awarded retroactive to payment of membership dues. Said person may be fined in the amount of \$50. Failure to pay the assessed fine will be cause for denial of membership. Ineligible contestants: When earnings are pulled from horses and riders because of ineligibility, class placings will be recalculated and show management will redistribute the earnings accordingly, with the exception of Circuit Shows which will not be recalculated (see Circuit Rules). If earnings are pulled, (on the second offense) they must be repaid to show management within 15 days of notification, or the ineligible competitor will be placed on suspension. The affiliate/show producer will receive a warning for the first show from which earnings are pulled. The affiliate/show producer will be responsible for making up any shortfalls at subsequent shows.

### STANDING RULE 3.

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All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their Breed Association, and a copy of registration papers must be submitted to the secretary when entering approved NCHA shows. Show management may assess a maximum fine \$25 fine per occurrence when a copy of registration papers is not submitted and all unregistered horses must be shown under one name only and said name may not conflict with a registered horse's name, at any and all contests approved by the NCHA. In any NCHA class, competition must be open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, color, conformation, appearance, or previous performance. Horses are judged on performance only.

### STANDING RULE 4. Payments for Fees and Show Charges.

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#### a. Failure to timely make payments due to NCHA

Any member, vendor, sponsor, advertiser, approved show, or official of an approved show that fails to pay when due any obligation owing to the NCHA for any reason whatsoever is subject to the disciplinary actions provided for in this Rule. Failure to make payments, as used in this Rule, shall include presenting

a worthless check, making a credit card charge that is denied or making any other form of payment that is rejected. This Rule applies to payment of monies owed to the NCHA for any reason including, but not limited to, entry fees, stall fees, show charges, office charges, stock charges, advertising charges, sponsorship fees, premiums, or any other fees or charges of any kind. Payment of fees or other charges by a third party shall not release the party on whose behalf the payment was made from responsibility for making payment or from receiving disciplinary action under this Rule.

**b. Failure to timely make payments due to Show Management.**

Any member that fails to timely pay when due any obligation owing to the Show Management relating to the member's participation in the show (i.e., for entry fees, stall charges, etc.) is subject to the disciplinary actions provided for in this Rule. The term "Show Management" as used herein is the organization or individual acting as sponsor of a cutting horse contest for which said organization or individual sought and received the approval of NCHA to conduct the cutting horse contest (or any other person(s) designated by said organization or individual to act on its behalf).

The NCHA does not generally guarantee any payments due to Show Management. However, for NCHA approved shows that are required to pay the NCHA 8% of all entry fees owed under NCHA rules, the NCHA does guarantee payment of entry fees only, but under the following conditions: (i) the member paying the entry fees must be an NCHA member in good standing at the time that the entry fee is paid; (ii) the show in question has timely paid the NCHA the entire 8% of all fees owed to the NCHA as provided for in NCHA Rules; (iii) the cutting horse contest must be approved by NCHA in advance in accordance with NCHA rules; and; (iv) Show Management must request reimbursement from the NCHA for any unpaid entry fees within thirty (30) days after the show's closing date.

Show Management may take any actions it deems reasonably necessary to collect unpaid fees which it feels are in the best interest of the show, so long as such actions comply with NCHA Standing Rules. If a member feels that Show Management has not acted in the best interest of the show or has violated NCHA Standing Rules in its collection efforts, the member may file a complaint with the Executive Director. The complaint will be handled by the NCHA Grievance Committee in accordance with Standing Rule 37.

**c. Disciplinary Guidelines for Violation of Rule**

Listed below are the disciplinary guidelines which apply for violations of this Rule. These are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the NCHA, in its sole discretion, based on the severity of the violation.

**1. Violations by Show Management or Show Officials**

If Show Management or show officials fail to make timely payments due and owing to the NCHA for any reason, the results for their show will not be counted or posted by the NCHA until such time as all amounts due and owing to the NCHA, plus a fine of \$250, are paid in full.

**2. Violations by Advertisers, Vendors or Sponsors**

If an advertiser, vendor, or sponsor of the NCHA fails to

timely make payments due and owing to the NCHA for any reason, all benefits due to the advertiser, vendor, or sponsor as a result of their agreements with the NCHA shall be suspended until such time as all amounts due and owing to the NCHA, plus a fine in the amount of \$250, are paid in full.

### **3. Violations by Members**

If a member fails to make payments due to the NCHA for any reason whatsoever (including payments for the *Cutting Horse Chatter* or reimbursements made by the NCHA to Show Management for unpaid entry fees) or to Show Management, the following disciplinary guidelines shall apply:

- (i) If reimbursement in full is not made by the member to the NCHA or Show Management (whichever is applicable) within thirty (30) days of written notice being sent to the member, the NCHA membership of that member shall be immediately and automatically suspended.
- (ii) Violation of paragraph a or b above shall also result in a fine of \$50 due and payable from the member to the NCHA, so long as full payment of the entire outstanding amounts are made within 30 days of notice of non-payment from the NCHA or Show Management. If such payments are not made in that 30-day period as required by section 3(i) above, an additional \$250 fine will be added to the amount due and owing to the NCHA.
- (iii) Any suspension given under this Rule shall extend to the entity (horse or business) directly connected to the suspension unless the entity is transferred in a bona fide sale to an unrelated party. The burden is on the selling party to prove that the sale was a bona fide sale to an unrelated third party.
- (iv) The automatic membership suspension referenced in section (i) above shall remain in effect until full reimbursement of all fees is received by the NCHA or Show Management (whichever is applicable) and full payment of the fine listed in section (ii) above is received by the NCHA.
- (v) Any NCHA points, annual awards or certificates received by any owner or rider when they are in violation of this Rule shall be forfeited. NCHA points, annual awards or certificates forfeited under this rule will not be reinstated.

# Standing Rules 5-20

## Related to Approved Shows

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### **STANDING RULE 5.**

To be NCHA approved, the fully completed and signed show application form must be received in the NCHA office no later than forty (40) days prior to the closing date of entry for the show involved. Show application submitted less than the forty (40) days required for approval will be fined \$500 and approved. Under no circumstances will a show be approved less than thirty (30) days prior to the closing date of entry. A show that has been granted approval may change their dates up to seven (7) days if received in the office twenty (20) days prior to the closing date of entry. All approved shows must appear online. Early receipt of application will give the show more publicity. All show secretaries and show management personnel must be current NCHA members.

Applicants for NCHA approved weekend shows may be NCHA Affiliates, or may be Individuals, managers, or organizations able to meet the pertinent requirements of these rules including the financial responsibility requirements as listed below to be NCHA approved. NCHA Affiliate cannot approve having a joint show with a competing association with the exception of AQHA, APHA, High School Rodeo and organizations that host an NCHA Championship Circuit Show or NCHA Circuit Show. These shows will be subject to all applicable NCHA rules and guidelines. In the case of rule conflicts between organizations, NCHA rules will take precedent.

All NCHA show secretaries must be certified. If a secretary has not done any shows for one year, they must retake the Certified Secretary Test, which will be mailed from the NCHA office and must be returned within thirty (30) days. If no show is worked for 24 months, the secretary must go through the complete certification process. If two secretaries work one show, each will receive credit.

***NCHA will not approve two shows at the same location on the same day and two of the same class may not be held on the same day.***

All classes that are eligible to be approved or recognized must be approved in order for the show to be approved. Results must be submitted with the 8% fee to NCHA. On non-approvable class, results must be submitted, and 8% fee is due to NCHA.

There will be a \$3 per entry on approved classes National Circuit fee to be submitted to NCHA with show results.

a. All Non-Affiliate Show producers and Stock Shows must provide NCHA a copy of the surety bond and/or Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Certificate of Insurance for any and all employees, owners, officers, or secretaries whose duties require the handling of funds. The bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit must be in the amount of the maximum funds for the purse payout plus the NCHA designated approval fee for the largest show produced. The bond must include the producers' names and the individuals covered, along with the expiration date. The bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit should list the NCHA as the beneficiary. Your bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit needs to be in the NCHA office 30 days prior to any show date. Mail to: NCHA, Attn: Show Approval Coordinator, 260 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107.

### **STANDING RULE 6.**

A show that is approved by the NCHA must follow the Association Rules. A show may be approved without naming a judge or judges; however, the judge or judges, that are used, must be named a minimum of

seven (7) days prior to the closing date of entries. Below are the penalties for non-compliance during each point year:

- First Offense: A letter of reprimand
- Second Offense: \$100 Fine
- Third Offense: \$200 Fine
- Fourth Offense: \$500 Fine

Offense procedures will start over at the beginning of each point year.

The number of judges for NCHA approved shows may not be decreased less than forty (40) days prior to the closing date of entry. A show should designate an alternate judge in case one of the judges or judge is unable to be present and must name an alternate if more than one ground or a final is scheduled. Any changes regarding added money, entry fees, office charges, location or date classes are held during an approved show must be made no later than thirty (30) days prior to closing date of entry for the show involved. All shows that are canceled cannot be rescheduled within forty (40) days required for approval.

- a. Shows with added purses of more than \$2,000 must use a minimum of two (2) judges from the appropriate NCHA Approved Judge classification.
- b. No person listed on the NCHA probation or suspension list will be permitted to judge.
- c. All NCHA approved classes shall be required to be video recorded. All videographers must be fully credentialed and qualified by the NCHA pursuant to the existing NCHA policies for videographers, except for Circuit Shows. (See Circuit Rules.) This video must be retained by the show sponsor for thirty (30) days after the date of the event where videoing occurred and shall be available to NCHA upon request. At the conclusion of weekend show, show management will make available to the judge a copy of video and judge sheets.

Whenever a video is received at the NCHA office that is of poor quality, the NCHA Judges Department will notify the videographer, and the videographer will be fined \$50. Additional video may be requested. Upon receiving a second inferior video from a videographer, the videographer may be fined \$200, which must be paid prior to the videographer's next event. Upon receiving a third inferior video, the director of Judges shall take action as deemed necessary to correct or eliminate the problem. If there is no video received from a videographer, the videographer will be fined \$500.

- d. All NCHA approved events must use official judges' cards and forward same to the Association along with the completed NCHA result forms within five (5) days of the conclusion of the show. If show results are not forwarded to NCHA within five (5) days of the conclusion of the show, show management will be fined \$250. Judges shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided. It is mandatory for judges to fill in run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:

Above Average		Average	Below Average	
+	√+	√	√-	-

- e. Under no condition can the cattle charge exceed entry fee unless (in jackpotted classes only) some fresh cattle are provided. However, under special circumstances, a cattle surcharge can be added to the original cattle charge in all class-



es at week-end shows, if approved in writing in advance of the show by NCHA.

No cattle charge may exceed \$250. However, special consideration may be granted by the Executive Director for shows having \$5,000 or more in added money per division. Any show with more than \$3,000 added must have more than one go-round. (NCHA does not consider the Finals a go-round). See exceptions for \$2,000 Limit Rider class.

- f. & g. Rule no longer applicable.
- h. No show will be approved by NCHA during the Annual Convention, as well as the day before and the day after. No youth classes or show with an added purse of over \$500 in any class will be approved by NCHA within 300 miles of any National Championship show.
- i. The NCHA point year will end two Sundays before Thanksgiving each year for weekend shows and the Sunday before Thanksgiving for LAE shows. The new point year will begin on December 28.
- j. All new shows applying for NCHA approval must offer both an open cutting horse contest and an unlimited class for Non-Professional riders with parity of added purses.
- k. ***All new shows applying for NCHA approval must offer an Amateur class.***
- l. 150 Horse Rule

#### **WEEKEND SHOWS:**

At Weekend Shows, the judge has the option to stay and judge additional horses after 150 horses per day to receive extra compensation from the fines paid for the over 150 works.

Weekend Show Judge Compensation fines exceeding 150 horses are:

- 151-155 horses- \$100
- 156-160 horses- \$200

Fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judge working the event.

Under no circumstances will a Weekend Show judge be allowed to judge over 160 works. Weekend shows can be fined up to \$200 per infraction per day for exceeding the 160 cap. This rule is at the discretion of the Executive Director and this fine can be appealed.

Weekend Show Management may use a judge who has been in the previous classes to replace a judge who has judged 150 works, providing that they are in compliance with all other rules pertaining to judging is met. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show, unless entries go over the 150-entry limit, or is approved by the Director of Judges.

#### **LAE SHOWS:**

LAE Shows Judge Compensation fines exceeding the 150 horses are:

- 151-155 horses- \$1,000 fine
- 156-159 horses- \$2,000 fine
- 160 and over horses-\$3,000 fine

Under no circumstances will a LAE Judge be allowed to judge over 160 works. Fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judges and monitor working the event.

- m. NCHA reserves the right to refuse approval or cancel the approval of a show which it deems not to be in the best interest of the Association. All show secretaries show management personnel and videographers must be current NCHA members.
- n. "Bridle Inspection": It is recommended that at each NCHA produced show, that one contestant per set be asked to dismount and clearly remove and show their bridle to the judge or judges for their approval. Refusal to do so before the next horse works will result in a disqualification. Youth classes are exempt from this rule. These will be randomly drawn.  
When there is the call for a "Bridle Inspection" and it is a possible Standing Rule 35.A.1- Zero Tolerance Policy violation, the majority vote of the judges would determine the disqualification. In addition:
  - The official videographer and photographer of the show would take a video and photo(s) of the horse/bridle being inspected.
  - The official announcer will announce specifically "show your bridle to the Judge(s) in the middle" when asked for a "bridle inspection".
- o. No dogs will be allowed in the coliseum or any part of the arena, including warm-up area during any NCHA approved weekend and LAE shows or NCHA sponsored cuttings. If on the grounds, they must be on a leash. The following penalties will apply for a violation of this rule: 1st offense - \$200 fine; 2nd offense - \$500 fine; 3rd offense within twelve (12) month period - ninety (90) day suspension.
- p. Show management will require all contestants to present original or copies of NCHA membership cards for both owner and rider, and a copy of horse registration papers when entering approved NCHA shows.

#### **STANDING RULE 7.**

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When a request for show approval comes from an active NCHA affiliate, it will be granted automatically for that particular show, provided the show is directly sponsored or conducted by the affiliate making the request. The name of the judge need not be published, but an NCHA rated judge must be the judge.

- a. There will be a \$3 National Circuit Fee per entry on all approved classes, \$100 Producer Circuit Fee and 8% NCHA Fee due on NCHA approved/unapproved classes. Video recording will be required, and the money earned will count toward individual eligibility.
- b. All NCHA Championship Shows must use the "SAM" System. It is imperative that the System be announced prior to the start of the show.

#### **STANDING RULE 8.**

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There are twelve approved classifications within an NCHA approved show. Any owner or rider who shall permit their horse to be entered and compete in an approved class, in which the owner(s), the horse or rider is ineligible, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee. (Please note that Senior Aged Event money does not count toward eligibility.)

- a. NCHA Open Championship Cutting Horse class: Points toward World Champion Cutting Horse to be counted only at shows bearing the title NCHA Championship Cutting Horse classes.

In order to qualify for this title, shows must meet all standing rules for approval and, in addition, must have an added purse of at least \$200 per day. Three head of fresh cattle per entry be provided in the Open and Non-Professional classes at shows with \$750 or more in added money. The class must be scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse class approved by the NCHA. Show management will have the option of allowing riders to ride two (2) horses in the Open class at weekend cuttings and that the money will count towards the Top 50 standings. Riders may ride two (2) horses in Open class at the World Finals and may ride two (2) horses in the Open class at the National Circuit finals if he/ she qualified two (2) horses in the point year. During the World Finals Open class, the first rider in each set may choose a settler from the NCHA settlers list.

- b. NCHA Championship Non-Professional Cutting Horse class: Points toward World Champion Non-Professional Rider of the Year to be counted only at shows bearing the title NCHA Championship Non-Professional Cutting Horse class. In order to qualify for the title, shows must meet all standing rules for approval and in addition, must have an added purse of at least \$200 per day. The class must be scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse class approved by NCHA. During the World Finals Non-Professional class, the first rider in each set may choose a settler from the NCHA settlers list.
- c. For shows with added money of less than \$200, see Circuit Show Rules. See Standing Rule 50.d.1-50.d.4.
- d. NCHA \$50,000 Limit Amateur Cutting Horse class: Open to qualified holders of NCHA Amateur cards, who meet all non-monetary Amateur requirements, with Amateur earnings up to December 1, 1995, plus all money won in all approved classes after that date, including Limited Age Events, as determined from the records of the NCHA. Beginning with the 2004-point year, all money won in all classes, including Limited Age Events as determined from the records of the NCHA are included in the Amateur's lifetime total. Added money is permitted in this class provided it does not exceed the added purse for the Open and Non-Professional classes.

Your eligibility is affected by your age as follows:

***Earnings Limitations: In addition to all the requirements previously stated, the following earnings limitations must be met for Amateur eligibility:***

(1) ***members less than 60 years of age: a maximum of \$100,000 (\$50,000 Limited Age/\$50,000 Weekend) in eligibility lifetime NCHA cutting horse earnings; or***

(2) ***members aged 60 and above:***

***A maximum of \$200,000 may be earned between NCHA approved weekend and Limited Age event earnings to remain qualified for Amateur status. Members with less than (i) \$200,000 in total earnings; and (ii) with earnings less than \$100,000 in either weekend or limited age events at the beginning of the point year will be eligible to compete in one or both of the categories they qualify for. Earnings in excess of \$100,000 at the beginning of the point year in either weekend or limited age events will make Amateur card holders***

***ineligible to compete in the category for which they do not qualify. Earnings in excess of \$200,000 will make card holders ineligible to compete in Amateur Competition; and***

**(3) (iii) Hall of Fame members may not roll back to the \$50,000 Amateur class in weekend competition.**

- e. NCHA \$15,000 Limit Amateur Cutting Horse class: Open to qualified holders of NCHA Amateur cards, who meet all non-monetary Amateur requirements, with Amateur earnings up to December 1, 1995, plus all money won in all approved classes after that date, including Limited Age Events, as determined from the records of the NCHA. Beginning with the 2004-point year, all money won in all classes, including Limited Age Events as determined from the records of the NCHA are included in the Amateur's lifetime total. Certain Non-Professionals within this Association may be classified as Amateurs. A member of this Association shall be disqualified from being classified as an Amateur under any of the circumstances described in Standing Rule 51.a.6.
- f. The entry fee in \$15,000 Limit Amateur class with one go-round may not exceed \$100; those classes with more than one go-round may not have entry fees which exceed \$125 added back. The cattle charge may exceed the entry fee, provided some fresh cattle are provided.
- g. NCHA \$35,000 Limit Non-Professional Cutting Horse class: Open to all holders of NCHA Non-Professional cards with Non-Professional earnings up to December 1, 1995, plus all money won in all approved classes after that date, including Limited Age Events, as determined from the records of the NCHA. Beginning with the 2004-point year, all money won in all classes, including Limited Age Events, as determined from the records of the NCHA are included in the Non-Professional's lifetime total. NCHA approval shall be granted to this class only when all other Standing Rules for approval have been met and the contest is scheduled with an accompanying NCHA Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes. No added money will be permitted in this class except for the NCHA Eastern and Western Championship. The entry fee in \$35,000 Limit Non-Professional class with one go-round may not exceed \$100; those classes with more than one go-round may not have entry fees which exceed \$125 added back. The cattle charge may exceed the entry fee, provided some fresh cattle are provided. Change of Status Non-Professionals and Exception Rule Non-Professionals will be able to compete in Limited Non-Pro classes at Limited Age and Weekend shows. Anyone who has been an Apprentice Trainer may compete in limited classes at Limited Age and Weekend Shows, as long as they meet the same criteria established for the Non-Pro Exception Rules. A Non-Professional in this Association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration to work in any manner in the following activities on the premises of a cutting horse training operation: showing, training, or assisting in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. For purposes of this rule, a cutting horse training operation is any facility where cutting horses are trained. Any person who has trained horses astride in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline for direct or indirect remuneration

- neration shall be considered a Professional by this Association with the exception of those who have been granted a change of status since January 1, 1997, from Professional to non-Professional. Those who have been granted a change of status from Professional to Non-Professional will not be allowed to have the benefit of being a Non-Professional without restrictions. Also, effective January 1, 1997, a Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline.
- h. NCHA \$25,000 Limit Novice Cutting Horse class: Open to all horses having eligibility earnings of \$25,000 or less (excluding money won in Limited Age Events), as determined from the records of the NCHA. NCHA approval shall be granted to this class only when all other applicable Standing Rules for approval have been met, and the class is scheduled with accompanying Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes approved by NCHA. The added purse for this class may not exceed that offered for any accompanying Open or Non-Professional class. Riders may ride two eligible horses.
  - i. NCHA \$5,000 Limit Novice Cutting Horse class: Open to all horses having eligibility earnings of \$5,000 or less (excluding money won in Limited Age Events), as determined from the records of the NCHA. NCHA approval shall be granted to this class only when all other applicable Standing Rules for approval have been met, and the class is scheduled with accompanying Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes approved by NCHA. The added purse for this class may not exceed that offered for any accompanying Open or Non-Professional class. Riders may ride two eligible horses.
  - j. \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Rider Cutting Horse class: Open to horses having eligibility earnings of \$25,000 or less (excluding money won in Limited Age Events), as determined by the records of the NCHA. Riders must be current NCHA Non-Professional card holders. Riders may ride two eligible horses, according to family-owned horse rules.  
NCHA approval shall be granted to this class only when all other applicable Standing Rules for approval have been met, and the class is scheduled with accompanying Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes approved by NCHA. The added purse for this class may not exceed that offered for any accompanying Open or Non-Professional class.
  - k. \$2,000 Limit Rider/Any Horse Class: Open to all riders having lifetime earnings in all cutting competition of \$2,000 or less at the beginning of the point year, as determined by the records of the NCHA. Any horse may be ridden regardless of ownership. Holders of NCHA Non-Professional cards may compete in this class on any horse without jeopardizing their Non-Professional status. No added money will be permitted in this class except for NCHA Eastern and Western Championship, and the entry fee for one go-round may not exceed \$100 or with more than one go-round exceed \$125. The cattle charge may exceed the entry fee provided some fresh cattle are furnished. NCHA approval shall be granted to this class only when all other applicable Standing Rules for approval have been met, and the contest is scheduled with accompanying Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes approved by NCHA.

1. \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Rider Cutting Horse Class: Open to all horses having eligibility earnings of \$5,000 or less (excluding money won in Limited Age Events), as determined from the records of the NCHA. Riders may ride two eligible horses, according to family-owned horse rules. The added purse for this class may not exceed that offered for any accompanying Open or Non-Professional class. Riders may ride two eligible horses. Earnings will be recorded and will count for year-end awards or standings.

### **NCHA Approved Youth Cutting Horse Contests**

1. To be NCHA approved, the signed Application for Approval form requesting this approval must be sent to the NCHA office as specified by Standing Rule 5.
2. A Youth Cutting Horse Contest that is approved by NCHA must follow the NCHA Rules. A show will not be approved until the judge or judges have been selected in accordance with Standing Rule 6.
3. NCHA Standing Rules numbers 8, 9, 13, and 14 shall not apply to Youth Cutting Horse Contests.
4. In no case shall a contestant be more than 18 years of age on the first day of the point year in which the contest is held.
5. Only Youth members of NCHA shall be eligible to compete in any NCHA approved or sponsored events, including special scholarship events.
6. Points shall be awarded to winners in NCHA Youth Cutting Horse Contests on the following basis:

Following for Weekend Shows Only

No. of Horses	Place in Contest:									
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th, 9th, 10th		
3	1									
4-7	2	1								
8-11	3	2	1							
12-15	4	3	2	1						
16-20	5	4	3	2	1					
21 & Up	6	5	4	3	2	1				

The following point system will be used for the NCHA Summer Scholarship Cutting.

No. of Horses	Place in Contest:									
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3	1									
4-7	2	1								
8-11	3	2	1							
12-15	4	3	2	1						
16-20	5	4	3	2	1					
21-25	6	5	4	3	2	1				
26-30	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
31-36	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
37-42	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
43 & Up	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

In order for a youth entry to be considered a legal entry and the points to count, the rider must be an active participant in the class, i.e., must cross the timeline and make a real attempt to show the horse. Scratches will not count for points (only money won will count).

7. When NCHA approval is for a Junior and Senior Youth Cutting, it cannot be combined unless there are less than three (3) entries in either Division. If a Youth Cutting approved as a Junior and Senior Youth Cutting is combined at the time of the draw because there are fewer than three entries in either division and additional entries are taken at any time after the draw that increase the entries to at least three in each division, points will be received in each division, but the working order will remain as drawn. When a Youth Cutting is approved with both Divisions, points will be received in each Division. A Youth Cutting that is a combined class may divide the money and pay premiums in both Divisions, however if a youth class is approved as combined (all ages) it cannot be held as separate classes. If classes are not held as approved (combined), scores will be placed in score order from both classes and points will be awarded under the youth point system as a combined class.
  - a. If there is to be one class, undivided, the age group is to be 18 and under.
  - b. If there are to be two classes, the age divisions must be Junior (1) 13 and under, and Senior (2) 14 through 18.
8. A record of points shall be maintained in the rider's name by the NCHA. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the Junior boy or girl and the Senior boy or girl having accumulated the greatest number of points in a minimum of five (5) NCHA Youth Cutting Horse Contests will be named and duly honored by the NCHA as its World Champion Junior Youth and World Champion Senior Youth.
9. Stallions may be barred from NCHA Youth Cutting Horse Contests if this information is forwarded to NCHA at the time application for approval is made.
10. It is recommended that whenever possible, adults be used as turn-back riders and herd holders at NCHA Youth Cutting Horse Contests. It is the obligation of the show management to furnish herd holders unless the contestants select their own.
11. Provided a representative has not been appointed by the show management, it shall be the duty of show management at all NCHA Youth cutting horse contests to hold a meeting prior to the first go-round for the purpose of electing a representative to represent the contestants for the duration of the show. In the event the representative has to leave the show for any reason, they shall appoint a representative in their place for the duration of the show. Any representative so elected or appointed must be a contestant in the Youth class.
12. It is recommended that all approved youth contests be provided fresh cattle.
13. NCHA will not approve any youth cuttings on weekdays between Labor Day and Memorial Day, with the exception of Winter Circuit youth cuttings as long as they are from December 28 through the first Sunday of January. Approved shows held in Utah and Idaho will be allowed to hold youth classes on Fridays after 6:00 p.m. with the stipulation that any youth who shows in those states on a Friday will only be eligible to also earn NCHA youth points on Saturday (not Sunday). Exception: Youth classes may be approved during the week at special events (such as major livestock shows), and at any other show on a national holiday that is recognized by the U.S. government if there is a scholarship offered. The request for these approvals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director.
14. NCHA will not approve any youth cuttings with added money.



15. No youth classes will be approved by NCHA during the annual NYCHA Convention and Scholarship Cutting within 300 miles of Fort Worth, Texas.
16. If a member no longer meets the qualifications for a Non-Pro/Amateur card, the youth will not be eligible to compete in youth competition. (The youth member must meet the qualifications for at least the Non-Pro card, i.e., the youth may not be a trainer and still compete in the youth competition).
17. **Youth Regional Scholarship removed for 2022 point year.**
18. Youth World Finals  
Top 15 in each class plus ties (no drop down), will be eligible to compete in the World Finals, to be held during the Summer Spectacular. There will be 3 rounds and a non-working final. Points won for go-rounds and non-working finals will be based on the number of entries in the class, with the maximum of 5 points for first place.  
The Youth World Finals entrants will be based on points accumulated from June 1 to May 31, as will Youth World Standings, Circuit Standings, Youth Rookie of the Year and Affiliate Standing. Youth age is based on their age on June 1st. The membership cutoff of December 31st remains the same. Membership cards will be printed showing the membership expiration date of December 31st and will allow for the March 1st grace period the same as all other membership.
19. A Novice Youth Class may be offered at weekend shows for NYCHA members with less than \$300 in earnings and fewer than 10 points. The entry fee will be \$20 (in addition to the Youth Class entry fee), with \$10 jackpotted, \$6 to the NYCHA, and the \$4 to the Affiliate. Affiliates are encouraged offer year-end awards for this class. The Novice Youth Class is a class-within-a-class, with no national standings kept.

### **Additional Recognized Classes**

1. NCHA Select Non-Professional Class (Weekend Shows Only): Non-Professionals and Amateurs aged fifty (50) and over at the beginning of the point year will be eligible to participate. This may be a class within the Non-Professional class or may be held as a separate class. Added money is permitted provided it does not exceed the added purse in the Open and Non-Professional. Earnings will be recorded and will not count for year-end awards or standings.
2. NCHA \$1,000 Limit Amateur Cutting Horse Class: Open to qualified holders of NCHA Amateur cards with Amateur earnings up to December 1, 1995, plus all money won in all approved classes after that date, including Limited Age Events, as determined from the records of the NCHA. All money won in all classes, including Limited Age Events as determined from the records of the NCHA are included in the Amateur's lifetime total. Certain Non-Professionals within this Association may be classified as Amateurs. Starting with the 2018-point year, an Amateur competing in this class is allowed to show a horse owned by any NCHA member in good standing, without jeopardizing their Amateur status. All earnings in this class will be recorded but will not count toward year-end awards or standings. However, all earnings in this class will count toward achievement buckles. No added money will be permitted in this class.
3. ~~Unlimited Amateur No Earnings Cap: Open to all qualified holders of Amateur cards at weekend shows. All earnings will count.~~



## **STANDING RULE 9.**

NCHA competition must be open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, color, conformation, appearance, or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only.

See Standing Rule 51.a.5 in the Non-Professional Rules and Casebook section. Any owner who shall permit their horse to be entered and compete in contests for Non-Professional and/or Amateur riders, where said rider is ineligible, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

- A. A horse's eligibility to enter NCHA Novice Cutting Horse Contests or a rider's eligibility to enter NCHA limited Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contests will be based on the eligibility earnings of said horse or Non-Professional rider on the first day of the NCHA point year in which the contest is held.
1. Money won in limited age events shall not be counted when determining eligibility for novice horses.
  2. Riders of horses in NCHA Novice Cutting Horse classes and Limited Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contests may be restricted to members of an active NCHA affiliate when that affiliate directly sponsors or conducts the contests involved. Affiliates may, at their discretion, charge memberships to owners and/ or riders for participation in their events.

## **STANDING RULE 10.**

NCHA approval may be granted to restricted limited age events. Earnings won will count toward applicable NCHA lifetime awards. The NCHA will record breed registry cutting earnings received at World Shows and apply these monies to the lifetime earnings of a horse and a rider. Breed Registry World show cutting earnings will not be applied toward NCHA class eligibility.

## **STANDING RULE 11.**

At all NCHA approved shows, the judge or judges working the show must make the draw (working order of horses) before each go-round and finals. Cattle changes must be designated before working order is drawn. The draw will be conducted by using numbered tokens or balls. The number of tokens or balls corresponding to the number of entries will be placed in a container, and a blind draw shall be conducted. The Show Management is to state the name of the horse, and the judge will state the position drawn. Simply shuffling entry cards and placing draw numbers on the back is not permissible. Any show management wishing to pre-draw must use a judge from that event to draw or have prior approval from NCHA for someone other than the judge to conduct the draw. The working Monitor is allowed to draw if the official judge or judges are not available.

NOTE: Random computer draws may be used in classes exceeding 30 entries provided the judge is present and working orders are printed immediately.

NOTE: All NCHA approved Limited Aged Event finals and semifinals will be hand drawn by an officiating judge.

NOTE: In the event of a draw party at an NCHA-produced event only, the draw may be hand-drawn or overseen by the Executive Director, Director of Shows or Director of Judges, instead of an officiating judge.

- a. In the event that a horse which was properly entered is left out of the draw, a redraw will not be held. In order to establish a working order for this entry, the judge will draw a numbered token or ball based on the number of entries in the class involved

to include token for late entry. The entry which was left out of the draw shall work behind the entry drawn.

- b. At Limited Aged Events using a multiple level class structure, horse cannot run twice in a single set. In the event that a horse will have more than one run within the given class or concurrently run set of classes, a minimum critical distance must be established to ensure a horse will not run twice within a drawn set. If such a case should arise the later drawn run shall be placed in the set following the original draw in the same placement within the next set. The newly placed draw shall be switched with the entry occupying the new draw and that draw shall be moved to the previous set in the same sequence. For example: If a horse were drawn 7 and 11 in a set, the horse in draw 11 would be moved to the 11th position in the following set and the horse originally in the 11th position would move to the 11th position in the earlier set. In the event the multiple draws are located within the last set, the same procedure should be followed by reassigning the draw to the preceding set.
- c. If a horse is drawn which is not in that class, the entry shall be withdrawn. The original cattle changes are not affected. After the draw, absent horses shall be counted toward cattle changes, and horses will work as drawn in each group of cattle.
- d. All contestants will work at the appointed time so designated by the show management or be disqualified for that go-round with no score. No late entry will be accepted from a contestant who fails to work at their appointed time.
- e. Weekend shows that utilize pre-entries can institute a cattle charge and outside vendor portable stall fees on a scratched entry that occurs before the draw. These charges would be at the discretion of show management (with proper notice on show applications).

Shows' entry forms must state how many days before the show an entry must be scratched to avoid these charges.

Horse and/or rider substitution will be allowed in approved weekend classes prior to or after the draw but before the class starts, provided the same owner owns the horse to be substituted in the horse classes and Non-Professional and Amateur horse ownership rules are followed in rider classes. No substitution will be allowed after the class begins. Class entry slots cannot be bought or sold between contestants for approved weekend shows. NCHA-approved limited age events may set their own rules as long as there are no direct conflicts with NCHA rules. Youth and \$2,000 Limited Rider classes are not required to follow Non-Professional or Amateur horse ownership rules. These classes will be allowed to substitute horses that are owned by different owners after the draw until the beginning of the class. Rider substitution in the youth may only be done with minor sibling that is qualified for the class.

The burden of proof for eligibility would be the member's responsibility in all instances.

## **STANDING RULE 12.**

Late entries shall not be accepted after one-fourth (1/4) of the horses in the class concerned have worked. Any late entry so accepted must work last in the first available set of cattle after being given fifteen (15) minutes from the time of entry to prepare the horse; provided, however, that when two or more late entries arrive simultaneously, a draw will be held

and said entries inserted in the next subsequent groups of cattle with one (1) entry being placed in each group. If the number of late entries exceeds the number of cattle changes, additional late entries will start with the first available group. Requests for exemption to this rule, that will allow an earlier closing deadline for late entries must be made to the NCHA Executive Director or Director of Shows at the time of show application.

Example:

1st group—late entry A

2nd group—late entry B

3rd group—late entry C

a 4th late entry would be added to the first available group.

A class with less than three (3) entries competing (trying to complete a 2½-minute work) does not constitute a class and shall be canceled.

### **STANDING RULE 13.**

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At shows with more than one (1) go-round, the prize money is to be divided equally in each go-round and in the finals. Exceptions may be granted to state, regional or county fairs.

Any time there is more than one go-round, money will be paid in each go-round. When there are no working finals, the money will be paid in the go-rounds. This applies except when a governmental agency stipulates how its money should be paid. Any show with more than \$3,000 added must have more than one go-round. Note: The number of places paid in a final shall be equal to at least fifty percent (50%) of the number paid in each go-round.

- a. The number of horses in a contest and the amount of money being competed for determines the number of monies to be paid. Example: In a class with one go-round and finals, the total purse must be paid in equal amounts. 50% of the total purse will be paid in the go-round according to the mandatory payout schedule. Weekend shows with classes with \$5,000 and more in added money must have one go-round and finals with all money to be paid out in the finals. The top 25% of entries will advance to finals with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12. The top 50% in the finals will receive a check based on the NCHA Mandatory payout system, with all finalists to receive a base pay of two times their entry fee. Classes with less than \$5,000 in added money may have more than one go-round and monies must be split equally between go-rounds and/or finals. These classes are required to use the NCHA Mandatory Payout Schedule. Management may not charge any advancement fee or cattle fees to the horses advancing to the finals. In the finals, management must pay a minimum of 50% of the places paid in the go-round and may not exceed the number of places paid in the go-round. After determining how many places will be paid in the finals, the percentage payout system shall be used to distribute the money. In a show with two go-rounds and finals the same will apply but the total purse shall be split 33.33% to both go-rounds and 33.33% to the finals.

### **STANDING RULE 14.**

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No entry fee (jackpot) shall be less than \$10. Except for jackpots, the following entry fee limits shall apply. (Classes with less than \$200 added should charge in accordance with other shows in their circuit.):

Added Money	Maximum Entry Fee % Based On Added Money
\$200 - 300 .....	50.0%
\$301 - 500 .....	40.0%
\$501 - 750 .....	30.0%
\$7,51 - 1,000 .....	25.0%
\$1,001 - 2,000 .....	22.5%
\$2,001 - 3,000 .....	15.0%
\$3,001 - 4,000 .....	11.0%
\$4,001 - 5,000 .....	9.0%
\$5,001 & over .....	8.0%

Example: On a \$200 added the maximum allowed jackpot entry fee would be \$200 added x 50% = \$100 or 50% of \$200 = \$100.

- a. Entry fee (jackpot) shall be added to purse. If any charge is to be made other than entry fee, it must be stated as a stall, handling or office charge and be separated from the entry fee. (In this Rule Book the entry fee is referring to jackpotted of total fees.)

In all Championship cutting horse shows approved by the NCHA, eight percent (8%) of the total entry fees paid in the contest shall be deducted by the Show Management and forwarded to the NCHA; this deduction to be sent along with all completed NCHA result forms and judges' cards to the Association's National Office immediately following the conclusion of each contest. (Note: This deduction is to be made from entry fees only and is not to include any portion of the purse added by the show or other charges). In three-horse classes with \$300 added or more the payout will be made from the added money only. The 8% fee will be remitted to NCHA from the entry fees collected. The show will retain the remaining portion of the entry fees. Four horses or more classes will use the mandatory NCHA payout. This stipulation applies to all weekend and weekend LAE shows. There will be a \$3 per entry National Circuit fee for all weekend show entries (NCHA approved classes) and that money collected will be sent to NCHA with show results. This fee will be utilized exclusively to support NCHA weekend show events, and to ensure the added money at the National Circuit Finals. Show results must be submitted with the 8% fee and a \$100 producer fee. (Classes that are not approvable are subject to 8%, results from all unapproved classes must be submitted.) Monies will be recorded on horse and rider. All classes that are eligible to be approved must be approved in order for the show to be approved.

- b. No deduction, other than as specified above, shall be made. Failure to comply will cause approval of the show to be withdrawn.
- c. The show management, its officers or employees shall be held accountable for all funds collected and/or disbursed in connection with contests approved by the NCHA. The Show Producer and/or Affiliate whose signature appears on the show application are jointly and severally liable to the NCHA for the appropriate approval fee deduction. Failure to make a satisfactory accounting when called upon shall be cause for a full and impartial hearing before the appropriate committee and disciplinary action may be taken if deemed appropriate by the committee.

**d. MANDATORY PAYOUT SCHEDULE**

Mandatory Payout Schedule Show Classifications All Classes

Number of Entries	Monies Paid
3 .....	1
4-7 .....	2
8-11 .....	3
12-15 .....	4
16-20 .....	5
21-25 .....	6
26-30 .....	7
31-36 .....	8
37-42 .....	9
43-49 .....	10
50 & over .....	12

Notes:

1. The number of places paid in a final shall be equal to at least fifty percent (50%) of the number paid in each go-round.
2. A class with less than three (3) entries competing (trying to complete a 2½-minute work) does not constitute a class and shall be canceled.
3. Payout for all classes must be in accordance with the mandatory payout schedule.
- e. The Percentage Payout System described below is to be used when determining distribution of the purse for all approved classes.

**NCHA Weekend Show Payout**

Payout Schedule for Added Money & Jackpot Classes Percentage Payout by Places

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12
60	47	40	30	30	28	25	23	20	20
40	33	30	25	24	23	20	18	16	16
	20	20	20	18	16	15	15	14	13
		10	15	12	12	12	11	11	11
			10	9	9	10	9	9	8
				7	7	8	8	8	7
					5	6	7	7	6
						4	5	6	5
							4	5	4
								4	4
									3
									3

- f. At all NCHA-approved shows, it will take a score of 60 or higher to receive a check for shows with one go-round. Scores of 0 or a disqualification will not receive a check except for shows with finals which show rules state all finalists will receive checks. The amount of money to be recorded as earnings will be based on the original mandatory payout schedule for the class.

Note: While a 0 score or disqualification may result in a larger check paid to a prize-winning contestant, the officially recorded earnings will be based on the payout schedule.

### **STANDING RULE 15.**

The score from each go-round will be added together to get the top horses for finals.

### **STANDING RULE 16.**

The score a horse has marked in go-round performances will be added to the score marked in the finals to determine the winner of a class. Final's money shall be paid on the scores marked in the finals only.

### **STANDING RULE 17.**

In a contest where there are no finals, the score of each go-round added together will determine the winner of that contest: however; money must be paid according to the provisions of NCHA Standing Rule 13.

### **STANDING RULE 18.**

- (a) An exhibitor may enter an unlimited number of horses, but a rider may ride only one horse, except in the \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider; \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider; \$25,000 Novice Horse; \$5,000 Novice Horse; and Open Class (if permitted by show management) where the limit is two (2). Each horse must have the same rider throughout the contest where there is more than one go-round. This shall apply to novice classes as well as all other classes approved by NCHA. Any violation of this rule will cause the rider to be disqualified from the contest, with possible additional disciplinary action. Clarification: Approved Open/Horse classes—Any horse(s) over the allowed two will be disqualified and the one(s) disqualified will be determined by the later placement in the draw. In all other classes (Non-Pro, Amateur, \$2,000 L/R, Youth) if a rider shows more than the allowed one horse, all entries will be disqualified in that class. After the draw is complete, a contestant will forfeit all fees. The only exceptions for a change of rider in Open competition with multiple go rounds are if there is a death in the family or because of physical disability of the rider, a rider can be substituted with another eligible rider if so, approved by show management. Under no circumstance can the same horse be shown by more than one rider in any class at an NCHA approved contest. Show management has the option of allowing riders to ride two (2) horses in the open class at weekend cuttings and that the money will count towards the Top 50 standings.
- (b) Unapproved Novice Horse classes held within or during an NCHA approved show may allow riders to show an unlimited number of horses. Unapproved classes based on "Rider Earnings" shall be limited to two (2) entries per rider. However, all NCHA rules regarding Non-Pro/Amateur ownership apply unless the class offered is a "Limited Rider" type class. (Note: Any unapproved Limited Rider Class cannot be in excess of \$2,000.) Any unapproved class that does not follow standard NCHA class rules and is not addressed in this paragraph must submit a copy of the class rules with the NCHA show application. Unapproved classes submitted and advertised as Novice Horse and/or Rider classes must set and enforce earnings thresholds. Thresholds should be posted and advertised. Members found to be competing outside of the posted thresholds will be subject to the NCHA grievance process.

### **STANDING RULE 19.**

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Entry numbers shall not be used as the sole method of identifying horses at any contest approved by NCHA. Announcers are required to make known the name of each horse, the owner and rider at the time they work and to recognize winners in a similar manner at the conclusion of the contest.

### **STANDING RULE 20.**

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Each horse is allotted two and one half (2½) minutes to work during a run. The working time starts when the rider crosses the official timeline.

As soon as the horse, owner and rider's name are called to the herd by the announcer (the "Rider Announcement"), the announcer will start the 1-2½ Minute Clock to let the rider know how much time the rider has to cross the official timeline and begin the rider's run. If the rider has helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 2½ minutes from the Rider Announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run. If the rider has not helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has not drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 1 minute from the time of the Rider Announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run. This is referred to as the 1-2½ Minute Clock.

If the rider fails to cross the official timeline in the time allotted under the 1-2½ Minute Clock, a buzzer will sound, and one additional minute will be added to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock.

This buzzer is the only warning that the rider will receive relating to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock. If the rider receives any additional buzzers relating to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock at any time during that show, it will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence (i.e.- second buzzer is a \$500 fine, third buzzer is an additional \$500 fine, etc.) All fines assessed under this rule must be paid prior to the rider's exhibiting a horse in any future NCHA-produced event.

All NCHA produced events will use the 1-2½ Minute Clock as described above. It will be optional for all other NCHA sanctioned events to use the 1-2½ Minute Clock as described above.

# Standing Rules 21-29 - Related to Judges

## STANDING RULE 21.

Any person applying to be a judge or designated a judge must demonstrate a high degree of integrity in all aspects of their conduct related in any way to involvement with the NCHA as a NCHA member, contestant, judge, or other conduct which reflects on the NCHA. The Director of Judges or the Judges Rule Committee, in its sole discretion of either, may determine that any conduct of a person is a basis to deny or revoke that person's privilege to serve as a judge. This determination may be made with or without notice or hearing, subject only to a review of the Executive Committee on such terms as the Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, may from time to time designate. Active members of the Association over the age of 19 may be added to the NCHA Approved Judges List upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements. Each NCHA judge applicant and approved NCHA judge is required to sign the Judges Code of Ethics. All judges are required to sign the code and return it to the NCHA Office.

- a. Application for NCHA approval as a judge shall be made on a form provided by the Association.
  1. Each application must be endorsed by one (1) current Director of the applicant's region, who is not a member of the applicant's family; and three (3) current NCHA approved judges. The necessary form and return envelope will be provided for the three (3) judges' use.
- b. Any person seeking approval as an NCHA judge shall have been a member of the Association continuously for a minimum of five (5) years, including youth or family membership, and shall have no record of suspension, probation, or reprimand by the NCHA for the three (3) year period immediately preceding the application. Applicant must have been an active competitor during the past three (3) years and must have won a lifetime minimum of \$10,000 to become a 1A, or \$50,000 to become a 2A judge in approved NCHA cutting competitions.
- c. All applications will be reviewed by the Director of Judges and a Rules sub-committee. If application is approved, applicant will be invited to attend an NCHA Judge Applicant Clinic for testing purposes.
- d. ***Judge applicants must score eighty (80) on the written test and a minimum of seventy-five (75) on each of the live or video judging tests. If these scores are attained, applicants will receive an Approved NCHA Judge rating. Judge Applicant clinics will be held in the years when recertification testing is not held. The application fee is \$150.***
- e. ***Approved Judge Recertification tests are held every other year beginning in 2019 and are mandatory (except as provided below) and will be conducted in one of the following formats:***
  - (i) *in-person testing conducted by the Director of Judges;*
  - (ii) *clinical testing conducted the Director of Judges;* or
  - (iii) *by a video clip and written test emailed to each NCHA Judge.*

***Recertification tests taken under option (iii) must be returned to their assigned Monitor within 30 day of receiving to be graded and pass to remain active. All testing conducted under options (i) or (ii) above must receive prior approval from the Judge's Rules Committee. The fee for Recertification testing is \$150.***

***Judges that have judged an NCHA Monitored event with \$100,000***



***added or an NCHA Produced event within the current or past year will be considered recertified with the Director of Judges' approval. Therefore, these specific judges will only need to provide the \$150 fee to NCHA to remain an active judge.***

New applicants applying to be an NCHA judge will test in the alternate year of the Recertification Test for a clinic or 6th box, depending on their lifetime earnings. Fee is \$150.

- f. The Director of Judges is authorized to test and certify people on an individual basis, in the 6th box during a final or otherwise, who have won \$100,000 or more. These applicants will be approved as 2A until they successfully judge 6 shows or 6 credits without a valid protest, at which time they will be advanced to 3A.
- g. Foreign Judge Applicants must be a member in good standing for a period of three years. The score on their applicant test will determine their rating (2A to 4A). A score of 75 or higher out of 100 will pass. An applicant score of 75-80 will earn a 2A rating. A score of 81-95 will earn a 3A rating and 96 and higher will earn a 4A rating.

#### **STANDING RULE 22.**

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Each judge must sign their score card, and the Show Management shall post same in a conspicuous place immediately following each go-round and finals. There must not be any consultation between judges until after score cards are turned in; and after cards are turned in, there will be no changes.

#### **STANDING RULE 23.**

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When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest and one or more judges cannot complete judging of the go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge or judges who complete the go-round will be the sole basis of computing the go-round. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one of their scores is counted in a go-round, all of their scores must be counted except as provided herein; where five or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest, the highest and the lowest scores for each horse will be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the go-round. This rule shall also apply to finals.

- a. When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one go-round or with finals and one or more judges becomes unable to continue between the go-rounds or finals, said judge or judges shall be replaced first by the alternate judge named for the contest and second by a judge acceptable to the majority of the contestants and to the show management. If the alternate judge is unavailable, the second option shall be used.

#### **STANDING RULE 24: These rules are applied while judging within a NCHA monitored event:**

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##### **MONITORED EVENT**

A judge may not judge their parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or their spouse if they live in the same household; nor may they judge their employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that they have owned, exhibited, trained, managed, or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding any NCHA approved or sponsored event at

which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.

A judge may not judge any individual rider or horse owned by said rider, who has had training from or given training to said judge within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.

If such a horse, owner or rider is entered in a contest, the entry fee shall be refunded, and the entry not shown. A judge may be suspended from the list of approved judges for infraction of this Rule.

**STANDING RULE 24.** These rules are applied while judging within the **Self-Adjusting Monitor System (SAMS)**

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**SAMS**

A judge may not judge their parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, or relatives, nor may they judge their employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that they have owned, exhibited, trained, managed, or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part. A judge may not judge any individual rider or horse owned by said rider, who has had training from or given training to said judge within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.

If such a horse, owner or rider is entered in a contest, the entry fee shall be refunded, and the entry not shown. A judge may be suspended from the list of approved judges for infraction of this Rule.

**STANDING RULE 25.**

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In order for a judge to maintain or advance in rating, they must fulfill the required number of shows for that rating each year. A judge will be lowered one (1) rating for failure to judge the required number of shows each year. A year under this section will begin on January 1 and conclude on December 31 of each year.

- a. All judges who judge NCHA approved or sponsored shows which are monitored by the NCHA will receive credit for four (4) shows. All judges who judge Limited Age Events which are not monitored by the NCHA will receive credit for two (2) shows.
- b. All NCHA approved events must use official NCHA judges' cards, and judges shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided. It is mandatory for judges to fill in run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:

Above Average		Average	Below Average	
+	√+	√	√-	-

- c. Replacement or "fill in" judges must abide by the Weekend Monitor System to receive one judging credit. (Must report to their Weekend Monitor).
- d. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show unless entries go over the 150-entry limit or it is approved by the Director of Judges.

**STANDING RULE 26.**

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All judges must complete the NCHA Judge Recertification Test every other year to retain their approval as a judge. Any judge failing to test or make passing scores on all phases of the NCHA testing procedures will be deleted from the Association's Approved Judges List. Any judge so deleted

may be reinstated only by completing and passing the testing procedures at a future NCHA applicant clinic.

- a. Any judge may be required, and all new judges sixty (60) years old and older will be required, to pass a physical examination given by a physician approved by the Association, including tests for vision and hearing.
- b. If an applicant fails two consecutive times, they may not reapply again within a ten (10) year period.

## **STANDING RULE 27.**

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NCHA Approved Judges will be rated based upon their judging lifetime achievements. Their total lifetime judging credits will be divided by the number of valid protests to determine their rating.

4A - Lifetime credits divided by number of valid protests equals 50 or more and has been evaluated in a monitored aged event in the past 60 months.

3A - Lifetime credits divided by number of valid protests equals 49 or less, and/or has not been evaluated by the Monitored System in the past 60 months.

2A - Pass judges' seminar and enter system as "2A." A judge who has been dropped to a 2A rating because of valid protests would be re-evaluated at the end of twelve months. This judge may move up one rating at a time.

- a. "4A" Judge: This judge's lifetime credits will be divided by the number of valid protests to determine if that number is 50 or more, and this person has been evaluated by the Monitor System in the past 60 months. In order to maintain this rating a judge must obtain one (1) credit per two (2) year period. If the judge does not obtain that credit, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twenty-four months. **4A judges may officiate at any NCHA approved or sponsored event up to \$2,000-added by themselves. When added money is over \$1,000 the judge must be approved by the Director of Judges.** 4A Judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.
- b. "3A" Judge: Minimum lifetime total credits of twenty-five (25) shows. In order to maintain this rating a judge must obtain one (1) credit per two (2) year period. If the judge does not obtain that credit, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twenty-four months. **3A judges may officiate at any NCHA approved or sponsored event up to \$2,000 added class by themselves. When added money is over \$1,000 the judge must be approved by the Director of Judges.** 3A judges may officiate at any NCHA limited aged event. 3A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.
- c1. "2A" Judge: In order to maintain this rating a judge must obtain one (1) credit per two (2) year period. If the judge does not obtain that credit, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, there will be a reduction in rating for a period of twenty-four months. 2A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$499 or less. 2A judges may officiate at any weekend contest having an added purse of \$1,000

- or less with a 3A or 4A judge. 2A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$500-\$999, provided the judge has minimum of fifteen (15) lifetime judging credits. 2A judges are not allowed to judge a limited aged event with more than \$10,000 total added money. 2A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.
- c2. “1A” Judge: In order to maintain this rating a judge must obtain one (1) credit per two (2) year period. If the judge does not obtain that credit, then the judge is subject to additional recertification testing. If the recertification testing is failed, he/ she will be removed off the judges list. 1A judges may officiate alone at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of \$300 or less. 1A judges are not allowed to judge a limited aged event with more than \$300 total added money. 1A judges are required to achieve a minimum of 75 points in all classes reviewed.
  - d. When the system is in place, a judge who is re-evaluated may move up only one rating at a time.
  - e. Judges who have been dropped from the NCHA Approved Judges List may be reinstated upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements for NCHA approval as a judge. In no case shall reinstatement occur before at least two years (24 months) has passed.
  - f. A judge may be removed from the NCHA Approved Judges List or may be dropped to a lower classification for cause:
    1. Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may protest a judge’s decision (from that class) upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a written statement requesting a review of the judge’s performance. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the **incident** and must be accompanied by a cashier’s check, money order, valid credit card number (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) or personal check in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200) for Weekend Shows and five hundred dollars (\$500) for LAE Monitored Events made payable to the NCHA. Each class protested will require the \$200 fee or \$500 fee and each class protested will be treated as an individual protest with no averaging of scores. For limited age events, the filing deadline is seven (7) days from the end of the show.
      - a. Upon receipt of such a statement, a Judges Evaluation Form or official protest, the judge’s assigned Weekend Monitor will be asked to review the class or classes. The NCHA Director of Judges may request the show sponsor to immediately forward the video of the class involved to NCHA if needed.
      - b. The video of the class will then be reviewed by a monitor. In the event that a monitor is unavailable, the Director of Judges may appoint a “4A” judge to participate in the review. The procedures for viewing videos were approved by the Executive Committee.
      - c. A total of one hundred (100) points will be assigned to each class reviewed. The judge’s grades for the protested classes will be based on points accumulated from the proper placing of horses, less a deduction of three

(3) points for each misapplication of major (three (3) or five (5) point) penalties. The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the judge will be used to obtain the official placing. Major penalties will be assessed only when charged by both persons reviewing the protest. When a protest is filed against the placing of a finals in a LAE cutting or Monitored Event with 3 or 5 judges, the key would be made in the manner now used for evaluating judges. This is the placing of the five (5) judges. This key would then be placed against the way the horses actually placed at the event. If the system passes (75 or higher), then the protest would not be valid against any of the five (5) judges. If the system fails, the system would then be matched against each individual judge's score sheet to determine which judge passed or failed. A score of 75 or higher must be maintained.

- d. The maximum number of places used for grading purposes will be six (6). For six places the points allocated for each place will be 1st - 40; 2nd - 25; 3rd - 15; 4th - 10; 5th - 6 and 6th - 4. For five (5) places the points allocated for each place will be: 1st - 43, 2nd - 28, 3rd - 16, 4th - 8, 5th - 5. In cases where lesser numbers of places are paid in accordance with the "Mandatory Payout Schedule for Classes with Added Money", the points will be prorated as follows: four places, 1st - 45; 2nd - 30; 3rd - 17; 4th - 8; three places, 1st - 50; 2nd - 32; 3rd - 18; two places, 1st - 60 and 2nd - 40.
- e. The judge's placing of horses in the protested class will be compared to the official placing and awarded points as set forth in section d. If a judge places a horse higher than the official placing, then the credit established by the official placing will be earned. If a judge places a horse lower than the official placing, then the credit established by the judge's placing will be earned. If a judge has ties, the points for the places involved will be averaged; however, no horse may receive more points than those allotted by the official placing. If the official placing has ties and the judge's placing does not, the judge will receive full credit for those placings.
- f. If the review finds that a judge has wrongly applied a single rule on three (3) occasions or has wrongly applied any combination of rules on five (5) occasions while judging an individual class, a major protest will be affirmed against the judge. If a single rule is wrongly applied twice or a combination of three (3) rules is wrongly applied during the class, a protest will be affirmed against the judge. If a review under the NCHA tracking system finds that a judge has failed to maintain the minimum grade standard established for their judge classification while judging an individual class, a major protest will be affirmed against the judge. Grade standards for NCHA Approved Judges are: 4A - 75-85; 3A - 75-85; 2A and 1A - 75-85. In grading any show protests with 4 or more entries, any judge

who receives two valid protests within a twelve-month period will be lowered one rating classification for a full twenty-four (24) months. In the case of a 2A, 3A or 4A judge, they would be lowered one rating classification for a full twenty-four (24) months and must also judge five (5) shows without another valid protest during that time period, to be restored to their original rating classification. In the case of a 4A judge, they must also be re-evaluated through an NCHA Monitored Event before being restored to 4A. 1A judges will be removed from the Approved Judges List. Any judge who is removed from the Approved Judges List through either protest or conduct must repeat the entire process of attending an Applicant's Clinic and Judge's Seminar and receive passing scores on all testing procedures to regain a judge's card. This procedure will also be required when a 1A judge does not judge the required number of shows every two years. 2A judges who have one (1) valid protest must judge five (5) shows without valid protest. If during this five (5) show period, the 2A judge receives a valid protest, the judge must judge in the "6th Box" for one (1) day and pass an evaluation under the Adjusted Monitor System and cannot advance to a 3A rating for a twelve (12) month period. 3A judges who have one (1) valid protest must obtain five (5) show credits without valid protest during a twelve-month period. If, during the five (5) show credit period, the 3A judge has another valid protest affirmed on their record, said judge will drop a rating and will not judge weekend or limited age events until said judge judges one (1) day in the 6th judging box under the Adjusted Monitor System and passes an evaluation. Upon completion of the above, the judge will be rated 2A for one (1) year and must judge five (5) shows without valid protest to regain a 3A rating. 4A judges who receive a valid protest must obtain five (5) show credits without a valid protest for a twelve-month period. If during the five (5) show credit period, the 4A receives another valid protest, said judge will drop a rating and will not judge weekend or limited aged events until said judge judges one (1) day in the 6th judging box under the Adjusted Monitor System and passes an evaluation. Upon completion of the above, the judge will be rated 3A for one (1) year and must obtain five (5) show credits without valid protest and pass evaluation by the Director of Judges to regain a 4A rating.

- g. All affirmed protests will be recorded on the record of the judge involved.
- h. Where protests are affirmed, the two hundred dollar (\$200) or five hundred dollar (\$500) fee will be returned to the contestant; where denied, the fee will be retained by NCHA.
- i. After a Judge Evaluation Form is received by the NCHA

Judges Department, the appropriate Weekend Monitor will be requested to “spot check” the class or penalty in question. If the judge’s monitor feels that it is a valid complaint, the Director of Judges will be notified. If the Director of Judges gives it a valid spot check, it will be noted for that judge. A judge that receives two valid spot checks within a twelve month period will be required to attend a judges’ workshop. Their card will be on hold until the workshop is completed.

- j. If a judge receives a major valid protest, the Director of Judges has the right to request a review by the Monitors Committee of the judge’s performance at a subsequent show which they judge. If the review results in an additional valid protest, the judge in question will be dropped one judge classification as specified in Rule 27.f.1.f.
- k. Decisions of the reviewing body with respect to any protest filed pursuant to this Rule are final and non-appealable.
- l. If a judge misses a major penalty, on a non-placing run, in a class that was protested, and does not score that class a 75 or higher, the judge will receive a valid protest. If the judge does score the class 75 or higher, the judge would only receive a valid complaint.
2. Complaints and/or protests may be made by active members of the Association only.
3. In the event an NCHA Approved Judge is suspended by the NCHA for any reason, the judge’s approved status shall be canceled, and all rights and privileges forfeited.
4. No person listed on the NCHA suspension or probation list will be permitted to judge.

#### **STANDING RULE 28.**

A judge (or judges) must present in writing any grievance they may have against contestants or shows to the Executive Director of the NCHA, without a filing fee, and the case will be reviewed by the appropriate committee. A complaint by a judge must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged rule violation.

All conduct complaints regarding an NCHA judge will be referred to the NCHA Director of Judges by submitting the complaint in writing together with a money order, cashier’s check, or personal check in the amount of \$200 made payable to the NCHA and postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered within seven (7) days of the incident. A conduct complaint regarding an NCHA judge may also be originated by any personnel in the NCHA judge’s department or show management and no payment will be required to initiate such a complaint.

- a. If, after review and investigation of the complaint, the Director of Judges is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, or that the judge has engaged in conduct which is inconsistent with the privilege and honor of being designated an NCHA judge, the Director of Judges may take such disciplinary action as they determine in their sole discretion is appropriate, including temporary or permanent revocation of all privileges to serve as an NCHA judge. Such disciplinary action shall be effective immediately regardless of any appeal which may be taken. The judge shall be notified in writing of the action taken by the



NCHA Director of Judges. The decision of the NCHA Director of Judges will be final and binding unless a written notice of the judge's intention to appeal the decision is received in the NCHA office within twenty-one (21) days of the date on the letter notifying the judge of the disciplinary action taken.

- b. If notice of appeal is timely received in the NCHA office, a hearing will be scheduled to determine whether or not a rule violation occurred; and if so, what disciplinary action, if any, should be taken against the judge. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Standing Rule 38.
- c. Once an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting has commenced, Show Management is not authorized to dismiss a judge for any reason relating to the actual performance of their judging responsibilities. Show Management may, however, dismiss a judge for blatant personal misconduct while on show grounds, such as drunkenness, foul language, etc. A judge may be dismissed for any reason by the NCHA Director of Judges or the NCHA Executive Director if, in their opinion, it is in the best interest of the NCHA to do so.

### **STANDING RULE 29.**

A judge shall conduct him or herself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any NCHA approved or sponsored contest. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any NCHA contest, the use of abusive language, showing favoritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a horse performing in the contest, or any other action unbecoming to one in their position, either on the grounds or elsewhere, during the entire show will make the judge subject to disciplinary action. The penalty for violating the above stated provisions of this rule will be a minimum \$500 fine or a minimum ninety (90) day suspension from the Association, or both.

- a. A judge who fails to judge after accepting an assignment will be subject to removal from the NCHA Approved Judges List as well as additional disciplinary action.
- b. A judge should not appear on the show grounds before the stated time for entries to close except as may be required by show management. Judges shall not visit with owners, trainers, exhibitors, or agents beyond the exchange of normal greetings, verbally or by electronic or social media, until the entire show or contest is completed. Judges shall talk only with representatives of show management. Judges must appear in western attire and remain in western attire during the entire show.
- c. Under no circumstances will a published judge be permitted to judge over 160 horses (counting approved or unapproved classes) per day or enter the contest for which said judge is approved. Note: This does not prohibit a judge from acting as a substitute in order to permit show management to comply with the 150 horses per day limitation imposed by Standing Rule 6.1. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show unless entries go over the 150-entry limit or it is approved by the Director of Judges.
- d. A judge shall not discuss with any contestant previous scores, events, or related happenings, verbally or by electronic or social media, during a show or within thirty (30) days after a contest at which the judge has officiated.
- e. The penalty for violating sub-sections (b), (c) and/or (d) of this



rule shall be a minimum fine of \$500 or a minimum ninety (90) day suspension from the Association, or both, for an infraction of the above stated sub-sections.

- f. A judge shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a contestant. The penalty for violating this sub-section will be a minimum six (6) month probation and/or six (6) months suspension from the Association.
- g. A judge who fails to whistle out a contestant for excessive training or causing a disturbance to the herd, will be fined \$300.

# Standing Rules 30-42

## Related to Contestants

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### **STANDING RULE 30.**

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No contestant, or other person, shall engage in any form of misconduct or harassment toward show management, judges, or NCHA employees. Show management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for violation of this rule. In the event a contestant, or other person, is asked by show management to leave or withdraw from any NCHA approved or sponsored show, the Executive Director shall be notified, and a hearing to consider disciplinary action against the person shall be scheduled. (For definition of “show management”, refer to Standing Rule 4.b.)

### **STANDING RULE 31.**

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A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to him/herself, or their horse, or due to sickness or death in their family. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any contest they are participating in due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge or judges, show management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money they may have won in previous go-rounds. After the draw is complete, a contestant will forfeit all fees.

### **STANDING RULE 32.**

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All contestants will work at the appointed time so designated by the show management or be disqualified for that go-round with no score. No late entry will be accepted from a contestant who fails to work at their appointed time. Show management will require all contestants to present original or copies of NCHA membership cards for both owner and rider, and a copy of horse registration papers when entering approved NCHA shows. Refer to Standing Rules 2 and 3, respectively.

### **STANDING RULE 33.**

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If a contestant refuses to compete in the finals, any money won in previous go-rounds will be forfeited. In the event money has been distributed before the finals, it must be refunded within fifteen (15) days after the refund request is made, or the contestant will be suspended until the money has been refunded.

### **STANDING RULE 34.**

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At all cutting horse contests approved or sponsored by the NCHA, a contestant, trainer or helper shall not enter any part of the show arena at any time with any kind of device, tack, or equipment on a horse's head or around the horse's neck that is not permitted by the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses Contests (see Judging Rule 16.) For facilities in which the practice pen is located within the show arena, training equipment shall be allowed only in those areas that are specifically designated as a preparation area by show management. This area shall be outside of the normal flow of traffic for the warm-up area.

- A. In keeping with NCHA's Zero Tolerance Policy (see Standing Rule 35) inhumane use of training equipment and/or equipment allowed under Judging Rule 16 shall not be tolerated.
- B. Use of equipment not allowed under Judging Rule 16 in areas other than practice pens or designated preparation areas shall result in:
  1. First offense -- \$250 fine
  2. Second offense -- \$500 fine

3. Third offense (and all subsequent offenses occurring within a two-year period following the first offense) – \$2,500 fine
  4. All fines shall be collected by the NCHA Executive Director For violations as outlined above: (i) if the horse in question has a trainer, the trainer will be the person deemed responsible for the violation; or (ii) if the horse in question does not have a trainer, the contestant and/or owner will be the person deemed responsible for the violation.
- C. Show management and any directors present shall be responsible for enforcement of this rule.
- D. After the buzzer sounds, the contestant will discontinue working and ride their horse forward past the judges stand before dismounting; exceptions to this rule are a fallen rider, dismounting an unsound horse or to retrieve a lost article. Failure to comply with section (D) will result in:
1. First offense -- \$250 fine
  2. Second offense -- \$500 fine
  3. Third offense (and subsequent offenses occurring within a two (2) year period after first offense) -- \$2,500 fine
  4. All fines shall be collected by the Executive Director
- E. Any bridle on a horse, bit or piece of tack may be inspected at the judge's discretion. Refusal of a contestant to allow a judge to clearly inspect the bridle, bit or tack under this subsection shall be considered a violation of this subsection. In the event a violation of the NCHA rules relating to bridles, bits or tack is discovered, the violator will be subject to disciplinary action. A violation of section "E" will result in:
1. First offense – Disqualification from class and a \$500 fine
  2. Second offense – (and all subsequent offenses occurring with the two (2) year period after the first offense) – Disqualification from class and a \$2,500 fine
  3. All fines shall be collected by the Executive Director.
- F. All NCHA approved or sponsored shows are required to post signs concerning Standing Rule 35 at the entrance to all official show areas. The signs shall be no smaller than 24 inches square and shall contain wording as provided by the NCHA. Show management is encouraged to make appropriate announcements concerning the use of training equipment as it relates to Judges Rule 16 throughout the show day.
- G. Show management, area directors, and/or judge must report a contestant to the Executive Director if a contestant, trainer, or helper violates any section of Standing Rule 34 above.
- H. An offense under this rule will be removed from a member's records if that member has no further infraction of this rule for a period of two (2) years after the last offense is committed.
- I. All cutting horses must be ridden astride.
- J. No rider nineteen (19) years of age or younger may be strapped into or tied onto a saddle in any manner while on the show grounds without the permission of the Executive Director.

### **STANDING RULE 35.**

The following provisions regarding members' conduct shall apply at all NCHA approved or sponsored shows. The responsibility for reporting violations of this Standing Rule rests with, but is not limited to, show management, NCHA Directors, officers, officials, and the judges.

## **A. Zero Tolerance Policy**

Inhumane treatment or excessive training of a horse in any manner is strictly prohibited. Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA approved or sponsored event, by said entry, consents to the implementation of any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy (Rule 35.A) by either show management or judge. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or excessive training of a horse.

Any act of inhumane treatment, mistreatment, or intent to mistreat a horse will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner as provided for in this Standing Rule. This Zero Tolerance Policy covers acts occurring not only in the show arena, but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds, the warm-up area, practice pen or any other location.

The “Zero Tolerance” policy encompasses all of the following acts:

1. **Excessive Training:** Excessive training includes excessive jerking; cueing; whipping; use of lip wire or similar device; slapping or hitting a horse on the head, or any other part of the body, one time or more than one time, in any manner, either with the rider’s hands, reins or any other object; using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face; using any object held in the rider’s hand to hit a horse; or any other act which may cause trauma or injury to a horse.
2. **Inhumane Treatment:** Inhumane treatment is the exhibition of a lame or injured horse, or a horse that appears lame or injured, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse’s undue discomfort or distress.
  - a. The decision of show management as to whether a horse is physically suitable to show, when circumstances permit, be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management determines, in its sole discretion, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not immediately available, show management may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy.
  - b. During competition, if a judge determines, in their sole discretion, that the welfare of a horse requires immediate action, the judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy without consulting a veterinarian.
  - c. Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA approved or sponsored event, by said entry, consent to the implementation of any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy by either show management or judge.
3. **Administration of injectable or oral medications or possession of any drug paraphernalia while in the show arena, practice arenas, alleys leading into the arenas or any other public areas of the show grounds is strictly prohibited unless administered in a life-saving situation which should only be done based on consultation with a veterinarian. Any member observing activity that violates this rule should immediately report such conduct to the NCHA**

Executive Director and/ or Show Management. If Show Management receives such a complaint, it is required to immediately forward the complaint in its original form to the NCHA Executive Director. The NCHA office will provide complaint forms to all show management for reporting a possible violation of this rule. Use of such form is encouraged but is not required.

4. If show management or a judge at any NCHA approved or sponsored event discovers inhumane treatment or excessive training of a horse, they may immediately bar the responsible party and contestants' horse from further competition in the event and the judge will give a score of zero. The Executive Director must be notified within seven (7) days of the incident involved, and the complaint will be referred to the appropriate NCHA Committee for investigation and consideration.
5. All NCHA approved or sponsored shows are required to post signs concerning the NCHA Zero Tolerance Policy at the entrance to all official practice areas. The signs shall be no smaller than 24"x36" and shall contain wording as provided by the NCHA.
6. A reported violation under this rule must be in writing and submitted to the NCHA Executive Director within 30 days of the incident in question. The written report must identify the name of the person who allegedly violated the Zero Tolerance Policy, the show at which the alleged violation occurred, the date on which the alleged violation occurred and the location on the show grounds at which the violation occurred (i.e. – show arena, practice pen, stalls, etc.). The written report must be either:
  - (i) signed by the person making the report or, if filed electronically, identify the name of the person making the report; or (ii) if the report is made anonymously, the written report must be accompanied by evidence sufficient to allow the NCHA to investigate the report (i.e.- photographs, video, etc.), including evidence sufficient to verify that the alleged violation occurred on the show grounds. Anonymous reports not accompanied by evidence will not be accepted, investigated, or acted on by the NCHA. No filing fee is required for reporting any violation under this rule. Any reported violation under this Zero Tolerance Policy will be treated as a complaint under Standing Rule 37 and be considered in accordance with the procedures contained in Standing Rules 37 and 38.

Each person found to be involved in a violation of this rule (including but not limited to trainers and their assistants or employees, owners, and contestants) may each be subject to receiving the following discipline:

1st Offense: \$1,000 fine and 6 month probation or some period of suspension, 2nd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 12 month probation or some period of suspension, and 3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine and 6 month suspension

The foregoing are only guidelines for discipline that may be assessed. The disciplinary measures in the

guidelines can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee or Appeals Committee depending upon the circumstances and the nature of the violation.

Notwithstanding the guidelines listed above, any violation involving use of any device in a horse's mouth including without limitation, lip wire or other similar device, other than a bit authorized by the Rules, will be punished by an automatic \$1,000 fine and a six (6) month suspension.

## **B. Conduct Toward Judges and Monitors**

1. The following rules govern the interactions between contestants and judges (including Director of Judges when serving in the role of a judge):
  - a. A contestant shall not talk with the judge(s), beyond the exchange of normal greetings, verbally or by electronic or social media, during a show, nor shall a contestant discuss with the judge any previous scores, events, or related happenings within thirty (30) days after a contest in which both parties participated.
  - b. A contestant or other person shall make no comment, either positive or negative, within a judge's hearing regarding any exhibition of a cutting horse during a cutting event.
  - c. A contestant or other person shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a judge(s) verbally or by electronic or social media.
  - d. If the Director of Judges is not present, the Staff Monitor or the Field Monitor will act in the capacity of Director of Judges pertaining to a member's conduct in regard to intimidating a judge, and a liaison will accompany the Staff Monitor or Field Monitor when a discussion is necessary.
2. The following rules govern the interaction between contestants and monitors (including Director of Judges when serving in the role of a monitor):
  - a. A contestant may speak directly to the monitor(s) provided a liaison representative is also present. Any other conversation will be limited to the exchange of normal greetings during a show.
  - b. A contestant or other person will make no comments within a monitor's hearing regarding any work taking place at a performance.
  - c. A contestant or other person shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a monitor(s).
  - d. Show management has the right to consult the NCHA Director of Judges at any time with regard to the Adjusted Monitor System.
  - e. Show management may appoint any non-contestant NCHA member to act as a liaison between contestants and show management at limited age events. The Executive Director of the Association may act for the NCHA Director of Judges in the event of an emergency situation.
  - f. For no reason shall a Monitor show a contestant any

- ruling or run until 8:00 am the following day. The meeting will be audio recorded.
- g. The contestant or owner and liaison will be taken to the Monitor's room and it will be explained by the Monitor how the ruling was made according to the Rule Book.
  - h. The penalty will be shown two or three times if necessary. The overhead video will be used if necessary and the rule will be explained.
  - i. The clarification of the ruling of a penalty is the only reason why a contestant and liaison are taken to the Monitor's room.
  - j. A Monitor will never argue or debate with a contestant or owner about run content or why a run was scored the way it was. That is the responsibility of the Director of Judges.
3. Any reported violation under this Section B, Conduct Toward Judges and Monitors, will be treated as a complaint under NCHA Rule 37 and be considered in accordance with the procedures contained in NCHA Rules 37 and 38. No filing fee is required for reporting any violation under this rule. Each person found to be involved in a violation of this rule (including but not limited to trainers and their assistants or employees, owners, and contestants) may each be subject to receiving the following discipline:
- 1st Offense: \$1,000 fine and 6 month probation or some period of suspension
  - 2nd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 12 month probation or some period of suspension
  - 3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine and 6 month suspension
- The foregoing are only guidelines for discipline that may be assessed. The disciplinary measures contained in the guidelines can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee or Appeals Committee depending upon the circumstances and the nature of the violation.

### **C. Conduct By and Between Members**

The NCHA expects all members to conduct themselves with proper decorum at all NCHA events. The following activities are strictly prohibited:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the show arena or show grounds is prohibited.
2. Any member of the NCHA who threatens, or inflicts, bodily harm or injury to another person based upon that person's actions, conduct, or decisions while acting in any official capacity for the NCHA or for any NCHA sponsored or approved event shall be suspended from membership in the NCHA for a period of not less than one (1) year.
3. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or brought into any part of the show arena while an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest is taking place.
4. Training activities of any kind while on the show grounds, other than in designated practice facilities, are prohibited.
5. Any reported violation under this Section C, Conduct By and Between Members, will be treated as a complaint under NCHA Rule 37 and be considered in accordance with

the procedures contained in NCHA Rules 37 and 38. Each person found to be involved in a violation of this rule may each be subject to receiving the following discipline:

1st Offense: \$1,000 fine and 3 month probation or some period of suspension

2nd Offense: \$2,500 fine and 6 month probation or some period of suspension

3rd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 6 month suspension

The foregoing are only guidelines for discipline that may be assessed. The disciplinary measures contained in the guidelines can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee or Appeals Committee depending upon the circumstances and the nature of the violation.

## **STANDING RULE 35A**

### **MEDICATION AND DRUG RULES AND GUIDELINES**

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The NCHA's Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines ("Medication Rules") have been put in place to protect and prolong the welfare and competitiveness of the equine athletes who compete in cutting. The NCHA believes in the safety of horses as well as a level playing field when it comes to its events. That is why the Association is testing for substance violations at the NCHA produced and/or approved events.

The NCHA Medication Rules are as follows.

#### **1. Prohibited Substances**

- a. NCHA Medication Rules do not allow drugs and medications that can enhance a horse's performance (i.e., Performance Enhancing Drugs).

The following substances cannot be administered, internally or externally to a horse showing at an NCHA produced and/or approved event:

- Any drug considered a Class I or Class II substance as defined in the most recent edition of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI's) Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances.
  - Any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, or sedative that could affect the performance of a horse. Stimulants and depressants are defined as substances that stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory, or central nervous system.
  - Any substance that might interfere with or mask the detection of a prohibited drug or medication.
  - Anabolic Steroids are considered prohibited substances. No anabolic steroid is to be administered to a horse in a time frame before competition such that it, or any metabolite of it, might be present in the blood at the time of competition. See the Guidelines for the recommended withdrawal times.
  - Any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) other than those allowed by NCHA at the proper therapeutic dosage as contained in the Guidelines.
  - Any metabolite and/or analog of any of the above described forbidden drugs or substances.
- b. Exceptions:
    - Acepromazine Maleate is considered a conditionally approved medication when administered or prescribed by



a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the Guidelines contained in this rule.

- A written medication report must be submitted to show management.
- Local anesthetics may be administered by a veterinarian when used under the provisions of the Emergency Medication Guidelines (see below).
- Corticosteroids other than dexamethasone (e.g., prednisolone, Solu-Delta-Cortef®, triamcinolone acetonide, betamethasone, methylprednisolone (Depo-Medrol®) and others) are classified as prohibited substances unless used strictly for a therapeutic purpose, i.e., for the treatment of existing inflammatory conditions related to illness or injury. They are not to be administered at a time closer than 24 hours prior to competing under any circumstances. Additionally, any corticosteroid being used under this rule must be administered in compliance with the following dosage guidelines:
  - Maximum Total Dosages:
    - Triamcinolone acetonide 50 mg.
    - Betamethasone 50 mg.
    - Isoflupredone 50 mg.
    - Methylprednisolone 300 mg.
    - Other corticosteroids, pharmaceutical recommended dosage
  - A medication report must be filed in connection with any of the following administrations:
    - (i.) when using any other corticosteroid (other than those listed below), a medication report must be filed for administration by any route 7 days prior to competing;
    - (ii.) when using the corticosteroid methylprednisolone (Depo-Medrol®), a medication report must be filed if competing within 14 days of administration: and
    - (iii.) when using the corticosteroid i.e., isoflupredone (Predef2X®) or methylprednisolone (Depo-Medrol) when injecting the sacroiliac (SI) joint, a medication report must be filed if competing within 28 days of administration.

## 2. Permitted Medications

NCHA Medication Rules are not part of a complete no-drug policy, but rather rules for the welfare of the horse.

Within the Guidelines listed below, the following 15 therapeutic medications\* can be administered by a licensed veterinarian, caretaker, or responsible individual to a horse with a legitimate injury or illness within 24 hours of showing. For allowed dosage amounts, refer to the Guidelines listed below.

- To avoid single NSAID overage, do not administer more than the package insert indicated therapeutic amount adjusted for the **weight of the horse** on days prior to the day you show.
- To avoid a stacking violation under NCHA Medication Rules, **only a single NSAID** should be administered within 72 hours of showing the horse. Example: If your horse is on Banamine (Flunixin) prior to the show and you plan to switch to Phenylbutazone (“Bute”) at the show, you should discontinue administering Banamine at least 72 hours prior to show time.
- It is strongly recommended that show doses (6 hours prior to

competition) be given by IV. Exhibitors, owners, trainers, and veterinarians are cautioned to allow additional leeway under the minimal timeframes recommended in the guidelines when using paste, powder, or tablet orally, since oral medications may result in differing variations in plasma levels.

It will be considered a rule violation if plasma samples contain more than one of the permitted Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) that are listed below. The exception is Diclofenac (Surpass®) topical which may be combined with one other systemic NSAID listed below under Permitted Medications.

\* To avoid stacking of two (2) NSAID'S you must discontinue one (1) of the NSAID'S at least 3 days (72 hours) prior to showing:

1. Diclofenac (Surpass®)
2. Phenylbutazone (Bute®)
3. Flunixin Meglumine (Banamine®)
4. Ketoprofen (Ketofen®)
5. Meclofenamic Acid (Arquel®)
6. Naproxen (Equiproxen®)
7. Firocoxib (Equioxx®) Other Permitted Medications
8. Omeprazole (Gastroguard®)
9. Methocarbamol (Robaxin®)
10. Furosemide (Salix®)
11. Altrenogest (Regumate®)
13. Acetazolamide
14. Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride (Vasodilan®)
15. Dexamethasone (Dexject SP®)

### **3. Conditionally Permitted Therapeutic Medication**

Because the welfare of the horse is the No. 1 priority, a conditionally permitted therapeutic medication, such as approved antibiotics, can be administered or prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for a legitimate illness or injury. However, it must be done no less than 24 hours before competing (except for Acepromazine Maleate (PromAce®) see section 3.a below) and each of the requirements listed in section 3.b below must be met to prevent disciplinary action if the medications are detected in plasma samples.

- a. Examples of Conditionally Permitted Medications Acepromazine Maleate (PromAce®) is considered a conditionally approved medication when used for the safety and welfare of the horse and administered as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. (Medication Report Must be Submitted)
- b. Requirements for Administering Conditionally Permitted Medications
  - A written medication report, available from NCHA or show management, must be completed in its entirety, and filed with show management before exhibition of the horse.
  - A licensed veterinarian must administer or prescribe the medication (except for PromAce® which only requires a medication report) and must also document that the administration of the medication is necessary for the legitimate treatment of illness or injury. The form must also contain:
    - Identification of the medication, including the name, amount, strength/concentration, and mode of administration.

- Date and time of administration.
- Identification of the horse, including name, age, sex, color, and entry number.
- Diagnosis of illness/injury, reason for administration, and name of administering and/or prescribing veterinarian.
- Signature of veterinarian or person administering or prescribing the medication. If by prescription (written instructions), a copy must be attached to the medication report.
- The medication report must be filed with show management within one hour after administration of the medication or if administration occurs at a time other than during competition hours, within one hour after show management is available.
- The medication report must be signed by show management and time of receipt recorded on the report.
- The report must be filed if the administered medication will be detectable in blood and/or urine samples at the time of competition/sampling. However, it is the responsibility of exhibitors to determine whether or not the medication has had time to clear their horses' systems. If there is any doubt, a medication report should be filed as a precaution.
- The horse must be withdrawn and kept out of competition for not less than 24 hours after the medication is administered.
- Antibiotics are permitted substances with the exception of procaine penicillin or other antibiotic with local anesthetics, which are prohibited substances. The use of procaine penicillin or other antibiotics with local anesthetics would result in the need for the horse to be withdrawn from competition for at least 24 hours and a medication form completed and filed.
- An exception to the prohibited substance rule is the use of local anesthetics, which are RAC class 2 substances and are considered prohibited substances unless the horse is withdrawn for 24 hours and a medication form completed and filed.
- These exceptions do not apply if the drug is prohibited by governmental regulations, such as the California Equine Medication Monitoring Program.
- It will be a presumption of a violation of the Medication Rules if the laboratory detects concentration levels that are inconsistent with a therapeutic dosage, regardless of whether the medication report requirements described above were met. The responsible party then has the burden of persuasion to establish that the drug was administered in a therapeutic dosage and not less than 24 hours prior to competition.

#### **4. Approved Veterinarians for NCHA Show Grounds**

In order to be eligible to treat or administer medication to a horse on the show grounds of an NCHA produced event, a veterinarian must be an approved veterinarian under NCHA Rules (an "Approved Veterinarian"). In order to be an Approved Veterinarian, such veterinarian must be

an NCHA member in good standing, must submit an application to the NCHA on application forms promulgated by the NCHA and must have such application approved by the NCHA. Each applying veterinarian acknowledges they agree that if they are found to have violated any NCHA Rules on the show grounds, they are subject to having their approved status suspended or revoked by the NCHA in accordance with its Rules and may no longer be allowed to treat or administer medication until such status is restored by the NCHA, if ever.

## 5. Emergency Medication

The NCHA Medication Rules allow for administration of **emergency medication** by a veterinarian (who is a member in good standing of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state where the event is being held) under certain limited circumstances where a true emergency situation exists. In the case of a sick or injured horse, appropriate therapeutic doses of only lidocaine, mepivacaine or flunixin meglumine (Banamine) may be given by a licensed veterinarian under actual observation by event management or a designated NCHA representative (if after show hours, the exhibitor must provide a statement from the treating veterinarian) to treat a condition/illness/injury that would not prevent the horse from safely competing following treatment. Please note that for a veterinarian to be authorized to treat or administer medication to a horse on NCHA show grounds, they must be an Approved Veterinarian under the provisions of section 4 above.

An emergency medication report form must be filed with show management before exhibition of the horse that is being administered emergency medication under this rule. Flunixin meglumine (Banamine) administered at therapeutic levels permitted by NCHA medication rules can be used for the treatment of colic. Administration of lidocaine or mepivacaine is also permitted for the purpose of surgical repair of minor skin lacerations which, by its very nature, would not prevent the horse from competing following the surgery. Under no circumstances can this Emergency Medication provision of the NCHA Medication and Drug Rules be applied for an examination or treatment in which a local anesthetic is used to provide full or partial anesthesia (block) of an extremity or joint within 24 hours of the horse competing.

Filing of an emergency medication report form does not automatically excuse the horse from the consequences associated with a failed drug test. If an emergency medication report is filed for a horse, the NCHA designated veterinarian may examine any skin lacerations and the skin sensation of that horse and that horse may be drug tested under the provisions of Standing Rule 35A.5 at the sole discretion of the Executive Director. If a horse that has been administered emergency medication under this rule is tested under NCHA rules and tests positive, the Medication Review Committee will take into consideration the emergency medical report form on file. However, if the Committee determines that the emergency medication was administered above appropriate therapeutic levels or if the test results show the presence of medications not disclosed in the emergency medication report form that are not allowed or exceed the levels allowed by the NCHA Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines, the Committee may take all disciplinary actions provided for under these rules for such failed test. Additionally, all emergency reports filed under this rule will be reviewed by the Medication Review Committee and all veterinarians submitting such reports are subject to inquiry by the Medication Review Committee.

## 6. Medication Testing

### a) NCHA TRIPLE CROWN EVENTS

Horses competing in Open, Non-Pro and Amateur classes will be drug tested in NCHA Triple Crown Events as follows:

- 1) The unofficial scores of the three highest scoring horses (including ties) in all one-set finals will be tested immediately following those finals.
- 2) The unofficial scores of the top two highest scoring horses (including ties) in each set of all multiple-set finals will be tested immediately following their respective sets.
- 3) Show management will predetermine days and sets in which additional random drug testing will be done in go rounds and semi finals prior to their respective draws. Slots within those pre-determined sets that will be tested will be randomly selected from within those sets prior to their respective draws.

### b) OTHER NCHA PRODUCED EVENTS

- 1) Show management will predetermine days and sets in which a random drug testing will be done in any go rounds and/or finals.
- 2) Slots within those pre-determined go round and/or final sets that will be tested will be randomly selected from within those sets prior to their respective draws.

### c) ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL TESTING

In all NCHA Triple Crown Events and all NCHA produced or approved events, the NCHA Executive Director may also, in their sole discretion, have any horse that has been previously involved in a violation of the rules, or any horse ridden by a rider previously involved in a violation of these rules, be tested.

### d) HORSES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TESTING

Every exhibitor and/or owner shall, upon request of show management or an NCHA representative, permit specimens of blood to be taken for testing. All blood samples taken pursuant to this rule will be taken by a licensed veterinarian selected by the NCHA in its sole discretion. An exhibitor will be informed that their horse has been selected for testing immediately after competing in the arena. The request sheet shall be initialed by the exhibitor, owner or the owner's authorized agent acknowledging time of receipt and immediately returned to the NCHA representative or testing veterinarian who gave you the sheet.

**THE EXHIBITOR MUST TAKE THE HORSE IMMEDIATELY TO THE TESTING STALL FOR TESTING WHEN THE ARENA GATE OPENS AND CATTLE ARE CHANGED.**

The samples will then be sent to a certified laboratory for testing with results sent back to NCHA. If a horse is randomly tested, all medication reports for that horse must be on file with the NCHA prior to the time of the test in order to be considered.

Refusal to comply with the request for testing will result in the disqualification of the horse from further participation at the show. Bringing the wrong horse for testing is considered a serious offense and constitutes a refusal to comply

with a request for testing under this rule. Failure to comply with the 15-minute rule described above will also constitute a refusal to comply with the request for testing. Any horse in violation of this rule may also be barred from participation in future NCHA approved events or shows for a period of time as determined by the Executive Committee or other appropriate committee. A refusal to comply with a request for testing also is grounds for suspension of NCHA membership. The NCHA may also, in its sole discretion, refer any potential violation of this rule to the Grievance Committee to consider disciplinary action under Standing Rule 35 against all responsible parties.

**e) DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES RELATING TO FAILURE TO PRESENT HORSE FOR TESTING**

In the event that an alleged violation of this subsection 6 is referred to the Grievance Committee and a violation is found; it is recommended that the disciplinary action taken by the Grievance Committee to address such a violation be at least a fine of \$10,000 per occurrence and up to a 12-month suspension. This is only a guideline and can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee depending upon the circumstances shown by the evidence. The Grievance Committee may also assess separate discipline against multiple parties it finds responsible for the same occurrence resulting in the violation.

**7. The Medication Review Committee**

The Medication Review Committee is charged with the initial review of the lab results from any random drug testing conducted under the Medication Rules, determining if the lab results indicate that a violation has occurred and taking disciplinary action for any rule violations shown in those lab results. The Medication Review Committee may also conduct hearings to determine whether a violation of the Medication Rules has occurred, if necessary.

The Medication Review Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the NCHA President with the approval of the Executive Committee. Three licensed veterinarians, one Professional trainer and one Non-Professional member will be on the Medication Review Committee at all times. Membership on the committee will be reviewed annually. No person may serve as a member of the Medication Review Committee at the same time they also serve as a member of the Executive Committee. The NCHA President shall have the authority to appoint an additional member to the Medication Review Committee in any case where an existing member of the committee recuses themselves from acting on that case.

**8. Rule Violations and Discipline**

**(a) Failure to Timely File Required Medication Reports**

Failure to timely file any medication report required by this rule including, but not limited to the medication reports required for Acepromazine will result in a letter of warning and reprimand for the first failure to timely file a required report. A fine of \$150 will be assessed for a second

failure to timely file a required report and a fine of \$300 for each subsequent offense.

These fines may be increased, at the sole discretion of the Medication Review Committee, in situations involving repeated failures to timely file medication reports required under this rule. Failure to timely file medication reports shall not constitute a first offense, second offense or third offense under sections 8(b), (c) or (d) of this rule.

- (b) **Violations of Rules Governing Administering Medications**  
Any laboratory report resulting from random testing conducted by the NCHA pursuant to this rule that indicates the presence of any prohibited substance, the presence of any permitted medication in levels that exceed those allowed under these rules and guidelines or the presence of more than one NSAID, all of which are violations of these Medication Rules, will constitute prima facie evidence that the substance(s) was administered to the horse either internally or externally in violation of the NCHA Medication Rules. The burden of proof is on the responsible party to show by a preponderance of the evidence that no drug or medication has been administered in violation of the rules. Any violation of Rule 35A.6 concerning random testing shall constitute additional grounds for discipline under this section.

Beginning with the 2013 Super Stakes and for all subsequent NCHA produced and/or approved events, if it is determined that the use of any drug or medication was not allowed by the Medication Rules or was not within the Guidelines in the NCHA Rule Book, the responsible party or parties will be subject to disciplinary action. The initial determination of whether a medication rule violation has occurred will be based upon the lab results.

All contestants must be aware that, in addition to the NCHA Medication Rules, all horses are subject to the equine laws of the state in which an event is held and are also subject to any medication rules duly adopted by the sponsors, co-sponsors, producers or co-producers of such events. In addition to possibly being randomly tested by the NCHA under rule 35A.5, horses may also be tested by authorized state agencies and/or by the other equine organizations that sponsor, co-sponsor or produce such events. Since the goal of the NCHA Medication Rules is to protect the welfare of the horse, the NCHA will recognize the results of the drug testing performed by such authorized state agencies or other sponsors, co-sponsors, or producers. A violation of their medication rules found by any of those entities will also be considered a violation of NCHA Medication Rules and will be referred to the NCHA Medication Review Committee for possible disciplinary action.

- (c) **Disciplinary Guidelines for Therapeutic Medication Overages** (i.e. overages of a permitted medication or the presence of more than one NSAID). The following disciplinary actions may be considered by the NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee in addressing a violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines relating to Therapeutic Medication Overages. The following are general guidelines only. The NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee may assess discipline (including potential fines, probations, suspensions, and disqualifications) that is equal to,



less than or greater than the discipline provided in the following guidelines based upon the nature of the violation and the severity of the circumstances presented in each case. The horse may also be disqualified from all classes in which it participated in at the show for any violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines. If disqualified, all awards and monies must be returned.

- (1) For a first offense relating to a Therapeutic Medication Overage:
  - (a) Resulting from an overage of one permitted medication - a suggested fine of \$500 each to the responsible person(s).
  - (b) Resulting from the presence of more than one NSAID (if each NSAID is within therapeutic levels allowed in these Rules and Guidelines) - a suggested fine of \$1,000 each to the responsible person(s).
  - (c) The discipline for any violation resulting from the presence of a permitted medication at levels more than twice the permitted levels allowed under these Rules and Guidelines shall be assessed by the Medication Review Committee based upon its review of the circumstances presented.

If a member commits a first offense resulting from the use of permitted medications at unacceptable levels under the Medication Rules and Guidelines or commits a first offense resulting from the presence of more than one NSAID in violation of these Medication Rules and Guidelines but commits no further violations of the Medication Rules and Guidelines for a period of 24 months after that first offense, the next violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines after that 24-month period by that member, if any, would be treated as a first offense.

- (2) For a second offense relating to a Therapeutic Medication Overage, a suggested fine to each responsible person(s) of \$2,500 and possible suspension or probation depending on the circumstances. If a member commits a second offense resulting from the use of permitted medications at unacceptable levels under the Medication Rules and Guidelines or commits a second offense resulting from the presence of more than one NSAID in violation of these Medication Rules and Guidelines but commits no further violations of the Medication Rules and Guidelines for a period of 24 months after that second offense, the next violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines after that 24-month period by that member, if any, would be treated as a first offense. This provision does not apply to violations resulting from the use of a prohibited substance.
- (3) For a third offense relating to a Therapeutic Medication Overage, a suggested fine of \$5,000 each to the responsible person(s) and a suspension of at least 6 months.



Any responsible party assessed a fine under this section will be suspended until payment in full is received by the NCHA. If the discipline assessed includes probation or suspension in addition to a fine, the probation or suspension shall begin immediately and extend for the specified period after the fine is paid. (i.e., if a fine and six-month probation are assessed on the first day of a month and the fine is not paid until the fifteenth day of a month, the probation or suspension would start on the first day of the month and end six months after the payment of the fine is received).

If the horse transfers ownership, the suspension for the responsible individual or party will not be dissolved or shortened.

- (d) **Disciplinary Guidelines for use of a Prohibited Substance**  
The following disciplinary actions may be considered by the NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee in addressing a violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines relating to the use of a prohibited substance by any responsible person and defined by these rules. The following are general guidelines only. The NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee may assess discipline (including fines, probations, and suspensions) that is equal to, less than or greater than the discipline provided in the following guidelines based upon the nature of the violation and the severity of the circumstances presented in each case. The horse may also be disqualified from all classes in which it participated in at the show for any violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines. If disqualified, all awards and monies must be returned. Offenses for use of a prohibited substance may, at the discretion of the Committee ultimately determining the violation, permanently remain on the responsible parties' record.
- (1) For a first offense resulting from the use of a prohibited substance, forfeiture of any winnings from the show, a fine in the range of \$2,500 - \$5,000, loss of any titles and awards won at the show.
  - (2) For a second offense resulting from the use of a prohibited substance, forfeiture of any winnings from the show, a fine in the range of \$5,000 - \$10,000, loss of any titles and awards won at the show and a one-year membership suspension.
  - (3) For a third offense resulting from the use of a prohibited substance, forfeiture of any winnings from the show, a fine in the range of \$10,000 - \$15,000, loss of any titles and awards won at the show and a membership suspension of at least two (2) years.

Any responsible party assessed a fine under this section will be suspended until payment in full is received by the NCHA. If the discipline assessed includes probation or suspension in addition to a fine, the probation or suspension shall begin immediately and extend for the specified period after the fine is paid. (i.e., if a fine and six-month probation are assessed on the first day of a month and the fine is not paid until the fifteenth

day of a month, the probation or suspension would start on the first day of the month and end six months after the payment of the fine is received).

If the horse transfers ownership, the suspension for the responsible individual or party will not be dissolved or shortened.

- (e) **Hearings and Appeal Rights.** The responsible party or parties may accept the discipline assessed based upon the lab results or request a hearing to contest the lab results or any discipline assessed. Hearings relating to violations of the Medication Rules and Guidelines will be conducted by the NCHA Medication Review Committee. Such hearing may result in discipline equal to, less than or greater than the initial discipline assessed by the Medication Committee based upon the lab results, depending upon the evidence presented at such hearings.

Any person found to have committed a violation of the Medication Rules as a result of a hearing before the NCHA's Medication Review Committee as provided for in this rule shall have the right to appeal the decision of the NCHA Medication Review Committee to the NCHA Executive Committee in accordance with the procedures for appeal contained in Standing Rule 38. Such appeal hearing may result in discipline equal to, less than or greater than the discipline assessed by the initial hearing committee depending upon the evidence presented at the appeal hearing. Any Medication Rules and Guidelines violation resulting in probation or suspension will be reported in the *Cutting Horse Chatter*.

## **9. Who's Responsible?**

Whether you enter, show, own, care for, or deliver a horse to an NCHA-produced show, you may be responsible for the horse's condition and are presumed to know all of the rules and regulations of NCHA. All riders showing horses in any NCHA produced and/or approved shows are deemed responsible for that horse under these rules. In situations involving "catch riders," (i) if the horse has a trainer, the trainer will be the person deemed responsible for the horse; or (ii) if the horse does not have a trainer, the owner will be the person deemed responsible for the horse. For youth riders, the parent or legal guardian of the youth is deemed responsible for the horse ridden by the youth. The above described persons are subject to disciplinary sanctions for a violation of the Medication Rules, whether or not they had actual knowledge of the presence of an offending drug, directly participated in the administration of that drug, innocently miscalculated its dosage or retention time in the horse's system, or for any other reason.

The person deemed the responsible person for a violation under this rule has the right to assert that some other person was actually responsible for the violation. In such cases, the burden is on the person deemed responsible for the horse under these rules to present evidence establishing that another person(s) was responsible for the violation. Any other persons shown by the evidence to have responsibility for a violation of the Medication Rules are also subject to disciplinary sanctions.

## **10. The Guidelines for Permitted and Conditionally Permitted Medications**

The Guidelines outlined below are applicable to most horses and can minimize the chances of positive drug tests. If medication is given by paste, powder, or tablet orally; exhibitors, owners, trainers, and veterinarians are cautioned to allow additional leeway under the minimal timeframes for administration of medication recommended in these guidelines since oral medications may result in differing variations in plasma levels.

However, reliance upon these Guidelines does not guarantee compliance with the rules because the response of individual horses can vary. Reliance upon these Guidelines is not a defense in the event of a violation. Exhibitors, owners, and trainers should consult the drug manufacturer and knowledgeable veterinarians for up-to-date information and more specific advice concerning the therapeutic use of a drug or medication for a particular horse. If the testing laboratory reports one of the medications below in a level higher than a specified maximum permitted plasma concentration, NCHA will review the matter and disciplinary action may be taken.

The following recommendations are for the use of a single non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). Only one systemic NSAID should be in the animal's system. The use of Diclofenac (Surpass) topically is allowed with one systemic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

1. Phenylbutazone (an NSAID): The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Phenylbutazone ("Bute") is 15.0 micrograms per milliliter. When Bute is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 2.0 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 2.0 grams, which equals two 1.0-gram tablets, or two 1.0-gram units of paste, or 10.0 cc of the injectable (200 milligrams per milliliter). For a 1,000-pound horse, if you are administering Bute in one-gram amounts twice daily, the dose is one gram tablet, or one gram of paste or 5 cc of the injectable (200 milligrams per milliliter). Neither a total daily dose nor part of an injectable dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Bute should not be used for more than five consecutive days.

The NCHA suggests the following dosage guidelines for the administration of Bute:

- a. Alternative No. 1: Bute given once daily:

The maximum dose given once daily to a 1000-pound horse is 2.0 grams (see above for administration options). If you are administering Bute once daily, the safest practice is to ensure that your previous administration of the once daily dose was made at least 24 hours prior to your Show Dose (6 hours or more prior to competition).

Example: If you are administering 2-gram doses of Bute to your 1000-pound horse that is showing at 4 pm on Monday, then the 2-gram Show Dose should be given no later than 10 a.m. on Monday (6 hours prior to showing). The previous 2-gram dose given prior to the Show Dose should be given no later than 10 a.m. Sunday (24 hours prior to the Show Dose).

- b. Alternative No. 2: Bute given twice daily:

The maximum dose given twice daily to a 1000-pound horse is 1.0 gram (see above for administration options). If you are administering Bute in 1-gram amounts, the safest practice is to ensure that your previous administration of the twice daily dose was made at least 12 hours prior to your 1-gram Show Dose (6 hours or more prior to competition).

Example: If you are administering 1-gram doses of Bute to your 1000-pound horse that is showing at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, then the Show Dose should be given no later than 6 a.m.

- on Tuesday (6 hours prior to showing). The previous 1-gram dose given prior to the Show Dose should be given no later than 6 p.m. Monday (12 hours prior to the Show Dose).
- c. **Dosage and Timing of Administration:** Please note that Bute levels build up in the horse's blood system over time when repeated doses of Bute are administered. It is therefore critical to ensure that proper dosages of Bute are given at proper intervals in order to be in compliance with NCHA Medication Rules. Specifically, overages of Bute levels may occur under NCHA Medication Rules even when a therapeutic dose of Bute is given 6 hours prior to the time the horse is shown (the "Show Dose"), if timing of prior dosages of Bute given to the horse have not been taken into account.
  - d. **Route of Administration Options:** Exhibitors, owners, trainers, and veterinarians are cautioned that the administration of Bute in paste, powder, or tablet oral form may not be accurately administered or metabolized as quickly by the horse and may, therefore, lead to positive test results depending on the timing of administration. If Bute is given by paste, powder, or tablet orally; exhibitors, owners, trainers, and veterinarians are cautioned to allow additional leeway under the minimal timeframes for administration of Bute recommended in these guidelines since oral medications may result in differing variations in plasma levels. Administration of Bute by intravenous (IV) route is strongly recommended when giving a Show Dose six hours prior to competition.
2. **Diclofenac (an NSAID):** The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Diclofenac is 0.005 micrograms per milliliter. Every 12 hours, not more than 73 mg of diclofenac liposomal cream should be administered (not more than 146 mg per 24-hour period) to one affected site. This 73 mg dose equals a 5-inch ribbon of cream not greater than half-an-inch in width, which should be rubbed thoroughly into the hair over the joint or affected site using gloved hands. Administration of diclofenac cream should be discontinued 6 hours prior to competing. Do not apply diclofenac cream in combination with any other topical preparations including DMSO, nitrofurazone or liniments, and do not use on an open wound. Diclofenac cream should not be administered for more than 10 consecutive days.
  3. **Flunixin Meglumine (an NSAID):** The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Flunixin is 1.0 microgram per milliliter. When Flunixin Meglumine is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 0.5 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 500 milligrams, which equals two 250-milligram packets of granules, or one 500-milligram packet of granules, or 500 milligrams of the oral paste (available in 1,500 milligram dose syringes), or 10.0 cc of the injectable (50 milligrams per milliliter). No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed must be consumed and/or removed at least 6 hours prior to competing. The medication should not be used for more than five consecutive days.

4. Ketoprofen (an NSAID): The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Ketoprofen is 0.25 µg per milliliter. When Ketoprofen is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 1.0 milligram per pound of body weight should be administered. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 1.0 gram, which equals 10.0 cc of the injectable (100 milligrams per milliliter). No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. The medication should not be used for more than five consecutive days.
5. Meclofenamic Acid (an NSAID): The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Meclofenamic Acid is 2.5 micrograms per milliliter. When Meclofenamic Acid is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 6 hours, not more than 0.5 milligram per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum 12-hour dose is 0.5 gram, which equals one 500-milligram packet of granules. The medication should not be used for more than five consecutive days.
6. Naproxen (an NSAID): The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Naproxen is 40.0 micrograms per milliliter. When Naproxen is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 4.0 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 4.0 grams, which equals eight 500-milligram tablets. No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed should be consumed and/or removed at least 12 hours prior to competing. The medication should not be used for more than five consecutive days.
7. Firocoxib (an NSAID): The maximum permitted plasma concentration of Firocoxib is 0.240 micrograms per milliliter. When Firocoxib is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 45.5 milligrams, which equals 0.1 milligram per kilogram of body weight once daily. No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competition. Firocoxib should not be administered for more than 14 consecutive days.
8. Methocarbamol: Whenever methocarbamol is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 12 hours, not more than 5.0 mg per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000-pound animal, the maximum dose each 12 hours is 5.0 grams, which equals ten 500 milligram tablets or 50 cc of the injectable (100 milligrams per milliliter). No dose should be administered during the 12 hours immediately following the prior dose. No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed must be consumed and/or removed at least 6 hours prior to competing. Methocarbamol should not be administered for more than five successive days.
9. Acetazolamide: May only be administered to horses documented through DNA testing to be positive (N/H or H/H) for Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP). While these rules do not

contain a maximum allowable plasma concentration level for Acetazolamide, laboratory detection of levels of Acetazolamide that are not consistent with administration in accordance with the Guidelines may result in prosecution of a rule violation. When acetazolamide is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 3 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 3 grams.

10. Furosemide: Must be administered intravenously at least four hours prior to competition.
11. Isoxsuprine: When administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse. Each 24 hours, not more than 1.6 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered (usually divided in two equal doses given 12 hours apart). For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily dose is 1,600 milligrams, which equals 80 20-milligram tablets. No part of a dose should be administered during the four hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed should be consumed and/or removed at least four hours prior to competing.
12. Dexamethasone: The maximum permitted plasma concentration is 3.0 nanograms per milliliter at the time of competition. In order to help trainers, owners and their veterinarians achieve compliance with this rule in connection with the therapeutic use of dexamethasone, it should be administered in accordance with the guidelines below. These guidelines include several alternative scenarios for dose time and route of administration. Whenever dexamethasone is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse.
  - a. Alternative No 1 (2.0 mg or less per 100 pounds IV or IM at 12 or more hours before competition) - Each 24 hours, not more than 2.0 milligrams of dexamethasone injectable solution per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered intravenously or intramuscularly, preferably less. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily intravenous or intramuscular dose of dexamethasone injectable solution is 20.0 milligrams, which equals 5.0 milliliters of the injectable solution (4.0 milligrams per milliliter). No part of this dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five consecutive days.
  - b. Alternative No. 2 (1.0 mg or less per 100 pounds IV at 6 or more hours before competition) - Each 24 hours, not more than 1.0 milligram of dexamethasone injectable solution per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered intravenously, preferably less. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily intravenous dose of dexamethasone injectable solution is 10.0 milligrams, which equals 2.5 milliliters of the injectable solution (4.0 milligrams per milliliter). No part of this dose should be administered during the six hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five consecutive days.
  - c. Alternative No. 3 (1.0 mg or less per 100 pounds orally at 6 or more hours before competition) - Each 24 hours, not

more than 1.0 milligram of dexamethasone powder per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered orally, preferably less. For a 1,000-pound horse, the maximum daily oral dose of dexamethasone powder is 10.0 milligrams, which equals one packet of dexamethasone powder (10.0 milligrams per packet). No part of this dose should be administered during the six hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed should be either consumed or removed at least six hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five consecutive days.

13. Ventipulmin (.5 mg (½ cc) or less per 100 pounds administered IM, or orally at 6 or more hours before competition).
14. Acepromazine Maleate (.5 mg or less per 100 pounds administered IV, IM, or orally at 1 or more hours before competition). Maximum single dose should not exceed 5 mg total, which equals .50 milliliters of the injectable solution (10.0 milligrams per milliliter). A written medication report must be submitted to show management using the reporting guidelines found under conditionally approved medications.

#### **11. Prohibited Substances: Anabolic Steroid Withdrawal Guidelines**

In order to ensure the welfare of performance horses and riders as well as the integrity of the sport, the use of both therapeutic and illegal agents in performance horses is tightly regulated. Until a few years ago, anabolic steroids were commonly administered to performance horses, presumably to promote muscle growth and enhance performance. To align with other horse industry groups, the NCHA has adopted the international androgenic anabolic steroid recommendation and withdrawal guidelines listed below.

- Boldenone: Screening limit no greater than 100 pg/ml in serum or plasma with a confirmatory threshold no greater than 25 pg/ml for all horses regardless of sex, which regulates an 82-day withdrawal time. Boldenone undecylenate in oil was administered intramuscularly at a dose of 1.1 mg/kg to achieve a safe limit of 100pg/ml at 82 days prior to sampling.
- Nandrolone: Screening limit no greater than 100 pg/ml in serum or plasma with a confirmatory threshold no greater than 25 pg/ml for geldings, fillies, and mares, which regulates a 35-day withdrawal time. Male horses other than geldings will not be tested for nandrolone in blood. Nandrolone decanoate in oil was administered intramuscularly at a dose 0.55 mg/kg to achieve a safe limit of 100 pg/ml at 35 days prior to sampling.
- Stanozolol: Screening limit no greater than 100 pg/ml in serum or plasma with a confirmatory threshold no greater than 25 pg/ml for all horses regardless of sex, which regulates a 47-day withdrawal time. Stanozolol as an aqueous suspension was administered intramuscularly at a dose of .55 mg/kg to achieve a safe limit of 100 pg/ml at 47 days prior to sampling.
- Testosterone: Screening limit no greater than 100 pg/ml in serum or plasma with a confirmatory threshold no greater than 25 pg/ml for geldings, fillies and mares and a confirmatory limit of 2 µg/ml for male horses other than geldings, which regulates a 30-day withdrawal time. Testosterone as an aqueous solution was administered subcutaneously at a dose of 0.15 mg/kg to achieve a safe limit of 100 pg/ml at 30 days prior



to sampling.

However, reliance upon these Guidelines does not guarantee compliance with the rules because the response of individual horses can vary. Reliance upon these Guidelines is not a defense in the event of a violation. Exhibitors, owners, and trainers should consult the drug manufacturer and knowledgeable veterinarians for up-to-date information and more specific advice concerning the therapeutic use of a drug or medication for a particular horse.

### **12. Additional Medication Recommendations and Guidelines**

Antipsychotic drugs/Antidepressants/Long-acting tranquilizers such as, but not limited to, fluphenazine (Prolix), reserpine, fluoxetine (Prozac) are not allowed. Many of these drugs can be detected for 45 days or more.

Short acting tranquilizers/ sedatives/ anti-hypertensives such as, but not limited to chlorpromazine, ketamine, romifidine, detomidine and guanabenz should not be used within 3 days (72 hrs) of show time and only under the supervision of a veterinarian. Exception: A low dose of acepromazine maleate is permitted with required reporting provisions, see above.

### **13. Nutritional & Herbal Supplements**

Non-prescription medicinal, herbal, and nutritional preparations, tonics, pastes, and supplements should be used cautiously as the ingredients and quantitative analysis of the products might not be known and could contain forbidden substances or other substances that could result in a positive test.

### **14. Compounded Substances**

Exhibitors, owners, trainers, and veterinarians are cautioned against the use of compounded medications or those formulated at compounding pharmacies. The ingredients and quantitative analysis of the products may not be known and could contain a forbidden substance or quantities of substances that could result in a positive test.

### **15. Policies for Taking Samples for Medication Testing**

The following policies have been adopted by the NCHA to govern the manner in which blood samples will be taken under the NCHA Medication/Drug Rules:

- (a) All blood samples taken pursuant to the NCHA Medication Rules will be taken by, or at the direction of, a licensed veterinarian selected by the NCHA in its sole discretion.
- (b) The NCHA will attempt to take test samples under the NCHA Medication Rules after a horse completes its rounds of competition for the day, however, each horse selected shall be tested on the date selected for testing.
- (c) The person collecting the sample should fully complete all test sample recording forms provided by the NCHA at the time the sample is taken.
- (d) The person collecting the sample will make an effort to work with the horse owner so as to minimize any discomfort to the horse.
- (e) The person collecting the sample should make every effort to take the sample in, or in close proximity to, the test stalls located at the facility.

All samples taken by the NCHA will be stored, shipped, and tested in accordance with generally accepted practices for storing, shipping, and testing equine blood samples as prescribed by the certified testing laboratory utilized by the NCHA. It is presumed the sample of blood tested by the



approved laboratory is the one taken from the horse in question and that its integrity is preserved. It is also presumed that all procedures for such collection and preservation of the sample, transfer to the laboratory, and analysis of the sample have been followed. The lab results are presumed to be correct and accurate. It is also presumed that the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the horse in question and correctly reflects the condition of the horse during the show in which it was entered, with the burden on the responsible party or parties to prove otherwise at any hearing conducted concerning the violation by NCHA.

### **STANDING RULE 36.**

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A program has been set up to provide a representative of the contestants, or a liaison, to work between contestants and show management.

- a. Provided a representative has not been appointed by the show management, it shall be the duty of show management at all NCHA cutting horse contests to hold a meeting of all contestants in each class prior to the first go-round for the purpose of electing a representative to represent the contestants for the duration of the show. In the event the representative has to leave the show for any reason, they shall appoint a representative in their place for the duration of the show. Any representative so elected or appointed must be a contestant in the class involved.

1. They must represent all contestants with the show management and be the sole liaison with said management.

2. They must report if they observe any horse being abused or if there are actions by any contestant detrimental to the best interest of the Association such as the following: loud and profane language, drunkenness or being under the influence of intoxicants, use of devices not permitted by NCHA rules or any other infraction of Standing Rules.

- b. A representative shall have no contact or communication with a judge(s) beyond that permitted to any contestant.

- c. A cow may be removed from the arena only when it is in the best interest of human or animal welfare. Such decision to remove a cow(s) shall be made by the Show Management or its Representatives.

#### Removal of Cows: Examples

1. At any time, a cow leaves the herd and subsequently endangers the cutter, the helping horses, or other contestants. Ruling: The cow will be removed from the arena.
2. A cow leaves the herd several times and does not challenge or endanger any other animal or human being. Ruling: The cow will remain in the arena.
3. A blind or crippled cow is found in the herd. Ruling: The Show Management or Representative may or may not rule that a blind or crippled cow be removed at any time.
4. A wild cow voluntarily leaves the working area. Ruling: At the discretion of Show Management or Class Representative, the wild cow does not have to be returned to the herd.

### **Contestant Conduct and Related Complaints**

#### **STANDING RULE 37.**

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Any member may be disciplined, fined, denied privileges of the Association, placed on probation and/or suspended from the Association by the Grievance Committee, Amateur Non-Professional Review Commit-

tee, Medication Review Committee or any other committee authorized by NCHA Rules to rule on potential NCHA Rule violations (collectively, “Initial Hearing Committees”), the Executive Committee or an Appeal Committee, whenever it shall have been established by the evidence that such member has violated any rule of the Association providing for such disciplinary actions. Non-members involved in NCHA rule violations may also be denied privileges of the Association for violation of or assisting in the violation of NCHA rules. When the NCHA rule in question contains specific provisions concerning disciplinary actions or burdens of proof, any disciplinary action taken by an Initial Hearing Committee, the Executive Committee or an Appeal Committee should be consistent with that provision.

a. Filing a Complaint

Any NCHA member may file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of NCHA Rules by submitting the complaint in writing to the NCHA Executive Director. The complaint must be signed by the person or persons filing the complaint or, if filed electronically, identify the name of the person or persons filing the complaint, and sent to the NCHA Executive Director together with a check or credit card payment in the amount of \$50 made payable to the National Cutting Horse Association. The complaint must be in essentially the form supplied by the NCHA and available on its website. The complaint must, at a minimum, contain the following information: the names of the person or persons filing the complaint, the name or names of the persons alleged to have violated the NCHA rules, the date of the alleged violation, the show at which the alleged violation occurred, the location on the show grounds where the alleged violation occurred, a detailed description of the activity that resulted in the alleged violation, and the names and addresses of all witnesses believed to have knowledge of the alleged violations. There is no \$50 fee for filing a complaint about reporting a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy or for a complaint submitted by an NCHA Director, a class representative, show management or a judge. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted, investigated, or acted on by the NCHA (except reports of alleged violations and Zero Tolerance Policy that meet the requirements of Standing Rule 35.6). A complaint must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged rule violation. The timing for filing a complaint alleging a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy is contained in Standing Rule 35.6. No complaint is required for the NCHA to take disciplinary action regarding a member’s competitive status (i.e., violation of Non-Professional and/or Amateur rules) or for violation of the NCHA medication and drug rules contained in Standing Rule 35A.

b. Initial Hearing Committees

The Executive Director will promptly refer all complaints to one of the following Initial Hearing Committees in accordance with subsection (e) of this rule: (1) the Grievance Committee. (2) the Medication Review Committee; (3) the Non-Professional/Amateur Review Committee; (4) any other hearing or review committee provided for under NCHA Rules. Unless otherwise provided in the NCHA rules, or in duly adopted NCHA policies, a quorum of an Initial Hearing Committee will consist of three (3) members with one (1) of these members being the elected Chairman.

c. Contested and Uncontested Matters

The NCHA shall notify the alleged violator in writing of the substance of the complaint filed or alleged action being investigated; each NCHA rule(s) potentially violated; the disciplinary actions applicable to the alleged rule violation; and a request that the alleged violator file a written election with the Executive Director either to contest or not contest the alleged violation. The written election to contest the violation must be received by the NCHA Executive Director within ten (10) business days of the receipt of notice of violation. If such written election to contest the violation is not received by the NCHA Executive Director in that timeframe, the violation will be deemed to be not contested, the discipline identified in the notice letter will be assessed and the Executive Director will notify the member in writing of any disciplinary actions taken.

d. Initial Hearing Procedures

For matters timely contested as provided in Section (c) above, the Initial Hearing Committee shall schedule a hearing and provide the alleged violator(s) not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of the hearing date. In circumstances deemed to constitute an emergency by the Executive Director after consulting with the NCHA President, the notice of hearing may be shortened by the President in their sole discretion, but in no event shall be less than five (5) business days actual notice of the hearing date. The notice shall be accompanied by the procedures to be followed at the hearing. The alleged violator and the NCHA shall exchange all proposed documentary evidence to be considered at the hearing no less than three (3) days prior to the hearing. The Initial Hearing Committee shall have the discretion to decide whether good cause exists for the committee to consider untimely filed evidentiary submissions. Legal counsel for the NCHA and alleged violator may appear and participate in the evidentiary portion of the hearing.

After all evidence is presented and received at the initial hearing, the evidence shall be closed, and the Initial Hearing Committee shall deliberate in private. The Initial Hearing Committee shall render its decision in contested matters by majority vote and shall so notify the Executive Committee of the decision in writing. The Initial Hearing Committee shall only be required to note in its report the NCHA rule(s) it found were violated and shall not be required to provide a detailed reasoned opinion for its decision.

All disciplinary actions taken by an Initial Hearing Committee on or after August 21, 2018 (including suspensions of membership or competitive status) shall go into effect immediately upon the committee's issuance of its report. Please see NCHA Rule 38 for a member's appeal options.

e. Disciplinary Guidelines for Rule Violations

If after review and investigation of the complaint, the Initial Hearing Committee, or an Appeal Committee, is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, the committee may take such disciplinary action consistent with the provisions of NCHA Rules as it deems appropriate. The Initial Hearing Committee and/or Appeal Committee shall use the guidelines outlined below in determining what disciplinary actions to take, if any. The Initial Hearing Committee and/or Appeal Committee appointed

under NCHA rules are not bound by these guidelines but shall use them in an effort to be fair and consistent in the application of the NCHA disciplinary rules.

**1. The NCHA Medication Review Committee**

The NCHA Medication Review Committee shall initially consider all potential violations of the NCHA Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines (NCHA Rule 35A). The potential disciplinary actions for proceedings relating to alleged violations of the NCHA Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines are contained in Rule 35A.7. The alleged violator bears the burden of proof to establish that they have not administered any drug or medication in violation of the NCHA Medication and Drug Rules.

**2. The NCHA Non-Professional/Amateur Review Committee**

The NCHA Non-Professional/Amateur Review Committee shall initially consider all violations of the NCHA Non-Professional and Amateur Rules (NCHA Rules 50.d.1- 51.a.5). The potential disciplinary actions for proceedings relating to alleged violations of the NCHA Non-Professional and Amateur rules are contained in Rules 50 and 51. The alleged violator bears the burden to establish entitlement to hold Non-Professional and/or Amateur status.

**3. The Grievance Committee**

The Grievance Committee shall initially consider all violations of NCHA Rules relating to alleged violations of NCHA Zero Tolerance Policy (NCHA Rule 35.A); alleged improper conduct toward judges and monitors (NCHA Rule 35.B); alleged improper conduct by and between members (NCHA Rule 35.C); and alleged violations of any other NCHA rules that are not considered by the NCHA Medication Review Committee, the NCHA Non-Professional/Amateur Review Committee or the Executive Committee.

For matters considered by the Grievance Committee for which the rule allegedly violated contains suggested disciplinary actions, the Grievance Committee should consult those provisions in connection with discipline to be assessed for such rule violation. In cases where the rule allegedly violated does not contain suggested disciplinary action, the Grievance Committee should consult the following general guidelines:

- (i) First Offense - (a) fine; (b) probation; or (c) both of the foregoing. A first offense will be removed from a member's record if that member has no further infraction of NCHA rules for a period of two (2) years after the first offense is committed, unless otherwise provided for in NCHA rules.
- (ii) Second Offense within 2 years of First Offense - (a) increased fine; (b) increased probation; (c) suspension; or (d) all of the foregoing; and
- (iii) Additional offenses within 2 years of a First Offense will be dealt with severely, including: (a) heavy fines; (b) lengthy probation and (c) suspension will be increased as deemed appropriate by the committee considering the offense.

f. Effects of Membership Probation and Suspension

1. Membership Probation

Probation shall be for a length of time to be decided by the appropriate committee and shall also set a term of suspension that will be imposed in the event that the probation is violated. The term of suspension shall only become effective upon the probated member's violation of the terms of their probation. In the event suspension is imposed for subsequent rule violation(s), the balance of the probated suspension shall begin on the day after the suspension for the subsequent rule violation is completely served.

2. Membership suspensions that went into effect on or before August 21, 2018.

Any person who has had their membership suspended (where such suspension commences on or before August 21, 2018) will not be allowed to participate in any way (as owner or agent of a horse, contestant, or as a helper mounted or on foot) in an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest. A suspended person may only attend an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest as a spectator seated in the stands. Any horse that is owned or controlled, in whole or part, by a suspended person will not be allowed to enter or compete in an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest. In the event a suspended person violates this rule, an additional six (6) months will be added to their suspension. The rider of any horse which is ineligible to enter or compete in an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest under this rule will be subject to a six (6) month membership suspension.

3. Membership suspensions that went into effect after August 21, 2018.

Any person who has had their membership suspended (where such suspension commences after August 21, 2018), will not be allowed on the premises of an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest. For purposes of this rule, the term "premises" shall be broadly defined and include all show arenas, practice pens, loping areas, sales barns, exhibit halls, trade shows and all other parts of the show grounds. Any horse that is owned or controlled, in whole or part, by a suspended person or in which the suspended person holds any future rights of any kind will not be allowed to enter, compete, or transfer existing entries in an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest. This includes horses owned by a corporation, partnership, or any other entity in which the suspended member has any ownership interest. In the event a suspended person violates this rule, an additional six (6) months will be added to their suspension. The rider of any horse in any NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest which is ineligible to enter or compete in such contest under this rule will be subject to a six (6) month membership suspension.

4. Failure to timely pay fine.

Where a member is assessed a fine in addition to a suspension and/or probation, as a result of a committee finding made after August 21, 2018, such fine must be paid in

full within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed as required by Standing Rule 4. In the event that the fine is not paid in full within that fifteen (15) day timeframe, the corresponding suspension and/or probation will be extended by a period equal to the amount of days over fifteen (15) days that it takes for the member to pay the fine in full (Example: If the member does not pay until 45 days after the fine is assessed, then 30 days will be added to the term of the corresponding suspension and/or probation.)

5. **Transfer of Horses owned by Suspended Member.**  
This subsection applies to all membership suspensions that went into effect after August 21, 2018. A horse owned by a suspended member at the time of their suspension that is sold, gifted or for which ownership is otherwise transferred to an Immediate Family Member (as defined in NCHA Rule 51.a.4) or that is sold, gifted or for which ownership is otherwise transferred to any corporation, partnership or any other entity of any kind in which the suspended member has any present or future ownership interest will not be allowed to show in any NCHA approved or produced event during the term of that member's suspension. In the event that the NCHA questions the legitimacy of a transfer made by a suspended person during their suspension, the suspended person shall bear the burden of proof to establish the legitimacy of the transfer.
6. **Effect of Suspensions by Other Associations.**
  - a. Every person who is suspended by the American Quarter Horse Association or by the American Paint Horse Association for unsportsmanlike conduct at a show or contest or for inhumane treatment of horses, shall stand as suspended by the NCHA upon official notification to this Association from the American Quarter Horse Association or the American Paint Horse Association of any such disciplinary action which has become final and non-appealable.
  - b. The NCHA may honor the disciplinary actions of its affiliate organizations when supplied with satisfactory evidence that the person so disciplined has been given a full and impartial hearing by the affiliate organization involved; however, any action taken by an affiliate will not limit any authority or jurisdiction of the NCHA.
- g. **Publication of Findings**  
When disciplinary action is taken that results in probation or suspension of membership privileges or competitive status, the person's name, the rule violated, and the disciplinary action taken will be published in *Cutting Horse Chatter*.
- h. **Notice**  
Every notice required by this rule may be served by delivering a copy of the notice to the person to be served, or his/her attorney, either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, to their last known address as it appears on the Association's records. Such notice shall be deemed received by such person when it is delivered in person or when it is deposited in the United States mail.
- i. **Decision Final and Binding**

The decision of the Initial Hearing Committee shall be final and binding unless subsequently overturned by an appeal committee under the provisions of NCHA Standing Rule 38.

### **STANDING RULE 38.**

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1. Appeal Prerequisites
  - a. When anyone has been found to have violated any NCHA rule by an Initial Hearing Committee, that person shall be entitled to appeal that ruling under this rule so long as: (1) written notice of such request for appeal by each person appealing the ruling is received by the NCHA Executive Director within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the letter notifying the person of such action taken by the Initial Hearings Committee as required by NCHA Rule 37.c; and (2) an appeal fee as required by Section b below is also received by the NCHA Executive Director within that twenty-one (21) day period.
  - b. The appeal fee for each person appealing the decision of an Initial Hearing Committee is \$6,000 per person appealing that decision. For cases in which the Initial Hearing Committee has assessed a suspension of membership or competitive status, the appealing party shall have the right to request an expedited appeal as described in section c below. The appeal fee for an expedited appeal is \$10,000 for each person filing an expedited appeal of the decision of an Initial Hearing Committee. Appeal fees will not be refunded unless all findings of the Initial Hearing Committee are completely overturned by an Appeal Committee.
  - c. In cases of a non-expedited appeal, the appealing member(s) shall be given not less than fifteen (15) days' notice of a time and place for an appeal hearing to be heard by the Executive Committee or by an Appeal Committee duly appointed by the NCHA President. In cases of an expedited appeal, the appealing member(s) shall be entitled to an appeal hearing no more than five (5) business days after the expedited appeal is perfected.
2. Appeal Proceedings
  - a. An appeal is a "de novo" proceeding and could result in a new finding concerning whether or not there was a violation of an NCHA rule(s) and either an affirmance, enhancement or decrease in the disciplinary action taken by the Initial Hearing Committee.
  - b. Eight (8) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of considering disciplinary appeal hearings.
  - c. The NCHA President may appoint a special Appeal Hearing Committee (the "Appeal Committee") to conduct any appeal hearing of disciplinary actions. This Appeal Committee shall have a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members. Each member of the Appeal Committee must be a member in good standing of the NCHA. Five members of the Appeal Committee members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of hearing an appeal.
  - d. No continuance of an appeal hearing shall be granted unless a written request for continuance is received by the NCHA Executive Director at least seven (7) days prior to the



hearing and good cause is shown as determined at the sole discretion of the NCHA President or the Chairman of the Appeal Committee.

- e. At the appeal hearing, the appealing member shall have the opportunity to be heard, to be represented by legal counsel, to present evidence in their own behalf and to hear and refute any evidence offered against them.
- f. The committee hearing the appeal will follow the same procedures for the appeal hearing as are used for the initial hearing.
- g. The decision of the Executive Committee or Appeal Committee in an appeal proceeding under this rule shall be final and binding on all parties. The committee hearing an appeal shall only be required to note in its report the NCHA rule(s) it found were violated and shall not be required to provide a detailed reasoned opinion for its decision.
- h. When disciplinary action is taken that results in probation or suspension of membership privileges or competitive status, the person's name, the rule violated, and the disciplinary action taken will be published in *Cutting Horse Chatter*.

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#### **STANDING RULE 39.**

No person shall make a derogatory remark, nor take or threaten to take, adverse action against any NCHA sponsor, its agent, servants, or employees, relating in any manner to the sponsor's involvement with the NCHA or an NCHA event. Any person who violates this rule is subject to disciplinary action and is also responsible to the NCHA for any loss or damage caused by a violation of this rule.

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#### **STANDING RULE 40.**

Intentionally left blank, please see Standing Rule 4

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#### **STANDING RULE 41.**

If any member institutes litigation in which the Association is included as a defendant in an effort to recover damages, to overturn enforcement or interpretation of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules or Regulations, or for any other reason whatsoever, and does not prevail in said litigation by the recovery of all relief requested, said member shall be liable to the Association for its attorney's fees, costs of court, and other expenses incurred in connection with such litigation. Venue for any litigation in which the Association is included as a defendant shall be Tarrant County, Texas.

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#### **STANDING RULE 42.**

Every notice required by these rules and regulations may be served by delivering a copy of the notice to the person to be served, or their attorney, either in person, by fax, or by mail, postage prepaid, to their last known address as it appears on the Association's records; and upon mailing, such notice shall be deemed received by such person when it is deposited in the United States mail.

All rules pertaining to the Youth Division of the NCHA shall be considered a part of, and complementary to, the Standing Rules of the NCHA.



# **Standing Rules 50.d.1 to 51.a.6 Related to Horse Ownership and Non-Professional/Amateur Status**

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## **STANDING RULE 50.d.1**

Riders of horses entered in any classification of NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur Contests shall be restricted to holders of NCHA Non-Professional/Amateur cards.

## **OWNERSHIP**

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### **STANDING RULE 50.d.2.**

Any and all present or future ownership rights to any horse being exhibited in NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur weekend cutting horse classes must be entirely owned by the contestant showing the horse or be qualified as a family-owned horse as defined in Rule 51.a.4. There can be no ownership rights related to possession, profits, expenses, or any other ownership interest belonging to any person other than the contestant except as provided above. Ownership can only be obtained in a manner permitted pursuant to Rule 50.d.4.

Common law (cohabitational relationships) is recognized by NCHA if the member's state of residency recognizes common law (Informal) marriage. The member must permanently reside in the common law marriage state. If the state provides a procedure for issuing common law or informal marriage certificates, the NCHA requires the certificate to be obtained and filed with the NCHA office, if the state does not have specific guidelines but is a common law state then NCHA will require a notarized statement of the fact. Example: The state of Texas issues an Informal Marriage Certificate at the county office. NCHA requires this document as proof of Informal Marriage.

NCHA will need a copy of the official document containing the instrument number and volume/page number filing information showing that the document was recorded by the county.

### **STANDING RULE 50.d.3.**

Proof of ownership is required, must be on file with the NCHA and will be requested by show management on any horse ridden in NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contests; said proof to be exhibited to show management or its official representative prior to the beginning of the contest. The original registration certificate for registered horses or verified copy thereof showing current ownership in compliance with Standing Rule 50.d.2 above or present to the NCHA the following documents evidencing ownership: (i) a completed NCHA Unregistered Horse Application; (ii) verified bill of sale; (iii) photos front and back (both sides) and a vet statement attesting to age. If the NCHA Show Department approves the documents described above, it shall be deemed as sufficient proof of ownership (non-conclusive) under this Standing Rule.

In the event that a contestant is unable to provide proper proof of ownership at the time of entry, any premium monies won may be withheld by show management until such time as proper proof has been provided. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disciplinary action by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee or other appropriate Committee, either probation or suspension, whichever

#### **STANDING RULE 50.d.4.**

A Non-Professional will only transfer ownership or receive a transfer of ownership of a horse for purposes of competing in NCHA contests on a bona fide, permanent basis; permanent shall mean to own with an intent to retain ownership and no present intent to transfer ownership. The following provisions apply in connection with this rule:

1. A Non-Professional may purchase a horse on time provided a copy of the written sales agreement, signed by both parties, is provided to NCHA and it states the name of the horse, the sales price, date of sale and terms of payment.
2. A Non-Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which (1) the Non-Professional or any third party is to have any express or implied present or future interest in the ownership of the horse for the purpose of showing the horse at NCHA contests; (2) any part of the winnings, profits or expenses are to be shared, directly or indirectly, between the Non-Professional and any other person; or (3) all or part of the purchase price is to be paid from the winnings of the horse. All parties to any transaction in violation of this paragraph are subject to disciplinary actions by the NCHA.
3. If a horse is transferred, sold, or gifted back to the previous owner within 1 year, that horse cannot be shown by the previous owner or their immediate family in any NCHA sponsored or approved Amateur or Non-Professional competition for the 6-month period following the transfer back to the previous owner.
4. The Executive Committee, the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee or any other committee appointed by the NCHA President under NCHA rules shall have the right to review and fully investigate any transaction regarding the purchase, gift, or sale of a horse by a holder of an NCHA Non-Professional card. There shall be an automatic review of any age horse that is repurchased, given back, or resold to the prior owner. For any horse three years old or older, computed on the basis that a horse reached one year of age on January 1 of the year following the foaling and adds an additional year on each subsequent January 1, the seller must notify the NCHA if a horse returns to their ownership or their immediate family's ownership within 1 year and shall give full disclosure including, but not limited to, methods of procurement, all transfer records, cancelled checks and deposit slips. All parties to a transaction in violation of these NCHA rules are subject to disciplinary action, including fines, probation and/or suspension, by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, the Executive Committee and any other committee appointed by the NCHA President under NCHA rules. Any horse received as a gift must be reported in writing to the NCHA by the recipient within thirty, (30) days of receipt.
5. Upon purchase or gift of a horse (for the purpose of verifying Non-Pro horse ownership), the transfer of such horse must be reflected in the breed association's records within 30 days of the date that the transfer papers are submitted to the NCHA. In the case of an unregistered horse the following document evidencing ownership are required: (i) a completed NCHA Unregistered Horse Application; (ii) verified bill of sale; and (iii) photos front and back (both sides) and a vet statement attesting to age. These items must be provided to the NCHA before the horse is shown.

6. For horse transfers that have not been recorded by the breed association for horses that have been shown in Non-Pro and/or Amateur classes at NCHA produced events, premium moneys won will not be distributed by NCHA until such transaction is received in the breed association's records. If the breed association's records do not reflect the transfer within 60 days of the NCHA's receipt of the transfer papers, the NCHA will not record the member's Amateur or Non-Pro earnings on the horse until the breed association has recorded such transfer and the member has paid a \$1,000 fine to the NCHA. If the transfer is not received by the breed association by the 90th day after NCHA receives the transfer papers: an additional \$2,000 fine will be assessed to the member; all Non-Pro/Amateur earnings won by that member on that horse from the date that the NCHA received the transfer papers through the 90th day will be permanently deleted from the NCHA records; and the member will have their Non-Professional or Amateur status immediately suspended by the NCHA. The member may request a reinstatement of their Amateur and/or Non-Professional status from the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. The burden of proof is on the member disciplined under this rule to show good cause why their Non-Pro/Amateur status should be reinstated. Any decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee on these issues is subject to appeal pursuant to NCHA Standing Rule 38.

This section applies in cases where the horse at issue was allegedly transferred to a Professional and shown by a member of the Professional's family as a Non-Professional or Amateur under Rule 51.a.4 (family ownership rule). For horse transfers that have not been recorded by the breed association for horses that have been shown in Non-Pro and/or Amateur classes at NCHA produced events, premium moneys won will not be distributed by NCHA until such transaction is recorded in the breed association's records. If the breed association's records do not reflect the transfer within 60 days of the NCHA's receipt of the transfer papers to the Professional owner, the NCHA will not record Non-Pro/Amateur earnings of any family member that showed that horse until the breed association has recorded such transfer, and the Professional owner has paid a \$1,000 fine to the NCHA. If the transfer is not recorded by the breed association by the 90th day after NCHA receives the transfer papers; an additional \$2,000 fine will be assessed to the Professional owner; all Non-Pro/Amateur earnings won by any family member on that horse will be permanently deleted from the NCHA records; and any family member who showed that horse in Amateur and/or Non-Pro events will have their Non-Professional or Amateur status immediately suspended by the NCHA. The member may request a reinstatement of his/her Amateur and/or Non-Professional status from the NCHA Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. The burden of proof is on the member disciplined under this rule to show good cause why their non-pro/Amateur status should be reinstated. Any decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee on these issues is subject to appeal pursuant to NCHA Standing Rule 38.

## **NON-PRO CAP FOR SHOWING IN THE OPEN**

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### **STANDING RULE 50.d.6.**

Non-Professionals who have not earned more than \$100,000 in Open competitions cumulatively over the three prior years can continue to compete as a Non-Professional in Open classes until the beginning of the

next point year. If the Non-Professional is ineligible because they have exceeded the \$100,000 revolving cap described above and competes on any horse regardless of whether or not they win any money, they will forfeit their Non-Professional status and can no longer compete in Non-Professional contests. For the purpose of this rule NCHA World Championship Futurity winnings will be included in the point year of the calendar year in which the World Championship Futurity is held.

For the purposes of this rule: Approved or unapproved classes held within an NCHA approved Limited Age Event show that are not restricted to NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur cardholders shall be considered to be within an NCHA approved show if the class begins less than 24 hours (a) before the scheduled time for the beginning of the NCHA approved show or (b) after the time when the NCHA approved show concludes.

Open competition defined as Open and Novice Horse classes at Limited Age Events.

All Cutting Horse contests not approved by NCHA including AQHA, ACHA are exempt from this Rule. This rule applies only to NCHA-approved Limited Age Events

## **A NON-PROFESSIONAL**

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### **STANDING RULE 51.a.1.**

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A Non-Professional in this Association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration to work in any manner in the following activities on the premises of a cutting horse training operation: showing, training, or assisting in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. For purposes of this rule, a cutting horse training operation is any facility where cutting horses are trained. Any person who has trained horses astride in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline for direct or indirect remuneration or is a Hall of Fame equine trainer in any discipline shall be considered a Professional by this Association, with the exception of those who have been granted a change of status. Please review current exception rules. A Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline.

1. This Association does not consider that Professional cutting horse trainers' spouses who do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle receive indirect remuneration.
2. Employees on a cutting horse training operation may be considered Non-Professionals by this Association provided they do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle or a training device.
3. Non-Professional or Amateur members may show a family-owned horse, as defined in Standing Rule 51.a.4.
4. Premium money won shall not be considered remuneration so long as all winnings are returned to the individual Non-Professional who competed on the horse.
5. Any corporation, partnership, ranch, farm, or other business entity relating to ownership of cutting horses by an NCHA Non-Professional must be totally owned by the Non-Professional or his/her immediate family as defined in Rule 51.a.4.
6. If a Non-Professional is a trainer in another discipline, they may never be granted Amateur status. Family and children of such individuals must meet existing Amateur exception rules and apply for Amateur status through the Non-Professional/Amateur review process before being granted an Amateur card.

## **STANDING RULE 51.a.2**

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Non-Professional Card. Every rider, regardless of age, competing in an NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contest must possess a Non-Professional and/or Amateur card, issued by the NCHA. This card must be available for inspection at any show entered.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.2.A**

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The fee for said card is included with the annual membership and may be applied for by members of the Association. A Director's signature is recommended and encouraged but not required on all Non-Professional and Amateur Applications that are submitted directly to the NCHA office for approval. Once approved, the applications would be valid as long as the member continued to meet all requirements provided for in the NCHA rules to maintain the status. It is the member's responsibility to notify the NCHA office immediately upon any change in circumstances that may affect their status.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.2.B.**

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A new member or member who has not renewed Non-Pro/Amateur status prior to attending a show will be allowed to complete the appropriate application if an NCHA Director is available to sign the application. If the appropriate application is fully completed, and application signed by an NCHA Director, the applicant may show at that show. If an NCHA Director is not available, applicant cannot show. The application must be included with show results and is subject to final approval from NCHA. If NCHA final approval is not obtained, earnings (if any) will be pulled.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.2.C.**

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All Non-Professional and Amateur card holders will be reviewed at the time application is made. Said application to be on a form supplied by the Association and returned to it along with the applicant's annual dues. It is the member's responsibility to notify the NCHA office immediately upon any change in circumstances that may affect their Non-Pro/Amateur status. A Non-Professional and/or Amateur card may be reviewed or revoked at any time by the Executive Director, the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, the Executive Committee or other committees appointed by the NCHA President in accordance with NCHA rules.

However, the holder of a card so revoked shall have the right to appeal and a subsequent hearing before the Non-Professional/Amateur Review Committee. The burden of proof of eligibility shall be upon the applicant or card holder.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.2.D.**

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Any Non-Professional and/or Amateur card which has been revoked must be surrendered immediately to the Association; and the holder shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, Executive Committee or other Committees appointed by the NCHA President in accordance with NCHA rules, either probation or suspension, whichever in their opinion fits the infraction. Such penalties shall be published in *Cutting Horse Chatter*.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.2.E.**

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In the event that a member or non-member places in an NCHA approved Non-Professional and/or Amateur contest and does not hold a current NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card, said person must pay back all earnings to show management within 15 days of notification or the ineligible competitor will be placed on membership suspension by NCHA. Any person acting in violation of this rule may also be fined

for each time premium monies are won while competing without current Non-Professional and/or Amateur status. Failure to pay any and all fines assessed will be cause for denial of Non-Professional and/or Amateur card. Money or points won will not count towards eligibility, awards or standings for rider or horse until Non-Professional/Amateur application is approved. No money or points will be awarded retroactive to payment of fee. In addition, a \$25 fine, per occurrence will be assessed any show management which allows a person to show without a current Non-Professional/Amateur card.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.3.**

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Any person who has shown, trained, or assisted in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider or trained horses astride in any equine discipline involving cattle for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered a Professional by this Association, with the exception of those who have been granted a Change Of Status since January 1, 1997, from Professional to Non-Professional. A Change of Status from Professional to Non-Professional will be allowed to have the benefit of being a Non-Pro without restrictions. An individual who has been granted Non-Professional status but still trains horses astride is considered a Professional for purposes of determining Amateur status for their family members.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.4.**

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If a member who holds an NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card publicly exhibits in any contest, whether approved or unapproved, a cutting horse not owned by the member or by the member's Immediate Family as defined herein, the member will be subject to disciplinary actions as provided in this rule, in addition to potential disciplinary actions under Rule 50.d.4.

For purposes of this rule "Immediate Family" shall mean the member's spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparents, grandchild step-parent, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, spouse's parent, spouse's step-parent, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step sibling's spouse, sibling's child, sibling's step-child, half-sibling' child, half-sibling's step-child, step-sibling's child, step-sibling's step-child, parent's sibling, parent's half-sibling, parent's step-sibling, parent's sibling's child, parent's sibling's stepchild, parent' half sibling's child, parent's half sibling's stepchild, parent's step sibling's child, parent's step sibling's stepchild, legal ward or legal guardian. Any member who owns a horse that he/she wants his or her immediate family to show pursuant to this rule is responsible for completing the forms prescribed by the NCHA relating to a family-owned horse and filing those forms with the NCHA prior to the show in which any qualified family member will show that horse. The horse owner member is also responsible for updating their family-owned horse information with the NCHA to be sure it is accurate and up to date A member showing a horse owned by an immediate family member under this rule may have his or her entry fees and expenses paid by an immediate family member.

Penalties for ownership rule violations may include immediate loss of Non-Professional/Amateur status of the member, up to three (3) years suspension from the NCHA, up to a maximum of \$10,000 fine. Also, any other member found guilty of aiding and abetting the rule violator will be subject to the same penalties depending on the severity of the incident.

### **STANDING RULE 51.a.4.A**

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NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card holders may ride horses owned by others in the \$2,000 Limit Rider/Any Horse class (and any rider class with an earnings limit of less than \$2,000), the Youth class, and spe-

cial events which have been granted exemption from Non-Professional and/or Amateur ownership requirements by the Executive Director with no penalty, provided the Non-Professional and/or Amateur card holder pays all entry fees and expenses.

#### **STANDING RULE 51.a.4.B**

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Upon notification in writing to the NCHA Show Department, and after receiving from them a permit authorizing the same, the holder of an NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card will be permitted to show a horse they do not own in a maximum of five (5) NCHA approved Open and/or \$25,000 Novice and/or \$5,000 Novice horse (if eligible) classes only, provided the horse and shows are named with exact dates and there is no violation of Non-Professional Rule 51.a.1. Only one such permit will be granted a rider for a given horse, and points won will not count toward any NCHA annual award, title, or certificate. Show management will not allow a horse to be shown under a permit issued by the NCHA Show Department unless they have a copy of said permit on file. A Non-Professional who has earned \$100,000 in the Open class and who has declared to remain a Non-Professional will be allowed to enter a horse in the Open class, and/or \$25,000 Novice class and/or \$5,000 Novice class for purposes of trying a horse, under the properly documented trial permit from the NCHA office, without jeopardizing their Non-Professional status.

**EXAMPLE:** If I receive a permit, may I show more than one horse?

No. Each permit is for a specific horse. At another date you may receive another permit for another horse. **EXAMPLE:** Can I get a permit to show a horse in an aged event?

No. These permits are for approved NCHA weekend contests only and does not include aged events. **EXAMPLE:** Do I have to pay my own expenses and entry fees while trying this horse?

Yes. There may be no violation of Standing Rule 51 a.1.

**EXAMPLE:** May I show the permit horse in the Non-Pro or Amateur?

No. The permit horse must be shown in the Open or appropriate Novice Class.

#### **STANDING RULE 51.a.5**

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Any owner/rider who shall permit their horse to be entered and compete in contests for Non-Professional, Amateur or novice class where said horse/rider is ineligible, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee, Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee or other committees appointed by the NCHA President in accordance with NCHA rules.

A horse's eligibility to enter NCHA Novice Cutting Horse Contests or a rider's eligibility to enter NCHA limited Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contests will be based on the eligibility earnings of said horse or Non-Professional rider on the first day of the NCHA point year in which the contest is held.

1. Money won in limited age events shall not be counted when determining eligibility for novice horses.
2. Riders of horses in NCHA Novice Cutting Horse classes and Limited Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contests may be restricted to members of an active NCHA affiliate when that affiliate directly sponsors or conducts the contests involved. Affiliates may, at their discretion, charge memberships to owners and/or riders for participation in their events.

#### **UNLIMITED AMATEUR**

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NCHA-approved Amateur Limited Age Events have two divisions:

- \$50,000 Amateur, which is a class for contestants who qualify



based on eligibility lifetime NCHA Limited Age earnings not exceeding \$50,000.

- Unlimited Amateur class for which qualification will be based on all lifetime Limited Age Non-Pro earnings (approved classes) of less than \$250,000 (Limited Age Non-Pro earnings will not reset at zero for purposes of this rule). For purposes of this rule, monies won at shows with less than \$10,000 in added money, held in the 2015 point year or later, shall not count toward the \$250,000 cap.

Assuming Amateur criteria and eligibility requirements are met, entry options for these classes will mirror the way entries are made in the Non-Pro/Limited Non-Pro. (i.e., enter either one, combined entry with one cattle charge and one go; or enter the Unlimited Amateur and Amateur class with two entries and two goes).

Under the age of 60, the criteria necessary for remaining in the Unlimited Amateur class is lifetime Non-Pro Limited Age Event earnings (approved classes) of less than \$250,000.

An Amateur competitor who reaches \$250,000 or more in lifetime Non-Pro Limited Age event earnings can continue to compete in Limited Age Non-Pro classes until the beginning of the next point year. At that point, the Unlimited Amateur competitor must make a choice: to remain an Unlimited Amateur and compete exclusively as an Unlimited Amateur or to compete as a Non-Pro. At the beginning of the next point year if the Amateur competitor enters a Limited Age Non-Pro event and competes on any horse regardless of whether or not they win any money, they will forfeit their Unlimited Amateur status and can no longer compete in Amateur contests.

For the purpose of this rule, an Unlimited Amateur's winnings in Limited Age Non-Pro competition will be calculated on all (prior or future) approved earnings earned at NCHA Limited Age Event shows.

Once an individual reaches the age of 60, if they qualify under Amateur rules, they may return to the Unlimited Amateur class, regardless of Limited Age Non-Pro class money won. The member will be allowed to show in both LAE Non-Pro and LAE Unlimited Amateur competition.

## **AMATEUR**

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### **STANDING RULE 51.a.6**

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Certain Non-Professionals within this Association may be classified as Amateurs. A member of this Association shall be disqualified from being classified as an Amateur under any one of the following circumstances:

- a. the member has ridden or trained horses or horse riders in any equine discipline astride for remuneration, directly or indirectly.
- b. the member has assisted in training horses or horse riders astride for remuneration, directly or indirectly.
- c. the member is married (or had a cohabitational relationship) or has been married (or had a cohabitational relationship) to a person who is engaged or has been engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3
- d. the member has resided with a person who is engaged or has been engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3.
- e. the member has resided with or on the premise with a parent, stepparent or foster parent of the member who was, during the time of the member's residency, a Professional.



- f. the member is directly or indirectly employed by a Professional and performs the duties of employment astride a horse on the premises of a horse training operation.
- g. the member has been an apprentice cutting horse trainer at any time, or ever in their life been a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses.
- h. **Earnings Limitations: In addition to all the requirements previously stated, the following earnings limitations must be met for Amateur eligibility:**
  - (1) **members less than 60 years of age: a maximum of \$100,000 (\$50,000 Limited Age/\$50,000 Weekend) in eligibility lifetime NCHA cutting horse earnings; or**
  - (2) **members aged 60 and above: (Hall of Fame members may not roll back to the \$50,000 Amateur class in Weekend competition) A maximum of \$200,000 may be earned between NCHA approved Weekend and Limited Age event earnings to remain qualified for Amateur status. Members with less than**
    - (i) **\$200,000 in total earnings; and**
    - (ii) **with earnings less than \$100,000 in either Weekend or Limited Age events at the beginning of the point year will be eligible to compete in one or both of the categories they qualify for. Earnings in excess of \$100,000 at the beginning of the point year in either weekend or limited age events will make Amateur card holders ineligible to compete in the category for which they do not qualify. Earnings in excess of \$200,000 will make card holders ineligible to compete in Amateur Competition; and**
    - (iii) **Hall of Fame members may not roll back to the \$50,000 Amateur class in weekend competition.**

#### **AMATEUR/NON-PRO EXCEPTIONS**

*Please review the Amateur, Senior Amateur, Unlimited Amateur and Non-Pro exception rules to see if you may be eligible under their provision.*

**\$50,000 Amateur – 3 year/\$50,000 Exception** (for previous trainer's spouses, children and lovers)

An applicant may be granted Amateur status if the applicant has never been involved as a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses for direct or indirect remuneration in any amount and has never been an apprentice cutting horse trainer and the applicant for more than a three-year period prior to the date of application: (i) has not been married to a person had a cohabitational relationship with a person or resided with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3; (ii) has not resided with or on the premise with a parent, step-parent or foster parent who was, during the previous three-year period, a Professional; (iii) has not been directly or indirectly employed by a Professional and performed the duties of employment on the premises of a horse training operation astride a horse; AND (iv) has not received \$50,000 or more in lifetime total earnings (as reported by Equi-stat) in cutting horse competition and breed associations of all types. This includes cutting horse winnings in all breed associations and any and all cutting competitions regardless by whom such competitions are produced, sponsored, or approved.

A person applying for Amateur classification under this 3-Year/\$50,000 exception shall obtain an Amateur 3-Year/\$50,000 Exception Rule Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA may request related to documenting the status of the applicant. There is no right to classification as an Amateur and this classification may be granted based upon an evaluation of all circumstances considered relevant by the NCHA, with the decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, subject to any appeal, to be final.

**\$50,000 Amateur – 3 year/\$15,000 Exception** (for previous trainers in disciplines other than cutting or cow horse)

An applicant may be granted Amateur status if the applicant has never been involved as a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses for direct or indirect remuneration in any amount and has never been an apprentice cutting horse trainer and the applicant: (i) has not been involved in any equine training activities astride a horse for the most recent three years prior to the date of application; and (ii) the applicant has less than \$15,000 in total lifetime open earnings in all equine disciplines (as reported by Equistat).

A person applying for Amateur classification under this 3-Year/\$15,000 Exception shall obtain an Amateur 3-Year/\$15,000 Exception Rule Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee.

In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA may request related to documenting the status of the applicant. Failure by the applicant to comply with requests for information from the NCHA will result in denial of the application for Amateur status. There is no right to considered relevant by the NCHA with the decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, subject to any appeal, to be final.

**\$50,000 Amateur/Unlimited Amateur - 5 year/\$15,000 Senior Rollover Exception** (for previous trainer's spouses over age 60)

An applicant may be granted eligibility to compete in Amateur/Unlimited Amateur events within monetary eligibility if:

- (A) the applicant has reached 60 years of age:
  - (i) for the five-year period preceding the application has not been married to or resided with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3:
  - (ii) has not been directly or indirectly employed by a Professional and performed the duties of employment on the premises of a horse training operation astride a horse; AND
- (B) the applicant has not won \$15,000 in cutting horse competition of all types during the 5-year period preceding the application. This includes winnings in all breed associations and any and all cutting competitions regardless by whom such competitions are produced, sponsored, or approved. A person applying for Senior Unlimited Amateur classification under this exception shall obtain an Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and

signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA may request related to documenting the status of the applicant. There is no right to being granted eligibility to compete in the Unlimited Amateur under this exception and this exception may be granted or denied based upon an evaluation of all circumstances considered relevant by the NCHA, with the decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, subject to any appeal, to be final.

**Unlimited Amateur Only – 5 year/\$250,000 Exception** (for previous trainer's spouses, children and lopers)

An applicant may be granted Unlimited Amateur status if the applicant has never been involved as a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses for direct or indirect remuneration in any amount and has never been an apprentice cutting horse trainer and the applicant for more than a five-year period prior to the date of application: (i) has not been married to a person had a cohabitational relationship with a person or resided with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3; during the previous five-year period (ii) has not resided with or on the premise with a parent, step-parent or foster parent who was, during the previous five-year period, a Professional; (iii) has not been directly or indirectly employed by a Professional and performed the duties of employment on the premises of a horse training operation astride a horse, during the previous five-year period; AND (iv) has not received \$250,000 or more in lifetime total earnings (as reported by Equistat) in cutting horse competition and breed associations of all types. This includes cutting horse winnings in all breed associations and any and all cutting competitions regardless by whom such competitions are produced, sponsored, or approved.

A person applying for Unlimited Amateur classification under this 5-Year/\$250,000 exception shall obtain an Amateur 5-Year/\$250,000 Exception Rule Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA may request related to documenting the status of the applicant. There is no right to considered relevant by the NCHA, with the decision of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee, subject to any appeal, to be final.

**Non-Professional 3 year/\$100,000 Exception** (for previous cutting/cow horse trainers)

Non-Professional 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception. (Example If you apply under the 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception rule, it must have been more than 3 years and your earnings must be less than \$100,000). A person applying for Non-Professional classification under this rule shall obtain a Non-Pro 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee. In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA shall request related to documenting the status of the person applying under this rule.

A person who is currently prevented from being classified as a Non-Professional because they have at some point in their life trained cutting horses (as defined in the NCHA Rule Book) or any person who has trained horses astride in any cattle/ cow horse equine discipline can regain their Non-Professional classification if:

- A. The person has not performed any duties or acts which could be considered as “training of cutting horses”, or horses of other cattle/cow horse equine disciplines nor has the person received any remuneration, direct or indirect, for performing the duties or activities normally associated with any phase of training cutting or cattle/cow horse discipline for the three-year period prior to the date of the application for Non-Professional classification under this provision; AND,
- B. The person has not won in their lifetime more than \$100,000 in combined open earnings from NCHA events and open earnings from any other equine discipline.
  - The exception will be based on all open earnings in all disciplines as reported by Equistat.
  - Family and children of change of status individuals must meet existing Amateur exception rules and apply for Amateur status through the exception application process.
  - Exception applicants will be eligible for any class they qualify for as a Non-Pro, including the Limited Non-Pro.

Any violation of any Non-Professional or Amateur rules will be dealt with in a severe manner by NCHA.

**If a Non-Professional or Amateur has any question, the NCHA office must be contacted for clarification on any rule. The most current and the Official Handbook of NCHA Rules and Regulations is located online at [www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com).**

### **Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee**

The Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee will be charged with reviewing and making the determinations on Non-Pro and/or Amateur status applications, all Exception Rule applications along with reviewing, investigating, and conducting hearings on possible Non-Pro/Amateur rule violations.

The Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee shall be appointed by the NCHA President with the approval of the Executive Committee. Members of the Review Committee shall each be either former Presidents, former members of the Executive Committee, former or current Directors or former Chair/Vice Chair of a Standing Committee of the NCHA. Membership on the committee will be reviewed annually. No person may serve as a member of the Review Committee at the same time they also serve as a member of either the Executive Committee, Non-Pro Committee, Amateur Committee or Grievance Committee.

### **NCHA APPRENTICE TRAINER PROGRAM**

During the Apprentice status time period the apprentice may only show in NCHA Limited Age and Weekend Approved shows with LESS than \$10,000 in total added money

**FOR ONE TIME ONLY AND ONE POINT YEAR ONLY:** A current Non-Professional/Amateur card holder may for one time only AND one point year only (beginning Dec 28th) apply for and receive an apprentice trainer card. This card will grant a person an exemption for that point year from all Non-Professionals and/or Amateur rules and regulations with regard to remuneration. The applicant may not participate in any Non-Profes-

sional, youth, or Amateur classes during the period for which apprentice status is granted and cannot get back their Non-Professional card until the end of the apprentice period.

If the person having apprenticeship status wishes to reapply for Non-Professional status for the next point year, an application for Non-Professional status must be received by the NCHA office by the beginning of the next point year. The individual having apprenticeship status will be considered a Professional trainer until the Non-Professional application is received, additionally if the applicant has shown horses they did not own after the apprentice period has expired, the applicant will not be allowed to return to Non-Professional status unless they become eligible under a Non-Professional exception rule and their status is approved by NCHA under that exception rule and their status is approved by NCHA under that exception rule.

Any person who has been an apprentice trainer is not eligible to compete in any Amateur contest.

Applications received through June will be for the current point year and will expire at the end of that point year, applications received on or after July 1st will be for the next point year.

During the Apprentice status time period the apprentice may show in NCHA Limited Age and Weekend approved shows with less than \$10,000 in total added money.

#### **NCHA COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (NCIP)**

Purpose is to allow students enrolled in an agricultural/equine program the opportunity to learn about the industry without jeopardizing their current show eligibility.

- The student/intern must be enrolled in an agricultural/equine program and must be earning credit to participate in our program. There are no minimum credit hours required, however they must be paid credit hours.
- A student/intern may apply one time per school per school requirements. Example: They can apply once at a Junior College and once at University.
- The application has a start and end date which should coincide with the semester/summer internship that they are earning credit for. The student/intern must reapply if choosing to do two consecutive internships following the rules set forth regarding 1 internship per school.
- There is no cap on salary/stipend paid to the student/intern during the internship.
- The student/intern may show client's horses in the 2000LR and/or YOUTH classes ONLY if they are eligible under NCHA rules. Student/Intern must still comply with current owner and eligibility rules.
- The student/intern may show their own horses in classes they are eligible for under current NCHA Rules. Student/Intern must still comply with current owner and eligibility rules.
- A student/intern may obtain the application for this program from the NCHA office. The application must include the student/interns name, NCHA member number, school currently enrolled in, the number of intern credits for this opportunity, the start and end date, the name, address and telephone contact information of the Internship Advisor and the name, address, and telephone contact information for the Cooperator (trainer, facility owner)
- The application must also be signed by the student/intern (applicant), the school advisor/contact and the Cooperator (trainer, fa-

cility owner). Notice: If you do not comply with current owner and eligibility rules while in the program you risk losing your Amateur and/or Non-Pro status.

## **Horse and Rider Awards**

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### **POINT YEAR:**

The NCHA Point Year will end two Sundays before Thanksgiving each year for weekend shows and the Sunday before Thanksgiving for LAE shows. The new point year will begin on December 28.

### **HORSE CERTIFICATE OF ABILITY:**

Monies won in twelve NCHA approved classes as well as in NCHA approved Limited Age Events, count toward this award. A total of \$3,000 is required.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR NOVICE CLASSES:**

Monies won in all classes reported to the NCHA (excluding Limited Age Events and Eastern/Western Championships) count against a horse's eligibility total. Eligibility is determined by a horse's total earnings as of the beginning of the point year. Once eligibility is determined, a horse is eligible to show in a particular Novice class the remainder of the point year, regardless of the amount earned during said point year, or any monies won at the World Championship finals.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-PROFESSIONAL AND/OR AMATEUR CLASSES:**

For the purpose of this definition, eligibility earnings shall be Non-Professional and Amateur earnings up to December 1, 1995, and all money earned in all approved classes after that date, including Limited Age Events. Beginning 2004, all money won in all classes, including Limited Age Events as determined from the records of the National Cutting Horse Association. Horse and rider earnings from the NCHA World Finals will count for both lifetime earnings and eligibility for the following year i.e. (World Finals held in 2006 will count for 2007 eligibility.) Once a rider's eligibility is determined as of the beginning of a point year, the rider is eligible to show in that class the remainder of the point year, regardless of the amount earned during the point year, including any monies won at the World Championship Finals. NOTE: Monies earned in the \$25,000 and \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider class will also count against a rider's Non-Pro eligibility. Effective with 2001 Point Year monies from National Championships will be recorded on horse and rider Lifetime earnings and will not count against horse and rider eligibility. World Finals earnings count as lifetime eligibility earnings for horse and rider.

### **BRONZE AWARD:**

Horse—Only earnings in Open Championship Classes count toward this award. Earnings requirement is \$10,000 accumulated during the horse's lifetime in this class.

Non-Pro Rider—Only earnings in Championship Non-Professional Classes count toward this award. Earnings requirement is \$10,000 accumulated during the rider's lifetime in this class.

### **SILVER AWARD:**

Horse—Same as Bronze award; earnings requirement is \$30,000.

Non-Pro Rider—Same as Bronze award; earnings requirement is \$30,000.

### **GOLD AWARD:**

Horse—Same as Bronze and Silver awards; earnings requirement is \$50,000.

Non-Pro Rider—Same as Bronze and Silver awards; earnings requirement is \$50,000.

**PLATINUM AWARD:**

Horse—Same as Bronze, Silver and Gold awards; earnings requirement is \$100,000.

Non-Pro Rider—Same as Bronze, Silver and Gold awards; earnings requirement is \$100,000.

**HORSE HALL OF FAME:**

Same as Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards; earnings requirement is \$150,000 or total lifetime earnings of at least \$400,000 in all recorded earnings or have won at least two (any combination) of the following eight major NCHA events: Futurity, Super Stakes (4-year-old), Derby, Super Stakes Classic (5/6-year-old), Summer Classic/Challenge (5/6-year-old), and/or NCHA Open World Champion.

Award: Certificate presented at the NCHA Futurity and/or Convention.

**NON-PROFESSIONAL RIDERS HALL OF FAME:**

1. Win any two (2): NCHA Futurity, Super Stakes, or Derby Non-Pro, World Championship Non-Pro.
2. Win any three (3): Super Stakes Classic, 5/6-Year-old Classic Challenge, Reserve World Champion.
3. Win one in category 1, plus two in category 2.
4. Have lifetime earnings of \$500,000 including all Non-Pro monies earned in any Non-Pro class (limited age or weekend combined) and any open monies won to achieve that total lifetime earnings. Excludes all Amateur money.
5. Have in excess of \$150,000 in Non-Pro championship weekend earnings, excluding Novice/Non-Pro classes.
6. Have combined earnings from category 4 and category 5 in excess of \$500,000. Award: Certificate presented at the NCHA Futurity and/or Convention.

**OPEN RIDERS HALL OF FAME:**

1. Win any two (2): NCHA Futurity, Super Stakes, Derby, World Champion
2. Win any three (3): Super Stakes Classic, 5/6-year-old Classic/Challenge, Reserve World Champion.
3. Win one (1) in category 1 plus two in category 2.
4. Ride horses ranking in the NCHA Top Five Open Cutting horses five (5) times. A rider must win 90% of the qualifying money to receive credit.
5. Have in excess of \$1,000,000 NCHA lifetime earnings. Award: Certificate presented at the NCHA Futurity and/or Convention.

**MEMBERS HALL OF FAME:**

The NCHA Members Hall of Fame was established to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding and unusual contributions to the NCHA basic purpose, which is the public exhibition and constant promotion of the Cutting Horse. We are proud to honor these individuals who have exhibited a high moral character, good sportsmanship, fairness, and an exemplary contribution of time, effort, and interest in NCHA and its basic endeavors. To nominate a deserving individual to the Members Hall of Fame, a nomination form must be filled out and the appropriate number of nomination letters provided. The nomination form is found on the NCHA website or can be requested from the office.

The Hall of Fame selection committee shall consist of five individuals of



which one new member is appointed each year by the current President. Each member will serve a five-year term as a way to keep continuity on the committee. It is recommended that at least one member is a current Executive Committee member. The Committee members shall elect a Chairman from its members each year. This Committee screens all nominees and submits a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Inductions will be limited to a maximum of six (6) inductees per year and nominees will be eligible for consideration for five years after receipt of their nomination.

Award: Honored and Official Certificate during the NCHA Futurity and/or Convention.

### **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**

Effective with the 2001 Point Year, a Rookie of the Year Award will go to the highest money earning Amateur for NCHA approved weekend shows, and a Rookie of the Year Award will go to the highest money earning Amateur for NCHA Limited Aged Events (including NCHA World Championship Futurity winnings in the point year of the calendar year in which the World Championship Futurity is held).

1. Award will go to the highest money earning Amateur for the point year in the \$50,000 Amateur and/or \$15,000 Amateur class for NCHA approved weekend shows, and a Rookie of the Year Award will go to the highest money earning Amateur in the \$50,000 Amateur (Limited Amateur), Intermediate Amateur and Unlimited Amateur (Amateur) classes at NCHA Limited Aged Events.
2. Rider must have lifetime earnings at the beginning of the point year of less than \$5,000 to qualify. Award: Each will receive a \$1,000 check and will also be awarded a buckle.

### **NCHA HORSE OF THE YEAR:**

- For NCHA Aged Events: NCHA Futurity through the World Championship Finals.
- For NCHA World Champions: Approved Calendar Year.
- Shows award points based on the number of entries. (See table) Shows must have \$100,000 in added money to qualify.

### **HORSE OF THE YEAR POINT SYSTEM**

#### **Points Earned for Placing**

No. of Entries	Place in Contest:										
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11+
<50	20	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
51-75	40	32	28	24	20	18	16	14	12	10	8
76-100	60	48	42	36	30	27	24	21	18	15	12
101-125	80	64	56	48	40	36	32	28	24	20	16
126-150	100	80	70	60	50	45	40	35	30	25	20
151-175	120	96	84	72	60	54	48	42	36	30	24
176-200	140	112	98	84	70	63	56	49	42	35	28
201-300	160	128	112	96	80	72	64	56	48	40	32
301-400	180	144	126	108	90	81	72	63	54	45	36
401+	200	160	140	120	100	90	80	70	60	50	40

- Any horse that wins the Triple Crown will automatically receive the Horse of the Year title.
- The non-working finals round will award points as a show with fewer than 50 entries.
- The World Champion will receive 200 points and the Reserve World Champion will receive 100 points.
- All Non-Pro money must be earned by the same horse throughout the point year to accumulate points for the Non-Pro World Cham-



pion Horse only.

- If two or more horses tie on points, the Horse of the Year will be determined by total money won on the points earned.

Award: Buckle presented at the Futurity Finals.

### **AMATEUR HORSE OF THE YEAR FOR NCHA LAE**

For NCHA World Champions:

- Shows award points based on the number of entries.
- Shows must have \$100,000 in added money to qualify.
- Any horse that wins the Amateur Triple Crown will automatically receive the Horse of the Year title.
- The non-working finals round will award points the same as a show with fewer than 50 entries does.
- The World Champion will receive 200 points and the Reserve World Champion will receive 100 points.
- All Amateur money must be earned by the same horse throughout the point year to accumulate points for the Amateur World Champion Horse only.
- If two or more horses tie on points, the Horse of the Year will be determined by total money won on the points earned.

Award: Buckle presented at the Futurity Finals.

### **AMATEUR RIDER OF THE YEAR FOR ALL NCHA EVENTS**

- Total money earned in NCHA approved Amateur classes (weekend & limited age).
- Does NOT have to be same horse, earnings on RIDER.
- Strictly based on money earned. Award: Buckle presented at the Futurity Finals.

### **NON-PRO RIDING SINGLE HORSE**

The leading rider based on earnings in Non-Pro weekend show classes and the World Finals who rode a single horse in those classes will receive a Certificate.

### **NYCHA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

NYCHA will present a Junior and a Senior Rookie of the Year Award to the highest point earning youth in each division.

Eligibility: The Rookie of the Year points will be calculated from June 1 through May 31 and include all go rounds of the Youth World Finals. If there are no World Finals entrants, calculations would revert to the points leader on May 31. Rider in both divisions cannot have earned more than 15 points or over \$500 in any cutting event or equine association.

AWARD: Each division will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a Rookie of the Year Buckle. The Champion and Reserve Champion NYCHA Rookies of the Year will be recognized in the *Chatter*.

### **TODD DRUMMOND AWARD (Youth)**

By nomination from an NCHA Affiliate, one outstanding youth member will be honored annually. The youth member will be recognized for scholastic, extracurricular activities and cutting horse involvement. The President will appoint a committee of three (3) to review the nominations received from the NCHA Affiliates. The committee will then recommend a maximum of three (3) to the Executive Committee who will then select one youth member.

Award: Buckle presented at Futurity Finals.

### **ZANE SCHULTE AWARD (Professional Trainer)**

In honor and memory of Zane Schulte, the son of Thomas and Barbra Schulte, the Zane Schulte Award is a humanitarian award to be present-

ed annually to a Professional trainer who exemplifies integrity, service, values, respect of peers, contribution to the industry and excellence in the arena.

The recipient will be honored with a bronze “Zane Schulte Award” trophy. They are chosen by the Zane Schulte Award committee members consisting of heads of the Non-Pro, Open Show and Professional Trainers Committees as well as three members at-large and the current NCHA President. Trainers may be nominated by committee members or by NCHA members who submit a written or online nomination form. The nomination form appears online and in *The Cutting Horse Chatter* magazine.

#### **MARY KINGSBURY AWARD (Amateur)**

The Mary Kingsbury Award is presented annually, during the NCHA Futurity, to an Amateur who exhibits integrity, kindness, honesty, respect, good sportsmanship, fairness and compassion for people and horses in and out of the arena. Any Amateur, in good standing, may be nominated by an NCHA member by submitting a written letter or online nomination form by October 1st. Members of the selection committee are not eligible for nomination. The recipient, selected by the Amateur Committee, will be honored with a NCHA bronze trophy and their name will be added to the Mary Kingsbury Sportsmanship Plaque at the NCHA office.

#### **MODINE SMITH HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

Established in 2012, the Modine Smith Humanitarian Award was created in honor of philanthropist, volunteer, and humanitarian, Modine Smith. Her unfaltering support of the NCHA and NCHA Foundation was awe inspiring to all who had the privilege to know her. Smith’s steadfast contributions helped shape and secure the future of the NCHA and the NCHA Foundation, and both organizations are better because of her inspiring efforts.

This award is given annually to a person who displays unwavering support of the NCHA and the NCHA Foundation by continuously working to enhance the associations past, present and future.

Each year, the recipient of the Modine Smith Humanitarian Award is presented a plaque during the NCHA World Championship Futurity.

Any member who is on probation/suspension from the NCHA will not be eligible to receive any awards, or be inducted into the Hall of Fame while on probation. Persons on probation may receive prizes, including top ten buckle awards and achievement buckle awards, for competing in NCHA produced or approved shows.

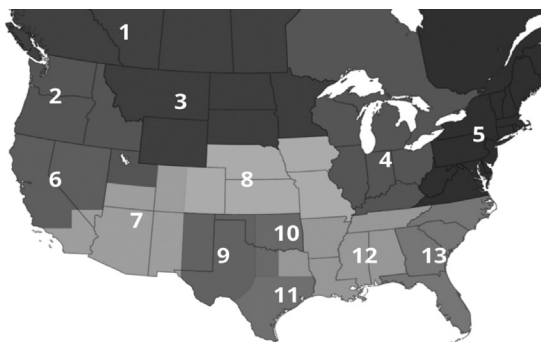
#### **CIRCUIT PROGRAM**

*For the most up to date policy and rules surrounding the National Circuit Program, please visit [NCHACutting.com](http://NCHACutting.com)*

*The National Circuit Program develops 13 circuits where cutters compete for points at every weekend competition approved by NCHA. The points will be tracked by NCHA and used for circuit standings and circuit finals qualifications. At the end of the circuit point year, all 13 circuits will host their NCHA Circuit Finals where the top 30 in each class will be invited to compete. The National Circuit Program does not change the current World Finals structure: competitors can compete in both simultaneously.*

*Challenger Series Shows are circuit point paying shows. Competitors at these shows can earn points towards qualifying for their circuit finals and year end standings.*

*All NCHA weekend shows are point-earning circuit shows.*



1. Aurora
2. Pioneer
3. Big Sky
4. Great Lakes
5. Appalachian
6. Redwood
7. Cactus
8. Heartland
9. Oiler
10. Red River
11. Alamo
12. Cotton
13. Sunshine

**Aurora Circuit** - British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba

**Redwood Circuit** - N. California, N. Nevada

**Pioneer Circuit** - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, N. Utah

**Big Sky Circuit** - Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota

**Great Lakes Circuit** - Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Ontario

**Appalachian Circuit** - West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New England, E. Canada

**Cactus Circuit** - Arizona, W. Colorado, W. New Mexico, S. Nevada, S. Utah, S. California

**Heartland Circuit** - E. Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri

**Oiler Circuit** - W. Texas, E. New Mexico, W. Oklahoma

**Red River Circuit** - N. Texas, E. Oklahoma

**Alamo Circuit** - S. Texas

**Cotton Circuit** - E. Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee

**Sunshine Circuit** - North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida

### 1. Circuit Points

- a. For horse classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro classes points will be tracked by the horse.
- b. For rider classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes points will be tracked by the rider.
- c. Points shall be awarded according to the number of horses in the class up to ten. Examples: Any class with more than 10 horses shown will award points to the first ten placements in the class on a declining scale of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points). A class with 7 horses shown will award points to all 7 placements on a declining scale of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points).

No. of Horses	Place in Contest:									
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3	3	2	1							
4	4	3	2	1						
5	5	4	3	2	1					
6	6	5	4	3	2	1				
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
10	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

## 2. Circuit Designation

- a. *Each contestant is automatically designated to the circuit that corresponds to the address on file at the NCHA office.*
  - i. *For horse classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro the designation will follow the horse.*
  - ii. *For rider classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes the designation will follow the rider.*
- b. *Each contestant may select their desired designated circuit. A different designated circuit may be selected by, and takes effect upon, notifying NCHA.*
- c. *A contestant's circuit points are accumulated for purposes of circuit standings and qualification for Circuit Finals only in the designated circuit of that contestant. If a contestant changes their designated circuit at any given time in the point year, any circuit points accumulated in any previously designated circuit are not transferable and will be set back to zero upon the change of designation.*

### NATIONAL STANDINGS ARE DETERMINED BY:

Open and Non-Professional—Earnings from all classes having \$200 or more in added money.

\$35,000 Non-Professional, \$50,000 Amateur, \$15,000 Amateur,

\$25,000 Novice, \$5,000 Novice and \$25,000 Novice Horse/ Non-Pro Rider, \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider,

\$2,000 Limit Rider—Earnings from all classes. Youth—Points from all classes.

Year-end awards will be given to the World Champion Stallion, Mare and Gelding in the \$25,000 and \$5,000 Novice Horse classes.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION—WEEKEND CUTTERS

An NCHA achievement buckle will be awarded to members having lifetime weekend earnings of \$1,000 in NCHA approved events and classes, provided their weekend earnings were less than \$1,000 at the beginning of the Point Year. This will not include any money won in Limited Age Events.

Additional levels will be added for earning \$2,500; \$5,000. \$10,000; \$15,000; \$25,000; and \$50,000. These levels will be designated by the addition of medallions and stones to the buckles. The enhancements can be purchased by qualified members directly from the vendor.

Members who have received the previous \$2,000 achievement buckle may purchase the new buckle from the vendor.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION - LIMITED AGED EVENTS

Limited Aged Events held with added money of less than \$10,000, (Jackpot LAE not included)

(4-year-old and 5/6-year-old Open and Non-Pro divisions) Top Ten in each Region (8 Regions) will have their standings reported in *Cutting Horse Chatter* with the year-end winner to receive an NCHA trophy. The owner of horses shall designate their “Open” region in a manner similar to the current requirement for designating one’s circuit, then show in their home region “Non-Pro”.

## **WORLD CHAMPIONS**

Earnings won to be counted only at shows bearing the title NCHA Championship Cutting Horse Contest. In order to qualify for this title, shows must meet all standing rules for approval and in addition, must have an added purse of at least \$200 in Open and Non-Pro classes. Earnings from all other NCHA approved shows regardless of the amount of added money in the Open and Non-Pro classes will count in the other approved classes. A World Champion will be recognized in each based on combined earnings from throughout the point year. The Top Fifteen (15) competitors for all approved classes (with the exception of the youth) will be recognized based on combined earnings from throughout the point year and money earned in the World Finals Show. NCHA will award hand-made buckles to the Top Fifteen (15) riders in all NCHA approved classes. The youth will have their own point year and finals which will be held with the Summer Cutting Spectacular.

## **NCHA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**

The World Show Champion will be based on money earned exclusively at the World Finals Show. The NCHA World Championship Finals in the Open and Non-Pro Classes will have four (4) go-rounds and a non-working final.

Youth World Show Champions will be based on points earned exclusively at the Youth World Finals Show, which will have three go-rounds and a non-working final.

All other classes will have two go-rounds and a non-working final. The champion of each class will receive an Official NCHA Trophy and Champion Buckle.

## **AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR**

In an effort to recognize and reward outstanding affiliate organizations of the NCHA, the Executive Committee established an “Affiliate of the Year” award. The award includes an article in the *Chatter*, a printer, an additional year-end trophy, and \$2,500 cash award.

Directors of the Association are encouraged to submit a nomination of an affiliate located in your state or NCHA Circuit for this prestigious title. Back-up materials must be provided to Weekend Show.

Committee members in electronic format, as well as hard copies. The Committee may request follow-up on submitted material.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the nominees:

<b>CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<b>POINT VALUE</b>
• Increase in entries per show (percentage)	20
• Innovations at shows (examples)	30
• Adhering to NCHA rules and cutting traditions	20
• Year-end awards & sponsors (\$ and type)	15
• Cooperation (letters from other Circuit affiliates)	5
• Other activities (examples)	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Senior World Tour**

The NCHA Senior World Tour is based on a class within a class at any approved weekend show. A senior contestant is defined as any Open,

Non-Professional, or Amateur rider who is age 60 or older and meets all other NCHA rules regarding their status and membership.

Points are accumulated to determine the Champion, Reserve Champion, and the next top 8 seniors in eligible classes.

Points will be earned at the weekend level in the following classes:

1. Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse  
The Open top 8 Senior Rider will be those riders who accumulate the most points in the three open classes combined.
2. Non-Pro
3. \$25,000 Novice Non-Pro
4. \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro
5. \$50,000 Amateur
6. \$35,000 Non-Pro
7. \$15,000 Amateur
8. \$2,000 Rider/Any Horse

Standings will be determined by a point system that mirrors the mandatory payout, with the exception that a point will be given when there are 1-3 entries.

The affiliate or show producer will set the entry fee at the weekend show.

1. Individual Affiliates/Producers may determine the total entry fee for their senior class.
2. A \$6 award fee will go to NCHA for year-end awards in the Senior Divisions
3. A minimum entry fee of \$20 will be required with \$10 jackpot, \$6/NCHA, \$4/Affiliate
4. A minimum of 50% of the entry fee will be jackpotted. Minimum 3 points to be eligible for the standings.

Affiliates/Producers may use their portion of the entry fee and other sponsorships to buy awards as they see fit.

### Senior World Tour Point System

Same as Mandatory Payout, except for 1-3 entries

No. of Entries	Place in Contest:									
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3	1									
4-7	2	1								
8-11	3	2	1							
12-15	4	3	2	1						
16-20	5	4	3	2	1					
21-25	6	5	4	3	2	1				
26-30	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
31-36	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
37-42	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
43-49	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
50+	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3-2-1

### Jackpot Payout Example

Entry Fee: \$20 (Jackpot=\$10, Affiliate=\$4, NCHA=\$6)

1-3 horses \$10, \$20, or \$30 depending on number of entries.

# Show Management Handbook

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(New rules and rule changes in bold italics)

Many contestants say that a successful cutting horse contest must have three things: good cattle, fair judging, and decent ground. This is certainly true, but one thing has been overlooked. This is the secretary of the show involved. No one has more control over the top three essentials for a top-quality contest, and no one probably gets less credit when a good show is held. They will, however, get the criticism if any of the essentials or myriad of other details fail.

This outline has been prepared as an aid to those who secretary cutting horse contests and is based on the recommendations and knowledge of a very dedicated group of experienced show secretaries.

Suggestions for Show Management

## I. Preparation for Approved Cutting Horse Show

Write for, fill out, and return to the NCHA an Application for Approval of your Cutting Horse shows at least forty (40) days before your closing date of entry.

1. Set amount of purse and entry fee.
2. Entry fee must not be less than \$10 per horse. Entry fee shall be added to the purse. If any charge is to be made other than the entry fee, it must be stated as a stall, handling, or office charge, and be separated from the entry fee. The following entry fees are mandatory:
  - a. For shows having \$500 or more in added money, the official cattle charge combined should not exceed 40-45% of the total charges (entry fee + office charge + cattle charge). When it is possible, show management is encouraged to lower this percentage.  
Under no condition can the cattle charge exceed entry fee unless fresh cattle are provided in jackpotted classes only. No cattle charge may exceed \$250; however special consideration may be granted by the Executive Director for shows having \$5,000 or more in added money per division. (See Rule 14 change)
  - b. The objective of the fees is to cover the cost of the cattle. In any class where rerun cattle are used, the cattle charge should be reduced.
3. Judge Selection: Refer to Standing Rule 27.a through 27.c.2.
4. Determine the number of go-rounds to be worked and if a final will be held.
5. Set the closing date of entry and the time horses must be on the grounds. (Entries should close early enough at large shows to provide ample time to secure sufficient cattle.)
6. Name a representative for each approved class; otherwise, they must be elected at these shows before the contest starts.
7. As much of the information as is possible should be put on the premium list and entry applications, especially if an elimination is to be held.
8. Other classes that are not approved but may be held include:
  - a. Select Non-Pro (50 years old and older)
  - b. **500 Rider Class**
9. Three options are available for producing combined

NCHA/ AQHA weekend shows. Option A: Separate AQHA recognized cutting classes. (All- ages, Senior, Junior, Amateur and Youth) Option B: AQHA classes coordinated with NCHA classes.

- AQHA All ages with NCHA Open
- AQHA Senior with NCHA Open
- AQHA Junior with \$25,000 Novice
- AQHA Amateur with NCHA Non-Pro or \$50,000 Amateur
- AQHA Youth with NCHA Youth

Option C: A combination of options A & B. Example: AQHA All ages with NCHA Open and AQHA Amateur as a separate class.

For the draw, NCHA Standing Rule 11 shall prevail.

In option B and/or C, all NCHA entries plus AQHA entries that have double entered shall be drawn first. All AQHA entries that are not NCHA entered shall be drawn second. All AQHA entries that are not NCHA entered shall work after all NCHA entries and appear on a separate judge's sheet. All AQHA entries shall be denoted by name and number.

- AQHA double entries must be noted on NCHA judge's sheet.
- AQHA entries that are not double entered do not need to be videoed.
- AQHA entries that are not double entered do not pertain to the NCHA weekend monitor program.
- Contact AQHA for Approval details.

## **II. Method of Conducting Shows**

1. The cattle should be held in one end of the arena by two riders who do not let any cattle pass them until the contestant has the animal, they want to work cut off by itself. After this animal has been driven past the riders holding the herd, it will have to be turned back so the contestant will have a chance to show the horse's ability to keep it from returning to the herd. The turning back is usually done by two riders selected by the contestant. It is recommended that in shows with several spectator performances, only the contestants, herd holders, and turnback riders be allowed in the arena during the cutting horse show. Spectators must be considered at all times; and by restricting the number of horses in the arena, greater concentration is encouraged on the horse working.
2. Usually, cattle on the yearling or two-year-old order give a horse enough play to put on a good show. Selecting cattle that will work is important. No horse, regardless of how good they may be, can put on a good performance unless the animal they cut out tries to get back in the herd.
3. The number of cattle needed for a show depends on the number of horses entered and the number of go-rounds to be worked. The minimum number of cattle recommended by NCHA for any approved show is that the number of cattle at least equal two and one-half times the number of works scheduled. In other words, at least two and one-half head of stock per horse, per go-round should be provided. In a one go-round contest with forty (40) horses, one hundred (100) cattle would be needed; if two go-rounds, two



hundred (200) cattle, etc. Before the draw is made for working order, the number of horses to work in each group of cattle should be determined with a maximum of fifteen (15) recommended. The cattle should then be separated in direct proportion to the number of horses to be worked (i.e., 12 horses, 30 cattle minimum: 15 horses, 38 cattle minimum). Where finals are to be held, additional cattle should be provided in the same ratio.

4. At shows holding classes which have equal added purses, entry fees and office or cattle charges, Show Management is to determine which class will be held first, if there are sufficient cattle to work all entries on fresh cattle.
5. In many cases, shows will want to schedule other classes in addition to NCHA Open, Non-Professional and Amateur classes. It is recommended that Open and Non-Professional classes be held first at NCHA approved events since higher entry and cattle fees are usually charged for these classes. (If Open and Non-Professional classes are not held first, separate fresh cattle should be provided and held back for them.) It is recommended that the Youth class be placed no later than the third class of the day on Sundays.
6. Whenever possible, show management is urged to provide a means of announcing the score for each horse immediately after its work. This will greatly increase spectator interest and enthusiasm for the contest.
7. Whenever possible, it is highly recommended that stands be provided for the judges and that they be placed out in the arena (approximately 100 feet from back fence). Recommended minimum height for judges and video stands at Weekend Shows is six (6) feet. Secretaries should be positioned outside the arena and judges' sheets are to be posted outside the arena. Judges' cards cannot be posted within a close proximity, or in hearing distance of the judges stands. This is particularly true for large shows where a complete go-round will be worked without interruption.
8. A very important thing in putting on a show is to be ready. Get in the arena, put on your event, and get out as quickly as possible. This will help put on a good show and will make your event more popular. Have every detail worked out beforehand and be sure everyone concerned knows what they are supposed to do. Never wait until you are in the arena to decide how something should be done. The spectators paid their money to see a show and do not care to wait while some discussion is held in the arena.
9. While the event preceding the cutting horse show is going on, get the cattle in the alley right behind the arena gate and make sure there are enough people there to push them in the arena the second you are ready for them. Be sure the herd holders, the turnback riders, the contestants, and the judges are ready. Be sure the judges have their cards and a pencil and see that the announcer has all of the information needed. All of this will add a lot to your show.

## **Before the Show**

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Make sure all necessary forms are in order.

1. Secure an NCHA Application for Approval Form and care-

fully note the rule for its return. This application must be received no later than forty (40) days prior to the closing date of entry.

2. Obtain your judge or judges from the NCHA Approved Judges list and/or the NCHA website. A copy of the list is available by calling the NCHA office. It is mandatory that judges' names be listed on the NCHA website for each show a minimum of seven days prior to the start of an NCHA approved show.
3. The money added in your show's open and Non-Professional classes will determine what rating your judge must hold. Check the section on judges in the NCHA Rule Book for more information.
4. Carefully read the NCHA Standing Rules and the suggestions for Show Management or Committee in Charge contained in the current NCHA Rule Book.
5. Forward completed show approval forms to NCHA at least forty (40) days before your cutting. Be sure to list dates, place, arena name (with directions if needed), time and judges along with purses, entry fees and other charges. Shows may be approved without judges. The judge or judges that are used MUST be named a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the closing date of entries.
  - a. Check the acknowledgment received from NCHA granting your approval to be sure that the information is correct.
  - b. Fill out the sample news release on your show and send it to your local media if publicity is desired. This is highly recommended as a means of obtaining growth.
6. Entry fees should always be more than office charges, except in extreme cases when they may be the same.
7. Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA approved or sponsored event, by said entry, consent to the implementation of any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy (Rule 35.A) by either show management or judge.

### **Maximum Entry Fees & Office Charges Entry Fees**

\*Classes with less than \$200 added should charge in accordance with other shows in their circuit. No entry fee shall be less than

\$10. Except for jackpots, the entry fee limits shown in Standing Rule 14 shall apply. Any show with more than \$3,000 added must have more than one go-round.

### **Cattle Charges**

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For NCHA Championship shows, the cattle charge must not be greater than the maximum entry fee percentages contained in Standing Rule 14. When it is possible, show management is encouraged to lower this percentage.

Under no condition can the cattle charge exceed the entry fee unless fresh cattle are provided in jackpotted classes only. No cattle charge may exceed \$450; however special consideration may be granted by the NCHA Executive Director for shows having over \$5,000 in added money per division.

The objective of the fees is to cover the cost of the cattle. In any class where rerun cattle are used, the cattle charge should be reduced.

8. Have plenty of entry forms. This form should include space for the name of the horse, its rider, owner's address, phone number and social security number, as well as entry fees. Check for Non-Pro cards and NCHA membership identification number.
9. Print or obtain official NCHA Judges Sheets. NCHA will provide these on request, but you may prefer to have your own printed using the NCHA form as an example. Always list the horse. Based on how often you like to confirm your scores, have room for from seventeen (17) to thirty-two (32) horses on each sheet. Having self-carbon sheets for three copies will save a lot of time.
10. Check with your judge(s) in advance to make sure their plans are made. Make sure that someone has the responsibility of having the judges at the showground on time. Use more than one judge whenever possible.
11. Check to see that you have sufficient DVDs. All approved classes must be videoed. These are to be held by management for thirty (30) days and may then be reused.

## **The Cattle**

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1. NCHA recommends that you have available at least two and one-half cattle per horse at approved events.
2. The cattle should be fresh (never used before in a cutting event) when the contest begins. This should definitely be specified when arrangements are made with the supplier.
3. Yearling or two-year-old cattle will usually provide a good show. It is important that the cattle be in good physical condition. They should weigh five hundred (500) pounds or more.
4. Use your cattle in such a way that all cutters in a class are treated equally. Try to never work part of a class on fresh cattle and the rest on reruns.
5. If there are not enough fresh cattle for both the Open and Non-Professional classes, and the added money, entry fee and office/ cattle charge for each is equal, then a coin should be tossed to determine which class will be held first on the fresh cattle.
6. If rerun cattle must be used later in the day, try to put additional cattle per cutter in the groups. For example, if two and one-half to three cattle were provided when they were fresh, then four or five cattle per horse should be provided when they are rerun.

## **On Show Day**

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Check your equipment:

1. Loudspeaker system: where electricity is not available, it should be battery powered.
2. A time clock: must be visible to all judges. Try to have a spare time clock.
3. Signs giving notice of the NCHA Zero Tolerance Policy and the NCHA Medication Rules, containing the content and meeting the size requirements prescribed by the NCHA, shall be posted at all shows. Signs will be printed by, and be at the expense of, the show. Refer to Standing Rule 35A.5.
4. Score reporting system. Several methods are available for use in obtaining the judges' scores. Among the best are closed circuit telephone system or walkie-talkie radios on separate channels. Chalk boards may also be used or a runner to bring the scores from the judges to the secretary. Any of these methods

- will work; however, the score given by each judge when more than one is used should not be known by the other judge(s).
5. Secretarial equipment should include a good supply of pencils and pens, plus a calculator or adding machine, as well as a whistle for the judge.
  6. Taking entries:
    - a. Have each exhibitor or agent fill out the necessary entry forms.
    - b. When the entry forms are turned in, collect all entry fees due. No one should be allowed to enter or work without paying first. Where post entries are allowed during the show, require an open check from the exhibitor which you can complete after the final entry is made. Be sure that the exhibitor fills in the date and payee along with signing the check.
    - c. Check for current NCHA membership and/or Non-Professional/Amateur card. NOTE: Show management will be fined \$50 per occurrence for permitting a non-member to enter or show a horse. Ineligible contestants: When earnings are pulled from horses and riders because of ineligibility, class placings will be recalculated and show management will redistribute the earnings accordingly. If earnings are pulled, (on the second offense) they must be repaid to show management within 15 days of notification, or the ineligible competitor will be placed on suspension. The affiliate/ show producer will receive a warning for the first show from which earnings are pulled. The affiliate/show producer will be responsible for making up any shortfalls at subsequent shows.
    - d. Sort your entry forms to assure each entry is in the proper class.
    - e. Read your entries for the first class using the name of both horse and rider, if possible, and announce when the draw will take place. (Repeat this procedure for each class.)
    - f. It is also a good idea to announce how entry closings and draws will be handled for the classes which follow.
  7. Judges' stands and video stands at Weekend Shows, should be a minimum height of six feet.
    - a. Separation between the judges' stands and the secretary area should be the maximum distance available in any show area so that each can properly perform their function without distraction. Score cards will not be posted within a close proximity or in hearing distance of the judges. No secretary desk or office shall be within hearing distance of the judges' stand.

### **Procedures for Videoing NCHA Approved Events**

1. All NCHA approved classes must be video recorded.
2. The Videographer must have the understanding that their first responsibility is to make quality videos for NCHA reviewing purposes.

Only NCHA certified videographers can be used. Any replacement or fill-in videographers must be certified and a current NCHA member. Recertification requirements are: a current NCHA membership, and yearly approval from Video West on the video footage. New videographers applying must register and pass the on-line NCHA Videographer test with a

minimum of an 80%. This site is located at [www.nchavst.com](http://www.nchavst.com). All NCHA Videographers applying, or recertifying will be required to send a copy of their first video footage of the year with two classes (ex. Open and Non-Pro) to Video West Productions for review to remain or become a NCHA Videographer. If video submitted does not meet their standards, the Videographer will not be certified until the NCHA's Judges Department gets their approval.

Show producers must ensure the videographer has the proper certification, are aware of and are complying with the requirements prior to the start of the show.

3. While videoing classes, videographers must not talk on a cell phone, or talk to contestants, and have only limited communication with the judges. It is very important that the judge or monitor reviewing the video hear all of the arena sounds and should not be distracted by ongoing conversations on the video.
4. NCHA will only accept DVD-R's, S D cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 External Hard Drives.
  - a. The Videographer will turn in a Weekend Field Monitor's Report along with all of the video runs and judges' sheets to the designated judge.
  - b. Each video should be labeled with the name of the show, date, classes, and judge name. Retrieving a specific horse and rider video is important throughout the show and after the show. Each set, class and day needs to be easily identified to assure that information retrieval is guaranteed. All videos stored on DVD's, USB External Hard Drive, S.D. cards or Thumb Drives need to be organized, so that a specific horse, rider, set, class, and day of the show can easily be identified for review purposes at any time.
5. Videographers may be requested to forward additional videos to the Director of Judges for review.
6. Camera should be positioned as near the center of the arena as possible and should be at approximately the same height as the judge's stand.
7. Videos must have horse, rider, and cow in the picture at all times. Do not zoom in on rider too closely to prevent getting the overall action. Do not omit any horses in any class.
8. Allow lead-in footage before horse begins to work and after buzzer sounds, the horse leaves the arena and is no longer in the judge's sight. Be sure the horn or buzzer sound is heard on recording as well as the announced score.
9. Do not leave the camera stationary.
10. If camera is not capable of producing titles, it should be left on long enough to obtain names of horses and/or riders.
11. Each horse and rider exhibitor video within a set, class and day of a show must be distinguished from the next horse and rider video within that same set.

Whether using DVD, S.D. card, USB, or Thumb Drive media for storage purposes, individual video/movie files of each horse and rider must be produced. No extended stream of video containing multiple competitors is acceptable.

Identifying the horse and rider/exhibitor at the beginning of each run is required. Begin recording early enough to record the announcer's introduction of each horse and rider. If it becomes necessary for the videographer to supply the introduction at the

start of each run, please do not say the names of the horses or the exhibitors unless you are the official show announcer.

As each horse approaches the herd, the videographer should speak into the microphone of the camera. For example, they should say: "This is the Non-Pro Class, third horse".

12. Take all precautions to ensure the lighting is proper.
13. If the secretary receives numerous complaints regarding a judge's performance, the secretary may submit the video along with the judge's score card to the Director of Judges for review. This will not replace a formal protest.
14. If a judge is going to use the Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS), please have adequate equipment available. A judge should be allowed to review the video in a place where they are completely separated from the contestants. All events using the Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) must provide an isolated location to review the runs in question. The room is to include a large TV (preferably with at least a 30-inch screen) with  $\frac{1}{16}$  slow motion capability, video player and an NCHA Rule Book. Under no condition is a judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants, owners, or other judges. At all monitored events, two recorders and two video monitors/TVs are required for the NCHA Monitor.
15. When a video is received at the NCHA office that is of poor quality, the NCHA Judges Department will:
  - a. Notify the event's producer and show secretary and fine the videographer \$50.
  - b. Additional footage may be requested and sent to the NCHA Video Support Team (VST) to be evaluated. The videographer will be contacted by the VST in an attempt to assist in resolving the issue.
  - c. Upon receiving a second inferior quality recording from the videographer, the videographer may be fined \$200, which must be paid prior to the videographer's next event and verified by the show management that the videographer has been cleared to video any upcoming show for them.
  - d. Upon receiving a third inferior quality recording, the Director of Judges shall take action as deemed necessary to correct or rectify the problem.
  - e. If there is no video recording received from the videographer to the designated NCHA staff member, the videographer will be fined \$500.
16. The Field Monitor system requires that each show reproduce and provide video copies for the NCHA Judge after each show. The judge will have three days to mail the copies of their judges' sheets and a copy of their videos of the approved NCHA classes that they judge.
  - a. All weekend classes, including weekend Limited Age Event classes, will be included in the Field Monitor Program.
17. If it is a multiple judge Weekend show, only the lowest ranking judge and any fill in judge will take the videos and judges sheets home. If it is a multiple judge Limited Age Event with \$10,000 to \$60,000 added, the videos and judges' sheets will be given to the highest-ranking judge.
18. All United States, Canadian and European judges will report to an assigned Weekend Monitor.

19. Show Management should make sure that their Video Contractors are aware of and are complying with all NCHA requirements PRIOR to the show.  
See Guidelines for Weekend Monitor Program for Judges and Regulations for Limited Age Events. Contact for video training: Video West Production  
Ted Petit 38664 Yucca Tree Street Palmdale, California 93551  
Office: 661-265-0341 Cell: 661-492-2621 (best way) Web site: www.videowestpros.com Email: videowestpros@yahoo.com

### **The Representative**

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1. If the show management has not appointed representatives (of the contestants), then one should be elected for each class after entries for the class have closed and before any work from that class begins.
2. Only contestants in a class are eligible to be the representative of that class.
3. It is the duty of the representative to be the contact between show management and all contestants in the class when questions arise. The representative is not a liaison between contestants and the judge(s) and is restricted from talking to judges by Standing Rules, as are all contestants.
4. The NCHA Representative's Report should be delivered to each representative before the class begins.
5. You may want the representative from the first class to assist in determining where cattle changes should occur and how many cattle are available for each group of horses. Care should be taken to assure like treatment for classes having similar entry fees and cattle charges. Follow this procedure for later classes.

### **The Draw**

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1. Draw as soon as you comfortably can after entries have closed. This gives your contestants more time to get their horses ready.
2. The judge or judges shall draw the working order for all horses after cattle changes have been determined. (NCHA Standing Rule 11.) NOTE: Random computer draws may be used providing the judge is present and working orders are printed immediately.
3. Do not draw from entry cards. Use numbered ping-pong balls, metal discs, tags or some similar method drawn from an opaque container. It is essential that the judge be unable to see the numbers in the container to assure a creditable draw.
4. State the name of the horse and the position drawn as they are determined.
5. Announce the working order as soon as possible after the draw, along with the cattle changes.
6. If late entries are permitted, they must be handled as outlined in NCHA Standing Rules.
7. Horses should be listed on an entry sheet along with their working order number.

### **Monies**

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NCHA has adopted the payout schedule described in Standing Rule 14.

### **The Contest**

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1. Consult with your judge or judges and determine the back fence. If there is an objection from a contestant, establish the

- back fence as provided for in Judging Rule 6. The back fence should be clearly marked.
2. Read Standing Rule 35 relating to conduct of contestants.
  3. Tell or show contestants where their time will start. Timeline should also be marked.
  4. Ask the first rider in each group to have their help and cattle settler ready, unless cattle are to be settled by an official settler.
  5. Ask all other cutters in the class to have their herd holders and turn back riders ready.
  6. Announce the name of each horse loudly and clearly, along with the name of the owner, the owner's address (city and state) and the name of the rider. If horses have been assigned an entry number, this should be announced as well.
    - a. Call the name of the next horse and rider so that they will be ready.
  7. Start the time at a pre-designated spot. Never stop the clock unless ordered to by a judge.
  8. When two and one-half minutes have passed, stop the work by a horn, whistle or bell and again tell the name of the horse, owner, and rider.
  9. Obtain the score of the judge and announce or display it. Then call the next rider and repeat items 6, 7 and 8 of this section.
  10. Do not make announcements or use your loudspeaker while a horse is working unless all judges and riders have been warned this will happen.
  11. As soon as the class is finished, or when a judge's card is completed, check their official scores against those you have announced. If you find an error, announce the correct score (determined from the official judge's cards) as soon as possible.
  12. Announce the winners in the class based on NCHA required number of monies.

## **Paying Off**

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1. Determine what your total purse will be and how much is to be paid in each go-round or the go-rounds and finals.
  - a. Add all entry fees for the class together. (Be careful to add entry fees only, no office charges, etc.)
  - b. Deduct eight percent (8%) of this amount from every NCHA approved/unapproved class. This must be sent to the NCHA.
  - c. Subtract the eight percent (8%) deduction from the total entry fees. This will give you the amount of entry fees to add to the purse offered by the show.
  - d. Now add in your total show purse and you will have the total amount to be paid the contest winners.
  - e. Divide the total in Section (d). by the percentages specified on your Application for Approval and you will have the amount of money to pay out for go-rounds and finals. Remember that when go-rounds only are held, the total money must be split equally between each go-round.
  - f. Now refer to NCHA Standing Rule 14.e. to figure premiums.
2. Pay off your contest winners as indicated by the percentage payout system, unless there is a question concerning novice eligibility. Where there is such a question, hold your novice checks and ask NCHA to check this eligibility.
3. If you have plenty of competent help, write your checks and



pay off at the show. If you cannot do this, then make every effort to mail your payoff checks within one week of the show date.

4. Remember that NCHA guarantees the entry fee portion of checks given by NCHA members. If a check is returned, you may first want to notify the exhibitor or redeposit the check. When a check is not made good either by another clearable check or redeposit, send the returned check to the NCHA office with a letter stating what the check was for. NCHA will then issue you a check as specified under Standing Rule 4. Relief must be requested within thirty (30) days of the show.

### **After Your Show**

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1. Complete fully all official NCHA result forms applying to your show, making sure all horses, owners and riders names are spelled correctly, and mail these along with your check covering the eight percent (8%) entry fee deduction, the \$100 Producer Circuit Fee and the \$3 per entry on approved classes National Circuit fee and the judges' cards to NCHA, 260 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, Texas 76107-1862.

If the steps in Item 1 of Paying Off have been followed, this will present no difficulty since you have already determined the correct answer for all questions asked. NOTE: NCHA ID numbers must be provided for both owners and riders on the official result forms.

- a. If more than one go-round has been held and more room is needed to list the winners from additional go-rounds, use the back of the official NCHA form.
2. If you have difficulty, either in completing the necessary forms or with any participant in the contest (owners, riders, judges, etc.), notify the NCHA Show Department, and we will give you all possible immediate assistance.
  3. Write early for your application requesting NCHA approval of your next show.

### **For A Better Show**

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1. Have a tractor on hand with the appropriate dirt working equipment necessary to properly maintain the arena.
2. Have a good method of wetting down the arena, cattle pens, etc. to control dust.
3. A good arena surface should be cushioned to protect the competing horse. It should not be too deep and should have enough consistency to enable the horse to turn hard without fear of the ground slipping or rolling away.
4. Make sure that you have adequate lighting for late evening or nighttime shows.
5. Small arenas need an adjacent warm-up area. Here, too, consideration should be given to good, safe footing.
6. Take care of your cattle. Give them plenty of space along with water to drink.
7. Place your judges where they can see the horses work without interference and keep all bystanders away from them and their stands.
8. Have a concession stand available if you can. If not, at least be sure there is drinking water.
9. Have some sort of restroom.

10. Follow the rules and treat everyone alike. Smile when you can and always remember that courteous treatment will generally result in courtesy in return.

## **Ground**

It takes three things to make a great cutting: good cattle, good judges, and good ground. Where show management may not always be in total control in providing perfect cattle and judges, there is little excuse for bad ground.

Cutting horses must be loped before working. For a horse to lope and work on hard packed ground can be compared to a diver having to dive into a pool with no water; it is very tough on joints and muscles. The loping pen and the working pen must be deep enough to provide protection to the horse. Riders and horses can be injured from falls that result from slick or hard ground. Backs (both horse and rider) take a pounding loping on hard ground.

Most arenas are multi-use area. Participants in different events may want different kinds of ground. Some horse events want a surface that will be harder than that of cutters. They may want their horses to slide. Many arena directors are reluctant to change the ground for the cutting horses.

It requires the use of heavy equipment to haul in sand and more direct, it requires a tractor with a drag and harrow. It may mean extra expense and it will mean more labor.

At a well-run show, the pen is dragged (the surface is leveled off and sometimes the ground is broken up if it is hard) prior to each bunch of cattle. If the pen is dragged prior to each bunch of cattle, the cutter feels like management is trying to promote a level playing field as well as level arena. It is fairer. If the ground is soft and prepared prior to the cutting, less labor and time will be spent in dragging the pen.

Good ground consists of sand (preferably cement sand) laid on a transition area of a mixture of sand and clay based soil over a base of clay. The base is generally the kind of ground that is already in the arena for most stock events. If the arena is concrete, then a base must be provided. A mixture of sand and clay is then added to this base to provide a transition area. If sand is added to the base without a transition area, the ground will be hard under the sand and can be slick and dangerous. Horses will try to get traction to stop and turn and instead can slide or even fall. If sand is not added to the transition area, the ground will pack and be too hard after several horses work.

Management cannot please everyone. Some people will want to have a very deep sandy arena, others will prefer a shallower sand. For a general guideline that should please most cutters we would like to suggest three inches of sand, free from gravel or rocks, on a two-inch transition area, free from gravel or rocks, on twelve to eighteen inches of base if over concrete. (see figure)



In addition to good ground, both contestants and spectators will be pleased to be in an arena with good air quality. This is achieved by wetting the entire arena with a sprinkler system or a hose. Care must be taken not to get the arena too wet. The ground can become sticky or soupy. Without sufficient sand, a clay soil will pack and become hard when sprayed; an-

other good reason to haul in sand.

Again, both the working area and the loping pen need to have soft and secure footing for cutting horses. Your cutters and their horses will appreciate the extra time, expense, and effort you take. It will help to ensure a great show.

### **Loping Pen Etiquette**

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All individuals astride a horse in the arena at NCHA produced events must be NCHA members. The loping pen is where cutting horses are warmed up and prepared for the show arena. This area can be a very dangerous place. Cutters are also getting themselves prepared to show and can be nervous or simply preoccupied with the task at hand. Common sense and courtesy can help avoid accident or annoying near misses. Here are a few guidelines to help keep the loping pen a safe and pleasant place to get horses ready to show.

Horses in the warmup area travel in the same direction in concentric circles. To enter the loping area, merge into traffic as if you were entering a traffic circle. Look and wait for a clearing. Once in, maintain the same speed as the horse in front of you. If you want to pass, look behind you so you do not crash into the horse in the other lane.

Stay to the inside circle if you want to go slow. This is the slow lane. Stay to the outside circle if you want to go fast. This is the fast lane. Try not to bunch up and talk or stand still anywhere in the traffic. Never stop in traffic. If you must stop, please slow down, and exit to an area devoid of traffic. This also applies to dry working your horse. If you are going to do some pulling and spinning, please do it where you have room.

If you see someone that is looking for a way into traffic or an exit out of traffic, please be kind enough to let them in or out. Always remember to think about the other person and how you would feel in a similar situation.

When the time comes to boot up or put on chaps, find a safe place out of traffic. Be careful that your horse is not too close to another horse that might kick or bite. Watch your own horse for signs of rude behavior.

Most youth cutters are in the loping pen to get a horse ready. They can ride and control their horse. They have a good understanding of how to behave themselves. The loping pen is not a place for baby sitting or entertainment, nor for riding lessons. Anyone in the loping area, no matter what the age, should have the ability to control their horse at all times. This is for their own safety as well as for others.

Pedestrians in the loping area should yield to those people who are there to get a horse ready to show. If you must get off your horse, find a safe place to tie them. Do not tie kicking horses or studs in the loping pen.

Someone may tie a horse next to them. Do not get upset with someone for spanking your horse if it kicks or bites at them.

Use the loping pen for exercise and to season young horses only when there is enough room. Be considerate of people in there to get their horse ready to show.

Ideally, show management should keep the ground in the loping pen as deep and nice to lope in as the working pen. Horses spend more time pounding the ground in the loping pen than in the show pen. There will be a tractor coming in periodically to work the pen. Move your horse out of the way and move any tied horses away from the area to be worked.

People will want to change direction from time to time. Whether they want to bend their horse the other way or simply are tired of going right and want to go left, slow down, stop and turn your horse around. If you want to go another direction, simply ask someone if they would like to

turn around. Do not be offended if some contestant ignores your request, it simply means their horse is not broke and they cannot do this maneuver.

**NCHA PRODUCED SHOW RULES ARE ON THE ENTRY FORM AND AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.NCHACUTTING.COM](http://WWW.NCHACUTTING.COM)**

## **Regulations for Approved Limited Age Events**

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### Regulations for NCHA Approved Limited Age Events

The NCHA approves limited age events other than the limited age events the NCHA sponsors. These shows must be for horses between the age of 3 and 6 years of age. An application for approval, together with all rules for the event, must be submitted to the NCHA by June 1st of the preceding year for shows that will be held between January 1 and May 31, and by January 1 of a given year for shows that will be held between June 1 and December 31 of that year. Applications for shows with less than \$10,000 Added Money must be submitted to the NCHA for approval 40 days prior to the closing date of entry for the show involved. The application must fully disclose use and dispersal of all fees (including nomination fees, subscription fees, entry fees, cattle charges, office charges and other fees) to be collected from all participants. Show Management will determine the number of go-rounds, the criteria for advancement, including whether semifinals or finals will be used in the show. Show Management cannot reduce the allocation, payout and dispensation submitted in the application after NCHA approval without prior NCHA written consent. Payout to participants cannot be reduced to cover show expenses. Show management agrees that NCHA has the right to take whatever action may be necessary, including legal proceedings, to require the approved payout and dispensation to be made. Furthermore, if show management does not make payments to participants as submitted and approved, NCHA may be paid a fine of up to \$5,000 by show management and/or no application for limited age event approval by show management or affiliate of show management may be approved by NCHA for a period of up to 15 months.

Rules of the limited age events may not directly conflict with NCHA rules and cannot provide for changing information provided to the NCHA in the application for approval after approval has been received without prior NCHA consent.

A limited age event may set their own rules as long as there are no direct conflicts with the NCHA rules. It is the management's decision on how added money will be split between different aged classes. Added money may also be prorated between the classes.

The management will decide how many go-rounds will be offered and how many horses may advance to the finals or if a semifinals is needed. Added money cannot be reduced based on the number of entries in a class.

Scheduling of events for the show will be decided by the show management.

Results must be sent into the NCHA in a timely manner, no later than 10 days of the conclusion of the show. This must be accompanied with the percentage taken out of the entry fees for the NCHA approval.

NCHA monitors are available to shows that do not meet the minimum requirement for shows required to use the adjusted monitor system.

Show management is not required to use the mandatory payout schedule or the percentage payout system in distributing prize money.

All money won at an NCHA approved limited age event is reported to the NCHA and will be a permanent record of the NCHA. Money won in a limited age event does not count against a horse in its eligibility for

NCHA classes but will be included in the horse's lifetime earnings. Any money won by a Non-Professional, whether it be won in a limited age event open or Non-Professional class, will count against the Non-Professional rider's eligibility.

Limited aged events approved by the NCHA, must have an Open and Non-Professional class in each age division they are offering, to receive approval from the NCHA.

NCHA will approve weekend shows. The Weekend Show Approval Applications must be submitted at the same time as the Major Limited Age Event Application along with a schedule of the show. Special permission may be granted by the Executive Committee only if more show dates than allowed by this rule are requested by an Affiliate, individual or organization.

1. The event shall be for horses between three (3) and six (6) years of age.
2. All participating owners and riders must be members of NCHA. Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA approved or sponsored event, by said entry, consents to the implementation of any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy (Rule 35.A) by either show management or judge.
  - a. Non-Affiliate Show producers, Stock Shows must provide NCHA a copy of the actual bond for any and all employees, owners, officers, or secretaries whose duties require the handling of funds. The bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit must be in the amount of the maximum funds for the purse payout plus the NCHA designated approval fee for the largest show produced and include the producers' names and the individuals covered along with the expiration date. The bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit should list the NCHA as the beneficiary. The bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit needs to be in the NCHA office 30 days prior to any show date. Mail to: NCHA, Attn: Show Approval Supervisor, 260 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107.
3. Use all applicable NCHA rules.
  - a. Permission to use local exceptions will not be unreasonably withheld.
  - b. Added money in limited age classes held in conjunction with a weekend show cannot exceed \$9,999 total added money.
4. Use NCHA Approved Judges.
  - a. All events must be video recorded and held for thirty (30) days.
  - b. All approved events with \$100,000 added or more must use no fewer than five (5) 3A judges or 4A judges. These events will be monitored.
  - c. Show must sign AMS agreement to furnish necessary equipment, lodging, meals, and ground transportation for NCHA Monitor.
  - d. It is mandatory that all monitored Limited Age Events have a qualified Escort for the Judges. A fine of \$500 per day will be imposed on major Limited Age Events with a five-judge system that do not have the required Escort for the Judges.
  - e. All videos and judges' sheets for multiple judge Limited Age Events with \$10,000 to \$60,000 added will be sent to the Director of Judges within three days of the comple-

- tion of the show. All videos and judges' sheets from these shows should be sent by the highest-ranking judge.
- f. Judges may judge up to 13 consecutive days at Limited Age Events. Additional judging days must be approved by the Director of Judges. Violation of this rule is \$2,500 per day.
5. Provide at least three (3) head of "fresh cattle" per work.
    - a. At Limited Age Events with less than \$750 in added money that are held in conjunction with a weekend show, show management has the option to provide 2½ head of cattle instead of the current three head.
  6. Pay NCHA an approval fee on total entry fees collected, the percentage owed NCHA determined by the amount of added money.
    - a. \$9,999 or less in added money (8%).
    - b. \$10,000-\$99,999 in added money 3.5% (no monitor required).
    - c. \$100,000 added or more (monitor required) Shows that require a monitor 2% plus \$500 per show day approval fee.
    - d. Approval fees may be deducted from total entry fees collected. The approval fee of \$500 may be prorated between classes held that day.
  7. NCHA may require any limited age approved by NCHA to provide either an acceptable bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit covering the added money of the show plus estimated entry fees.
  8. NCHA Self-Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) may be used with three (3) judges or less.
  9. NCHA will solicit judges for all shows using the Adjusted Monitor System.
  10. Only the accumulative score will be posted in the arena. No individual scores will be available anywhere, except a copy of the official Judge's Cards, which will be posted on the following day or at the completion of the go-round.
  11. Draw parties may be held for the finals of a major NCHA-approved LAE. The contestant or owner may hand draw for their position in the presence of the Show Monitor or Show Management. If the contestant or owner is not available, the Monitor or Show Management will draw for that position.

### **Limited Aged Event Show Approval**

A show that has been in existence for the prior three consecutive years and has added money of \$100,000 or more, is considered a premier show.

New shows requesting approval that have conflicting dates with premier shows (two days in front of or behind approved dates) can only be considered for approval with a maximum of 25% of the premier show's added money.

Shows that were approved in 2004 that are less than \$100,000 added money, that had conflicting dates with premier shows, can be approved with the same amount of added money.

If a show changes their dates more than the normal calendar movement allows, this show will be considered a new show and will lose premier show status and approval benefits.

LAE show dates will be scheduled by using [www.calendar-365.com](http://www.calendar-365.com) to determine week # of the year start date. The same week # start date will be used each year. Additionally, any dates released will return to NCHA.

1. The following guidelines for new NCHA-approved Limited Age Events with less than \$100,000 in added money will take effect January 1, 2009:

- a. For shows with a \$10,000-\$50,000 added purse, there must be two days preceding the starting date and two days after the ending date of a pre-existing approved show. If the dates do overlap a pre-existing approved show, there must be at least 500 miles between the two show locations.
  - b. For shows with a \$50,001-\$99,999 added purse, there must be two days preceding the starting date and two days after the ending date of a pre-existing approved show. If the dates do overlap a pre-existing approved show, there must be at least 800 miles between the two show locations.
  - c. New shows inside the 800-mile limit cannot have more than 25% of the added money of the pre-existing show.
  - d. If more than one new Major Limited Age Event application requesting the same show dates within the 500 or 800 mile limit of each other, are received on the same day, approval will be considered first for the show with the earliest postmark; second, affiliates will be given priority over independent show producers; and third by the show offering the most added money.
  - e. If all of the above rules are not met by new shows requesting NCHA approval, show producers of the pre-existing approved Major Limited Age Events with conflicting dates will be notified and required to submit written documentation to the NCHA office stating their position to approve or deny the new show application.
  - f. All shows are required to have two (2) days' travel time between ending and beginning dates of consecutive shows, unless said shows agree to less than two days.
2. Approval deadlines for shows held the first six (6) months of the year: Pre-existing Limited Age Event shows whose applications are due in the office May 1, of each year will be approved or denied by July 1, and/or in time to be published on the NCHA website. Applications for new Major Limited Age Events will be accepted until August 31 and will be approved or denied by September 30.
  3. Approval deadlines for shows held during the second six months of the year: Pre-existing Limited Age Event shows whose applications are due in the office January 1 of each year will be approved or denied by February 1 and/or published on the NCHA website. Applications for new Major Limited Age Events will be accepted until March 31 and will be approved or denied by April 30.
  4. All Major Limited Age Event shows must submit completed show applications to the NCHA office by the deadlines. Shows not submitting applications by the deadline will be notified by certified letter, receive a fine of \$500, and given seven days to submit their application. If the application is not received within this time limit, the dates will be considered available for new show approvals.
  5. NCHA will allow changes to approved show applications providing the changes follow all Limited Age Event rules. Changes must be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the show. Any exceptions to the above rules will be heard on a case-by-case basis. The burden for justification of those exceptions will be the responsibility of the new show applicant.
  6. If the management of a show's venue forces it to move its dates



in a way that will affect other shows, the show producer must submit a letter from the venue substantiating this action. Upon receiving that confirmation, NCHA staff will work with the show producer to try to negotiate alternative dates. Because it is beyond the control of the show producer, this will not affect the status of the show when determining future schedules.

7. A show will not lose its premier status or, in the case of a show with less than \$100,000 added, its status as a pre-existing show, if it is forced to cancel or terminate a presentation one year due to the following circumstances:
  - Destruction of its facility or widespread damage to the community in which its show would be held due to disasters, such as but not limited to fire, tornado, hurricanes, or floods.
  - Threat or danger to livestock, such as we saw with the 2011 outbreak of EHV-1.
  - Threat or danger to human participants, such as a forced closure by the local health department due to fear of the spread of disease or other serious contagious illness.
8. Failure to adhere to approved show dates will be considered in future show approval requests.

### **Benefits & Options Offered**

1. Complete description of upcoming show including payment schedule listed in *Cutting Horse Chatter* prior to show dates.
2. Earnings records of horses and riders maintained by NCHA.
3. Results of show publicized via appropriate media. Working pictures of champions along with a brief summary of the show will also be featured.
4. Right to use NCHA approved judges that have been Professionally trained and rated accordingly.
5. The NCHA Adjusted Monitor System is available to shows that do not meet the necessary requirements. For information obtaining this option, please contact the NCHA Judges Department.

# 2022 Judging Rules & Casebook

Also Review Standing Rules 21-29 Related to Judges

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Casebook is to provide for a more uniform interpretation and application of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse show as found in the NCHA Rule Book. It expresses the official interpretation of the NCHA Rules for Judging Cutting Horse show. This Casebook is provided to the membership of the NCHA as a tool in judging, showing, and preparing horses for showing.

## DEFINITIONS

**CUTTER:** For the purpose of this Casebook, the term “cutter” refers to the contestant and their horse as a working unit. From time to time the unit will be divided. In these instances, the text will describe the activities of the contestant and their horse separately.

**RULING:** For the purpose of this Casebook, the term “ruling” refers to the action that shall be taken by the judge.

**NOTE:** For the purpose of this Casebook, the term “note” signifies a further explanation of a ruling.

## JUDGING RULES OVERVIEW

Also see Standing Rules 21-29

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**JUDGING PENALTIES**

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- 1 point - Judging Rule 11 (miss) Losing working advantage
- 1 point - Judging Rule 8 Visible cue or positioning after cut
- 1 point - Judging Rule 8d Toe, foot, or stirrup on horse shoulder
- 1 point - Judging Rule 5a Noise directed to cattle
- 3 point - Judging Rule 5b Cattle picked up/scattering herd
- 3 point - Judging Rule 1a Failure to make deep cut
- 3 point - Judging Rule 13 Hot quit
- 3 point - Judging Rule 12 Pawing or biting cattle
- 3 point - Judging Rule 8b 2nd hand on reins while working
- 3 point - Judging Rule 8c Cueing in shoulder
- 3 point - Judging Rule 6 Back Fence
- 5 point - Judging Rule 14 Horse quitting cow
- 5 point - Judging Rule 9 Losing a cow
- 5 point - Judging Rule 10 Changing cattle after commitment
- 5 point - Judging Rule 15 Failure to separate
- 60 score - Judging Rule 7 Horse turns tail
- 0 score - Judging Rule 17 Horse falls to ground
- Disqualification
  - Judging Rule 17 Horse falls to ground
  - Judging Rule 18 Leaving working area
  - Judging Rule 16, 19, 20, 21 &
  - Standing Rule 34 Illegal Equipment

# Judging Rules 1-21

*Also Review Standing Rules 21-29 Related to Judges*

## **JUDGING RULE 1**

Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show their ability to make a cut. One such deep cut will satisfy this rule. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in a three (3) point penalty. A horse will be given credit for their ability to enter the body of the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought out.

A. A horse will be given credit for their ability to enter the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought out.

**NOTE:** To satisfy this rule, if a cutter has not satisfied the deep cut rule on their first or second cut, on their last cut, a cow must be separated from the herd with the cutter's hand down before the first sound of the buzzer.

**EXAMPLE 1:** As the Cutter approaches the herd, one cow voluntarily walks out of the herd. The Cutter turns and cuts that cow and works it. When they begin to cut their second cow, another volunteer steps out and the Cutter cuts it. They work that cow. The Cutter then rides deep into the herd for their third cow, but before the third cow is separated from the other cattle the buzzer sounds.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty for failing to make a deep cut sometime during the work.

**EXAMPLE 2:** In a herd of 45 cattle, a Cutter cuts two cows cleanly and is working the second cow when the buzzer sounds. Each time the Cutter cuts, they allow three cows to come around and cuts the third cow.

**RULING:** Three (3) cows may or may not be enough cattle to satisfy the requirements of Rule One. If the Cutter rode to the edge of the herd and peeled the three cows, the judge shall rule that no deep cut was made and assess a three (3) point penalty. If the Cutter actually rode deep into the body of the herd and drove the cows out or started more than three (3) cows out and eventually cut from the three (3), the judge shall rule that the requirements of Rule One are satisfied.

**EXAMPLE 3:** A Cutter rides deep into the body of the herd and starts a significant portion of the cattle out on their right side. When the cattle are in front of the Cutter, they step to make their cut, the flow of cattle stops, and the cattle reverse the flow and begin to return to the herd on the Cutter's right side. The Cutter cuts the last available cow so that no cows actually come around on the Cutter's left side.

**RULING:** The Cutter has satisfied the requirements of Rule One.

**NOTE:** In ruling on Rule One, it is more important for a judge to consider the depth and route taken by the Cutter than it is to count the number of cows that move around their horse. It is necessary, however, for the Cutter to actually get behind some cattle before Rule 1 is satisfied.

**EXAMPLE 4:** Cutter A's horse walks quietly into the herd and remains quiet while Cutter A makes their cut. Cutter B's horse walks quietly into the herd but is obviously nervous and moves excessively while Cutter B is making their cut.

**RULING:** Cutter A shall receive more credit for their cut than Cutter B.

**EXAMPLE 5:** While making a cut, Cutter A makes several moves with a cow before they are able to separate it from the others. These moves excite both the cow being cut and the cattle around it. While making a cut, Cutter B is able to bring a similar type of cow out with very little distur-

bance to the cow or the herd.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit for their cut than Cutter A. In this case the judge is not penalizing Cutter A; they are, however, giving more credit for the job done by Cutter B.

**EXAMPLE 6:** After quitting a cow a horse starts to lie down, but the rider is able to keep the horse up on its feet.

**RULING:** No penalty, but run content may be reduced in herd work depending upon the severity it takes to get the horse back to its feet.

**EXAMPLE 7:** As the cutter enters the herd, the horse kicks out at the rider's spur with a hind leg.

**RULING:** No penalty, however run content will be reduced in herd work.

**EXAMPLE 8:** After the cutter quits a cow, the horse lays down with its legs underneath itself.

**RULING:** The run content may or may not be reduced.

## **JUDGING RULE 2**

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When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it be taken toward the center of the arena, and credit will be rewarded for same. Additional credit will be given the horse which drives its stock sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by their work, thereby showing their ability to drive a cow.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Cutter A and Cutter B have, in the judge's opinion, identical works. Cutter A drove their stock away from the herd and was never in any danger of disturbing the herd. Cutter B did not disturb the herd either, but Cutter B made no effort to drive away from the herd.

**RULING:** Cutter A shall be rewarded more credit for their work than Cutter B. In this case, the judge is not penalizing Cutter B; they are, however, rewarding more credit for the job done by Cutter A.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Cutter A and Cutter B have similar works. Both Cutters make deep cuts on their first cow and drive it near the center of the arena. Cutter A then cuts their second cow very near the back fence and begins working there. Cutter B cuts their second cow very near the center of the arena. The buzzer sounds while both Cutters are working their second cow.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit than Cutter A.

**EXAMPLE 3:** After the cutter has made their cut and traffic has cleared, Cutter A begins their work. Cutter B begins their work and continues to drive their stock additional distance from the herd.

**RULING:** Cutter A is rewarded credit for a good clean cut. Cutter B will receive more credit for driving their stock additional distance from the herd, showing their ability to drive a cow. This credit(s) can occur at any time in the work.

## **JUDGING RULE 3**

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Riding with a loose rein throughout a performance is a requirement and will be recognized.

**EXAMPLE:** Cutter A and Cutter B have similar works. Neither move their hands after putting their horse on a cow. Cutter A's reins are adjusted so that it is obvious that their horse is turned loose. Cutter B's reins are noticeably shorter. The judge never actually sees Cutter B's reins tighten against the bit.

**RULING:** If both are sufficiently loose so that the horse is not influenced, then Cutter A and Cutter B have satisfied their requirement of riding with a loose rein. If Cutter B's reins were tight enough to attract the judge's atten-

tion, even though the bits were not bumped, put a minus in the loose rein column and take one point off for each cow that they were tight on, and take those points off at the end of the run, just like a major penalty.

#### **JUDGING RULE 4**

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Credit will be recognized for setting up a cow and controlling it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Cutter A cuts cleanly and works three cows. They work their second cow entirely on the left one-third of the arena. Cutter B has a similar work, except they hold their cows much nearer the center of the arena.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit for their work than Cutter A. The judge shall be careful not to penalize Cutter A; however, Cutter B must receive more credit.

**EXAMPLE 2:** Cutter A cuts cleanly and works two cows. They hold both cows very near the center of the arena. Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. They hold their first cow very near the center of the arena. They cut their second cow and are unable to contain it near the center of the arena; in fact, the cow runs from fence to fence despite the horse remaining in excellent position. Both Cutter A and Cutter B had penalty free runs that, in the judge's opinion, had a similar degree of difficulty.

**RULING:** Cutter A shall receive more credit for their work than Cutter B. Cutter B has committed no rule infractions; however, the point value of their run is less than that of Cutter A.

**EXAMPLE 3:** Cutter A and Cutter B each work two cows that create very similar challenges for each Cutter. Cutter A holds their first cow near the center of the arena. They work their second cow on the left one-half of the arena. In the judge's opinion, Cutter A holds a working position on their second cow, but their horse is not going far enough ahead of the cow to prevent it from running near the left fence. Cutter A is stopping the cow on the right side. Cutter B holds both of their cows very near the center of the arena. Cutter A and Cutter B have penalty free runs.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit.

**EXAMPLE 4:** During a work, the Cutter trails their stock just enough that the cow runs from wall to wall and is never set up and held near the center of the arena.

**RULING:** The horse which ALLOWS its stock to run from wall to wall, because they are trailing, or which rolls out on its turns and lacks control shall not be credited under this rule.

**NOTE:** The degree of difficulty presented by the stock cut out shall weigh heavily on the judge's decision. Credit must be rewarded the horse which meets the challenge of a hard charging, fast moving animal without loss of working position and control. Where other considerations are equal, the horse which works a longer time should receive greater credit.

#### **JUDGING RULE 5**

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If the cutting horse or its rider creates disturbance at any time throughout their working period (2½ minutes), they will be penalized:

- a. Any noise directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized one (1) point.
- b. Each time a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd while working or picks up cattle through fault of the horse, it will be penalized three (3) points. Note: At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.

The entire cow must enter working area of horse.

- c. The judge shall stop any work because of
  1. the contestant working the horse in an unprofessional manner,
  2. disturbance of the cattle by the contestant, or
  3. excessive training of the horse by the contestant.

Any contestant failing to stop immediately after the first whistle will be whistled out again. A contestant with a “double whistle” violation resulting from the contestant working the horse in an “double whistle” violation is responsible for noting the reason for the double whistle.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While attempting to make a cut in sticky cattle, the Cutter makes noise to cause the cattle to separate. This noise is clearly audible to the judge.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While attempting to make a cut, the Cutter’s helpers make noise that is audible to the judge

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** During a work, three (3) cows run out of the herd and on past the turnback horses. In the judge’s opinion the Cutter did not cause the cattle to leave the herd.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter works three (3) cows. They are forced to legally quit their first two (2) cows because his/her horse runs into the herd causing one or more cows to enter the working area of the horse. The entire cow must enter the working area of the horse. The working area of the horse is defined as the entire cow being in front of the horse’s head.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty each time the horse runs into the herd. Total penalty of six (6) points.

**EXAMPLE 5:** The Cutter is working his/her third cow when the buzzer sounds. The quits in their run are legal; however, each time they quit working, their horse was very close to the cattle in the herd, and the cattle actually moved away from the Cutter’s horse. The Cutter’s herd holders were able to contain the cattle so that no cattle actually escaped from the herd.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** Running into the herd shall not be called unless the Cutter creates enough disturbance to cause one (1) or more cattle to actually enter the working area of the horse. A wild cow leaving on its own would not be considered picking up cattle.

**EXAMPLE 6A:** The Cutter’s horse is very near the herd while holding a tough cow. Before the Cutter can find a legal opportunity to quit the cow, three (3) cows run out of the herd and join the cow being worked. The judge is certain that the Cutter caused the cattle to enter the working area of the horse.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**EXAMPLE 6B:** The Cutter is driving three cattle away from the herd: a red cow, a black cow, and a white cow. They drive the red cow forward, causing the white cow and black cow to step to their right, behind the horse’s buttocks. As they start to work the red cow, the black cow and white cow join the red cow. They quit as the red cow turns away.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** Picking up cattle will not be charged in this instance, because the white cow and black cow had never become part of the body of the



herd. The white cow and black cow in this instance would have been considered “traffic”.

**EXAMPLE 7:** The Cutter quits legally, and four (4) cows leave the herd almost simultaneously.

**RULING:** The judge must decide if the Cutter was at fault. If the judge rules that the Cutter ran into the herd and caused the cattle to leave, assess a three (3) point penalty. If the judge cannot decide, the benefit goes to the Cutter and no penalty is charged.

**NOTE:** Even though the Cutter quits before another cow actually enters the working area of the horse, a three (3) point penalty will be charged if the judge is certain the disturbance was caused by the Cutter.

**EXAMPLE 8:** While the Cutter is working, the cattle behind them are moving. The Cutter’s helpers are able to contain the cattle so that no cattle actually escape from the herd.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** Cattle shall not be considered “scattered” unless they actually enter the working area of the horse.

**EXAMPLE 9:** The Cutter is making an honest effort to show his/her horse, but the horse is not working properly. The Cutter runs through the cattle more than once, severely disturbing the herd.

**RULING:** The Cutter shall be called out of the herd by the judge and their work terminated.

**NOTE:** Even though the Cutter was not training or abusing the horse, they were creating a disturbance of the cattle. Show management should provide each judge with a whistle so that they may quickly stop a work.

**EXAMPLE 10:** (A) After losing a cow, the Cutter cuts another cow and stops the horse each time the cow stops; they do not jerk or excessively cue their horse.

(B) The Cutter’s horse is not working properly. The Cutter cues their horse in the shoulder aggressively and then jerks it to a stop.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a five (5) point penalty for losing a cow and a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter stops his/her horse.

In (B) the judge shall stop the work.

**EXAMPLE 11:** While working at no fault of the Cutter, additional cattle leave the herd and join the cow being worked.

(A) The Cutter quits the cow being worked while that cow is turning into them.

(B) The Cutter picks up his/her horse and reins them until the additional cattle have returned to the herd. They then drop their hand and continues to work the cow.

(C) The Cutter reins his/her horse in an attempt to separate his/her original cow from the additional cattle. They then decide not to separate the cow and quit legally.

(D) The Cutter quits the cow while it is turned away.

(E) The Cutter continues to work their original cow until the additional cattle have returned to the herd. During this time, the Cutter does not cue his/her horse in any manner.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13). In (B) and (C) assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins their horse. In (D) no penalty.

In (E) give credit for the horse staying with the original cow.

**EXAMPLE 12:** While working at no fault of the Cutter, additional cat-

tle leave the herd and join the cow being worked. The Cutter reins their horse in an attempt to separate their original cow from the additional cattle. The original cow, however, escapes to the herd leaving only the additional cattle in front of the Cutter.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins their horse (Rule 8) and a five (5) point penalty for losing the cow. (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 13:** While working, the Cutter is forced near the herd causing additional cattle to be picked up.

- (A) The Cutter legally quits his/her original cow.
- (B) The Cutter quits while their original cow is moving straight across the pen or turning in toward them.
- (C) The Cutter loses his/her original cow at approximately the same time.
- (D) The Cutter reins his/her horse twice while the additional cattle are clearing and then continues to work.
- (E) The Cutter reins his/her horse one (1) time and then quits their original cow legally.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**NOTE:** It is not necessary for the Cutter to separate their original cow from the additional cattle before quitting.

**RULING:** In (B) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (C) the judge will consider the two penalties to have occurred simultaneously unless there is a definite time lapse after the cow is picked up. Under normal circumstances only the larger penalty of five (5) points will be assessed. An additional three (3) point penalty must be assessed when the time lapse occurs.

In (D) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins their horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of five (5) points.

In (E) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins their horse. Total penalty of four (4) points.

**EXAMPLE 14:** While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cattle separated from the herd. In an attempt to cut the desired cow, he/she:

(A) comes close enough to the herd to cause one (1) or more cows to enter the working area of the horse.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**EXAMPLE 15:** While the Cutter is working a cow at a reasonable distance from the herd, another cow voluntarily leaves the herd and stops in such a position that the working horse's normal pattern causes it to enter the working area of the horse.

**RULING:** No penalty, as no disturbance of the herd occurs.

## **JUDGING RULE 6**

A horse will be penalized three (3) points each time the back fence actually stops or turns the animal being worked within one step (three [3] feet) of the fence; the back fence to be agreed on and designated by the judge or judges before the contest starts; meaning the actual fence only, no imaginary line from point to point to be considered. If any of the contestants voice an objection before the contest starts, the judge or judges shall take

a vote of the contestants, and a “back fence” acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used. Note: At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working, it is obvious that the cutting horse does not turn a cow that is moving toward the back fence. The cow does turn, however, at a spot approximately ten (10) feet from the back fence.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working, a cow outran the Cutter to a place on the back fence. The cow turns within three (3) feet of the back fence and goes back to the center of the arena. The Cutter quits the cow legally and completes his/her work.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The cow being worked bangs into the back fence and:

- (A) is moving away from the back fence when the Cutter quits.
- (B) is moving toward the Cutter when they quit.
- (C) the impact stops the cow’s motion; the Cutter quits while the cow is stopped.
- (D) returns to the herd.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty.

In (B) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation and a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (C) assess a three (3) point penalty.

In (D) the judge will consider the two penalties to have occurred simultaneously unless the cow first moves away from the horse and then returns to the herd. When the penalties occur simultaneously, only the larger penalty of five (5) points should be assessed.

**NOTE:** The outer limits of the designated back fence shall include any boards or other markers used to define this outer limit.

**EXAMPLE 4:** While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cattle separated from the herd. As the Cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the cattle move to the back fence inside the back fence markers, then move back to the working area.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence.

**EXAMPLE 5:** A Cutter is working a cow that stops against the arena fence outside the back fence marker. The cow moves toward the horse until it is inside the marker where it is turned away from the back fence by the Cutter’s horse.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** Any time a Cutter allows the cow being worked to move inside of the back fence marker within one step or three (3) feet of the fence, a three (3) point penalty must be assessed.

## **JUDGING RULE 7**

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If a horse turns the wrong way with tail toward animal being worked, an automatic score of 60 points will be given.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While in the process of cutting, the cutter has two or more cattle separated from the herd. As the cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the horse turns away from the cow so severely that the horse’s tail points toward the cow or cattle.

**RULING:** The Cutter automatically receives a score of sixty (60) points.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is working and his/her horse attempts to turn tail toward the cow. The Cutter stops the horse before they are able to completely turn away from the cow. The cow being worked returns to the herd.

**RULING:** This is not a case of turning tail. Rule 14 shall be applied. The Cutter is assessed a five (5) point penalty for his/her horse quitting a cow.

## **JUDGING RULE 8**

While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse. A one (1) point penalty shall also be charged whenever a horse is visibly cued in any manner. If the reins are tight enough that the bits are bumped at any time, they shall be penalized one (1) point each time even though the hand of the rider does not move.

- a. A horse must be released as soon as the desired animal is clear of the other cattle. Additional reining, cuing, or positioning will result in a one (1) point penalty for each occurrence.
- b. The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty shall be charged if the second hand touches the reins for any purpose except to straighten them.
- c. Cueing behind the shoulder shall not be considered a visible cue. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed each time a horse is cued in the shoulder.
- d. A toe, foot, or stirrup on the horse's shoulder is considered a visible cue. A one (1) point penalty shall be charged for each occurrence.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While making his/her cut, the Cutter moves his/her hand up and down, side to side while selecting a cow to work. He/she then place their hand:

- (A) near his/her horse's neck and leaves it there while working;
- (B) above the saddle horn and leaves it there while working;
- (C) near their horse's neck in the beginning of the run, and then raises it above the saddle horn while working.
- (D) up the horse's neck (too far forward).

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) no penalty. In (C) if the hand movement results in reining, a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence. In (D) a one-point penalty for each occurrence.

**NOTE:** The Cutter may rein his/her horse as much as necessary to make a cut. Clean, pretty cuts shall receive credit.

**NOTE:** Releasing the cutting horse indicates that the Cutter is ready to begin working. Additional reining shall be penalized.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter makes a cut and while waiting for the cow to begin movement:

- (A) shakes his/her rein hand causing movement of the bridle reins:
- (B) feeds out additional slack to the bridle reins.

**RULING:** In (A) penalize the Cutter one (1) point for each time they repeat this activity. If they cut three (3) cows and shake their reins each time, the total penalty shall be three (3) points. In (B) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter is working with their hand held low. His/her reins are adjusted short enough so that the bit is bumped two (2) different times during their run.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the bit is bumped. A total penalty of two (2) points.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter is working and:

- (A) during their run they move his/her hand very slightly in a turn.
- (B) during their run, his/her hand moves sufficiently for the judge to believe that they are reining their horse in the turn.
- (C) while going across the arena he/she moves their hand toward the cow being worked to hold his/her horse out from the herd.

- (D) during his/her run they push their hand forward to encourage his/her horse to move along with a cow.
- (E) as his/her horse is stopping, the Cutter leans backward in the saddle causing his/her rein hand to also move back.

**RULING:** In (A) no penalty.

In (B), (C), (D), and (E) a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed.

**EXAMPLE 5:** While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and begins driving it out of the herd. The Cutter reins their horse until the cow is clear of the other cattle and then releases his/her horse.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** The intent of Rule 8a is to prevent the Cutter from helping his/her horse after a cow is clear of the herd. Judges shall be careful to allow the Cutter to handle his/her horse enough to clear the cow that they selected to cut. In the application of this rule, the term “clear” means far enough out from the body of the herd that the Cutter has a reasonable opportunity to begin working and that all other cattle are at least behind their horse’s buttocks.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and reins his/her horse while driving the cow out of the herd. After the cow is clear, the Cutter continues to rein until the cow has made its first move. He/she then release his/her horse and work the cow.

**RULING:** A one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each time the horse is reined after the cow is clear.

**EXAMPLE 7:** After a cow is clear of the herd, the Cutter reins his/her horse to initiate the first move with the cow.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 8:** A Cutter cuts a cow from a group of cattle that are coming around him/her. They rein his/her horse until the other cattle are cleared away by their herd holders and immediately thereafter releases it.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 9:** The Cutter cuts a cow that is walking away from the herd.

- (A) The Cutter reins his/her horse until they have stepped out of the herd and then releases it.
- (B) The Cutter reins his/her horse until they have stepped out of the herd. Several seconds elapse before the cow is turned by the turn back horse. The Cutter continues to hold contact with his/her horse by having their hand up and some tension on his/her reins. They do not move their horse around; they are holding his/her horse’s attention on the cow until the cow moves.
- (C) The Cutter reins his/her horse until they have stepped out of the herd. Almost simultaneously the Cutter releases his/her horse, and the cow is moved by the turn back horses.

**RULING:** In (A) and (C) no penalty. In (B) assess a one (1) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 10:** The Cutter selects a cow from a group of cattle that are moving around him/her. They step to that cow and reins his/her horse until his/her herd holders have the other cattle behind his/her horse’s buttocks (cleared away). He/she then continues to hold tension on his/her reins while the cow that they have cut trots several feet across the arena. When the cow stops and turns around, the Cutter stops his/her horse and reins it back to the cow before releasing it.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter cues their horse. In this case, one (1) for holding the horse going across the arena, one (1) for stopping the horse, and one (1) for reining it back to the cow. Total penalty of three (3) points.

**EXAMPLE 11:** While working a cow, the Cutter:

- (A) uses two hands on the bridle reins to turn his/her horse around with a cow.
- (B) uses two hands on the bridle reins to stop his/her horse and then allows it to turn on their own.
- (C) uses two hands on the bridle reins while stopping the horse for a legal quit.

**RULING:** In (A), (B), and (C) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 12:** After quitting a cow legally, the Cutter uses two hands on the bridle reins to turn his/her horse around.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 13:** The Cutter drops one bridle rein and:

- (A) uses his/her free hand to retrieve it while cutting a cow.
- (B) uses his/her free hand to retrieve it while working a cow.
- (C) uses his/her free hand to retrieve it after they have obviously legally quit the cow and stopped their horse.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) assess a three (3) point penalty for using both hands on the bridle reins. In (C) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 14:** The Cutter's reins have become entangled.

- (A) The rider quits a cow legally and before entering the body of the herd uses the second hand to straighten out the reins.
- (B) While riding through the herd, the rider places a second hand on the reins to straighten them.
- (C) The rider turns to make a cut, then stops his/her horse within the body of the herd and uses the second hand to straighten his/her reins.

**RULING:** In (A), (B) and (C) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 15:** The Cutter places a second hand on the reins to:

- (A) Stop or back his/her horse after legally quitting a cow.
- (B) Pull his/her horse around after legally quitting a cow.
- (C) To pull his/her horse around while moving through the herd.

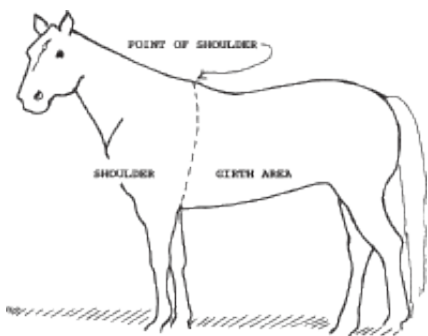
**RULING:** In (A), (B), and (C) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 16:** During the course of a run as the horse makes a turn, the Cutter:

- (A) Cues the horse in the shoulder.
- (B) Attempts to cue the horse in the shoulder but does not make contact with the horse.

**RULING:** In (A), assess a three (3) point penalty; (B), no penalty.

**NOTE:** Cueing behind the shoulder is legal.



## JUDGING RULE 9

If a horse lets an animal that it is working get back in the herd, it will be penalized five (5) points.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter is working a cow that out-maneuvers his/her horse and returns to the herd.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is working a cow that pushes it into the edge of the herd and returns to the herd.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter is working a cow that jumps out of the arena:

(A) between the back fence markers.

(B) outside of the back fence markers.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence (Rule 6). In (B) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The cow being worked is making a strong attempt to return to the herd.

(A) The Cutter quits the cow while his/her horse has the working advantage, but the cow is turning toward the horse.

(B) The Cutter quits the cow after he/she has lost their working advantage. The cow leaves the working area and returns to the herd.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 3).

In (B) assess a one (1) point penalty for loss of working advantage and a five (5) point penalty for a lost cow. Total penalty of six (6) points.

**a. NOTE:** During a monitored three (3) to five (5) judge event: If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).

**b. NOTE:** In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

**EXAMPLE 5:** During the process of cutting, the Cutter starts a large number of cattle around them. As these cattle come around, the Cutter does not step out of the herd and makes no attempt to cut any of them. they allow the cattle to go by and:

(A) turns and starts more cattle around. They cut from these cattle.

(B) turns and rides to these same cattle; starts them back around and makes their cut.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While working a cow, the cow out-maneuvers the horse and it is obvious that the horse is unable to stop the cow from entering the herd. The buzzer sounds before the cow physically enters the herd.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**NOTE:** At the buzzer, loss of cow occurs at the moment the horse can no longer regain its working advantage regardless if the rider's hand is up or down. For a loss to occur during the work, the cow must return to the herd.

## **JUDGING RULE 10**

If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, and the rider has put their hand down, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.

**NOTE:** All reviews on change of cattle must be reviewed at normal speed (no slow motion).

**EXAMPLE 1:** During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter drives a group of cattle away from the herd. Before the Cutter makes an attempt to cut one of these cows, three (3) other cows leave the herd and walk to a position nearby but do not join the first group of cattle.

(A) The Cutter steps to the first group of cattle and cuts one of them.



- (B) The Cutter reins away from the first group toward the second group and cuts one of them.
- (C) The Cutter reins away from the first group toward the second group. The second group trots back to the herd leaving the Cutter without any cattle to cut from.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) no penalty. In (C) assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate a cow (Rule 15). **NOTE:** A Cutter commits to a single animal, not to a group of cattle.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is making a cut. He/she has a group of five (5) cattle in front of them. He/she:

- (A) looks at a brown cow but does not attempt to move his/her horse toward the brown cow. He/she then cuts a red cow.
- (B) moves his/her horse toward a brown cow and reins once to move his/her horse in the direction it starts. He/she then cuts a red cow.
- (C) decides not to cut any of the five and cuts another cow that has walked out from the other side of the herd.
- (D) fails to decide quickly enough and three (3) cows pass by on his/her left side, two (2) cows pass by on their right side, leaving no cows for the Cutter to cut.
- (E) waits until the cows begin to come around him/her in single file. The Cutter then steps, applying a slight pressure to the cattle as they come by. He/she cuts the cow that is most willing to remain in front of him/her.

**RULING:** In (A), (C), and (E) no penalty.

In (B) assess a five (5) point penalty for changing cows.

In (D) assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate a cow (Rule 15).

**NOTE:** A Cutter shall be committed whenever he/she makes two moves to a specific animal. ***One move may also result in commitment to a specific animal when there is separation, and that single move clearly and obviously indicates a specific animal has been selected.***

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter enters the herd near the center and turns to his/her right. They drive one (1) cow out and as that cow moves around him/her, a group of cattle come out of the herd from the left side. The cow that the Cutter is driving is joined by the group of cattle. The Cutter releases their original cow and cuts one of the group.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:** During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter steps toward a cow to stop the flow of cattle. That cow stops and other cattle also stop thereby forming a group of cattle. The Cutter then cuts any cow from that group.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** A judge must allow a Cutter to stop a group of cattle and then cut from that group. In order to stop a group of cattle, the Cutter must stop a cow in the flow of cattle. A judge shall not consider the Cutter visibly committed to that lead cow ***unless there is separation between the lead cow and the rest of the flow***, and the Cutter actually attempts to cut that cow.

**EXAMPLE 5:** During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter steps toward a cow to stop the flow of cattle. That cow stops, thereby forming a group of cattle; the Cutter then moves toward that lead cow so as to visibly commit to it, and then cuts another cow.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty for changing cows.

**EXAMPLE 6:** During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter starts a



group of cattle around them. They select an animal and visibly commits to it. In their attempt to separate that cow from the other cattle:

- (A) the Cutter runs across the pen several times with the cattle and is then able to make his/her cut.
- (B) the cow goes to the back fence with the other cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the middle of the arena and works it.
- (C) the cow goes back into the herd with the group of cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the center of the arena and works it.
- (D) the Cutter goes to the back fence with the cattle and is unable to cut that cow.

**RULING:** In (A) no penalty; however, the point value of the run may be reduced due to the lack of a quiet, clean cut.

In (B) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation (Rule 6). In (C) and (D) assess a five (5) point penalty for a loss (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 7:** During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter starts a group of cattle around his/her. They select an animal and reins his/her horse toward it. For a brief period of time the animal is separated.

- (A) The cow rejoins a group of cattle and runs to the back fence. The Cutter brings the cow back out and continues to work.
- (B) As the herd holders attempt to drive the other cattle away, two (2) cows turn and rejoin the cow that is already cut. The Cutter separates their original cow from the others without the group rejoining the herd or moving to the back fence.
- (C) The cow that is cut runs over and joins a group of cattle that are being moved away by the Cutter's helpers. The Cutter reins his/her horse and cuts the cow away from the others without the group re-joining the herd or moving to the back fence.
- (D) The cow that is cut runs over and joins a group of cattle that are being moved away by the Cutter's helpers. The group of cattle run back into the herd. The Cutter brings the cow out and works it.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation (Rule 6), and a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter reins their horse (Rule 8).

In (B) penalize the Cutter one (1) point each time they rein their horse to reparate the cow (Rule 8). If the Cutter does not cue the horse in any manner, credit shall be given for the horse staying with the original cow.

In (C) assess a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter reins their horse (Rule 8). In (D) assess a five (5) point penalty for a loss (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 8:** The Cutter is working a cow. Another cow that has previously escaped the turnback horses decides to return to the herd. As the returning cow approaches the Cutter,

- (A) his/her horse changes to the returning cow.
- (B) the Cutter anticipates that a change might occur and reins his/her horse to prevent it. The horse's attention is momentarily diverted toward the returning cow, but they do not change cattle.
- (C) his/her horse switches its attention and actually makes a move with the other cow. The Cutter reins the horse back to the original cow.
- (D) the Cutter does not cue his/her horse and the horse does not switch to the returning cow.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a five (5) point penalty.

In (B) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8). In (C) assess a five (5) point penalty for the change and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (D) reward credit to the Cutter. The amount of credit rewarded depends upon the exact circumstances of the situation.

**EXAMPLE 9:** If the Cutter is committed to a cow, but before he/she clear of the herd, or traffic, their horse abruptly attempts to change to a different cow.

(A) The Cutter had not released his/her horse and immediately reined it back.

(B) The Cutter had dropped his/her hand indicating their horse was on the desired cow.

**RULING:** In (A) no penalty.

In (B) assess a five (5) point penalty.

## **JUDGING RULE 11**

When a horse loses its working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position; it will be penalized (a) ½ point, (A) 1 point, or (F) 1 point.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS: Loss of working advantage is defined as:** When a horse goes by a cow to the degree that they lose their position to maintain control of the cow. (A) or (a).

**A miss is defined as:** A response of the horse to the action of the cow being worked, resulting in a loss of working advantage or being out of position. (A) or (a).

**Working out of position is defined as:** The position of the horse in relation to the cow being worked, being consistently either too short or too long in working to control a cow.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow by a horse's length. The cow turns, and it is necessary for the cutter to make a hard run before catching up to the cow.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (A)

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow. The cow turns, the cutter regains their control and working advantage of the cow within a short distance.

**RULING:** Assess a one-half (½) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (a)

**NOTE:** The purpose of these examples is to indicate that all misses are not of equal value. A judge should never go to the lead by ½ point or start their card with a ½ point score.

**EXAMPLE 3:** While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow by a horse's length. The cow turns, the cutter is able to immediately maintain their control and working advantage of the cow.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow-moving cow. The horse that can maintain working advantage over a cow that presents a severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged a horse which immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

**EXAMPLE 4:** While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses its working advantage. The cutter reins the horse back and, after taking several steps, the horse regains its working advantage.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage.

tage (A); also, assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (B). Total penalty of 2 points.

**EXAMPLE 5:** While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses its working advantage. The cow stops and turns away, the cutter quits without regaining its working advantage.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (A).

**NOTE:** The cutter may not avoid a one (1) point penalty for losing their working advantage or being out of position by quitting a cow, even though the quit is legal under Rule 13.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While working, the cutter's horse is extremely long in one direction and extremely short in the other direction. The cutter continues to work in this manner.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point (F) penalty per cow, a minus (-) in controlling a cow and reduce run content accordingly.

**NOTE:** A judge should acknowledge that a loss of working advantage, a miss, and/or working out of position, can result in a minus (-) in run content.

**NOTE:** During a monitored, multiple judged event; If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties were not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one (1) point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).

**EXAMPLE 7:** A horse slips during a run to a point its stomach is on the arena floor but maintains its working position.

**RULING:** No penalty.

## **JUDGING RULE 12**

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Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse actually pawing, biting, or kicking cattle, will be penalized three (3) points.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working a cow, the Cutter's horse opens its mouth and: (A) attempts to bite the cow but does not make contact; (B) bites the cow.

**RULING:** In (A) no penalty.

In (B) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** No penalty should be assessed the horse which only nuzzles a cow with its lips while moving through the herd.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While in the process of moving through the herd to cut a cow, the cutting horse:

- (A) nuzzles a cow.
- (B) attempts to bite a cow but is reined away.
- (C) obviously bites a cow.
- (D) kicks a cow in the herd.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) no penalty. In (C) and (D) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** While working a cow, the Cutter's horse:

- (A) paws a cow.
- (B) strikes with its front foot but misses the cow.
- (C) rears and paws with both front feet but misses the cow.
- (D) kicks at the cow but does not make contact.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty. In (B) no penalty.

In (C) and (D) no penalty, but this type of unusual behavior would definitely detract from the run and cannot have a positive influence on the point value awarded for that run.

**EXAMPLE 4:** During a run, while the Cutter is moving across the arena, his/her horse kicks out with one or both hind legs, or playfully jumps into the air slinging its head and hopping up behind.

**RULING:** No penalty; however, these types of behavior certainly detract from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.

### **JUDGING RULE 13**

A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is obviously behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are behind the timeline. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.

**DEFINITION: “Obviously stopped”** means that in a slow-motion video at  $\frac{1}{16}$ th speed, a cow has all four feet on the ground for five or more seconds. In real time, this is less than one second.

**NOTE:** A judge shall not consider a hot quit until the cutter has stopped working the cow.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working, the Cutter quits a cow that is going across the arena. In the judge’s opinion, the cow was not turned away from the cutting horse at the time of the quit.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** No imaginary line will be considered in applying this rule. The cow’s relationship to the cutting horse (turned away) is the only thing to consider in applying this rule.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working, the Cutter quits a cow that is:

- (A) obviously turned away from their horse.
- (B) obviously turned toward their horse and not stopped.
- (C) obviously turned toward the opposite end of the arena.
- (D) obviously backing.

**RULING:** In (A), (C) and (D) no penalty. In (B) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** When a cow is in an obviously stopped position, and is standing still, and simply picks up one foot and replaces it, the quit would be considered clean. This would not include the final step of a “slow walking” cow.

**EXAMPLE 3:** While working, the Cutter quits the cow that was for a brief time turned away and then turned toward them.

- (A) the judge is certain that the cow had turned toward the Cutter as they quit.
- (B) the judge is certain that the cow was turned away when the Cutter quit.
- (C) the judge is not sure whether the cow was turned away.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty. In (B) and (C) no penalty.

**NOTE:** A judge shall not consider a hot quit until the cutter has stopped working the cow.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter is working a cow that has very little move. The cow makes a few slow turns and then stops, looking at the Cutter. Even though the cow is stopped, it is still moving its head from side to side and the Cutter’s horse is countering these moves. The Cutter quits.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** When a cow comes to an obvious stop, and is standing still, the rider must initiate their quit before the cow’s first foot, not the cow’s head or neck, goes back into motion.

**EXAMPLE 5:** Cutter is working a cow near the center of the pen. The cow

stops while facing the Cutter's horse. As the Cutter is quitting, the cow:

- (A) simply replaces a foot and stands still.
- (B) begins to turn slowly away from the horse.
- (C) starts to back away from the Cutter.
- (D) moves into the Cutter's horse and tries to return to the herd.

**RULING:** In (A), (B) and (C) no penalty. In (D) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 6:** The Cutter is working a cow that takes them deep to the left side of the arena. The cow turns into the Cutter's horse, the Cutter:

- (A) quits the cow in the turn.
- (B) waits to quit until the cow is turned away.

**RULING:** In (A) assess three (3) point penalty. In (B), no penalty.

**NOTE:** Under normal circumstances, when a cow takes a Cutter deep to either side of the arena and the cow turns into their horse, a hot quit will be called; however, if the Cutter waits until the cow has traveled a sufficient distance to clearly show the judge the animal is moving away from their horse, a hot quit will not be charged.

**EXAMPLE 7:** The Cutter is working a cow that is traveling parallel across the arena and moving into the arena wall. As the cow approaches the wall, it slows to a walk and stops momentarily at the wall. The Cutter quits the cow as:

- (A) the cow stops on the wall.
- (B) the cow turns away on the wall.
- (C) the cow stops on the wall, then slowly turns toward the Cutter
- (D) the cow turns into the Cutter at a fast pace.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B), no penalty. In (C) and (D), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** The judge shall consider that a Cutter has quit a cow when they pick up on their reins or places their free hand on their horse's neck, whether the horse stops instantly or not.

**EXAMPLE 8:** The Cutter is working a cow that falls to the ground. The Cutter quits the cow:

- (A) while the cow is lying on the ground.
- (B) after the cow has fallen and is returning to its feet.
- (C) after the cow has returned to its feet and is moving into the horse.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B), no penalty. In (C), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 9:** While working a tough cow, the Cutter picks up their reins to signify that they are quitting the cow. In the judge's opinion the cow was turned away when the Cutter picked up their horse; but by the time the horse actually stopped, the cow had turned back toward the Cutter.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 10:** The cow being worked stops, and the Cutter's horse stops. Both cow and horse are completely still. The Cutter picks up their horse so that it is reasonable to assume that they intend to quit the cow. The cow then moves, and the Cutter's horse counters that move even though there is tension on the bridle reins. The Cutter then continues to pull their horse off the cow.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 11:** While working, the Cutter quits a cow that has run behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are:

- (A) behind the timeline and the cow is turning toward them.
- (B) not behind the timeline and the cow is turning toward them.

**RULING:** In (A), no penalty. In (B), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 12:** While working, the Cutter stays on a cow that has run behind the turnback horses. After the cow has moved back between the Cutter and their turnback horses, the Cutter quits the cow while it is turning toward them.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 13:** The Cutter quits a cow legally. The Cutter then begins to work the same cow again.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** Quitting a cow that turns into the cutting horse will normally result in a three (3) point penalty unless the Cutter waits to quit until the cow has turned away from the cutting horse. On the other hand, under normal circumstances, a Cutter that initiates their quit when the cow turns away from the cutting horse will receive no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 14:** The Cutter is working their cow in the middle of the pen. As the Cutter initiates their quit, by picking up their rein hand and/or reaching for the horse's neck:

- (A) The Cutter realizes that the quit is hot; they immediately put their rein hand down and/or puts their free hand back on the saddle horn. In the next move the cow turns away and the Cutter quits working the cow.
- (B) the Cutter is uncertain if the quit is clean; they immediately put their rein hand down and/or puts their free hand back on the saddle horn, but then decides to quit while the cow is moving into the cutting horse.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining or cueing. In (B) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining or cueing, plus a three (3) point penalty for a hot quit. Total penalty of four (4) points.

- a. **NOTE:** During a monitored three (3) to five (5) judge event: If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).
- b. **NOTE:** In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

**EXAMPLE 15:** Slow Walking Hot Quit

**NOTE:** A cow is considered obviously stopped when it is no longer walking, and all four feet are on the ground and standing still. This would not include the final step of a slow walking cow.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**NOTE:** A cow is still slow walking and has not obviously stopped and the rider initiates a quit while the cow is still moving.

## **JUDGING RULE 14**

If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed. Note: At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The cutter legally quits a cow while in working position. The judge believes that the cutter's horse has lost contact with the cow.

**RULING:** No penalty; however, this should reduce run content.

**NOTE:** It is the judge's responsibility to call what actually happens. A judge shall never anticipate an error.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter's horse goes by a cow that has turned away or stopped, resulting in an obvious loss of working advantage. The horse is obviously not going to stop or turn around without assistance from the rider. The Cutter quits.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter is working, and their horse quits a cow. The Cutter reins and re-starts their horse. The Cutter continues their work.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter's horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves and the horse momentarily remains still. The Cutter does not rein the horse. The horse then turns around late but is able to catch up to the cow.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (being out of position) (Rule 11).

**NOTE:** Even though a horse shows a momentary reluctance to turn or stop with a cow, a quit will not be called if the horse actually turns or stops on its own. If the horse must be reined or stopped by the rider, a five (5) point penalty must be charged.

**EXAMPLE 5:** The Cutter's horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves and the horse remains still. The Cutter reins the horse back to the cow. In the judge's opinion, the Cutter reined the horse because the horse quit the cow.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.

- a. **NOTE:** During a monitored three (3) to five (5) judge event: If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).
- b. **NOTE:** In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

## **JUDGING RULE 15**

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If a horse clears the herd with one (1) or more cattle and fails to separate a single animal before quitting, a five (5) point penalty will be charged. There is no penalty if time expires.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter is attempting to make a cut. When they select the cow they want, another cow refuses to separate from the cow selected. The Cutter goes back and forth across the pen several times. Finally, the Cutter decides that the situation is impossible and quits.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is working and:

- (A) at the fault of the Cutter, they pick up additional cattle. The Cutter quits their cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.
- (B) at no fault of the Cutter, they pick up additional cattle. The Cutter quits their cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.



**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle (Rule 5.b.). In (B) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter has a cow separated far enough from a group that they are able to release their horse and begin working. Before the herd holders are able to return the other cattle to the herd. One cow runs back and rejoins the cow being worked. The Cutter legally quits their cow without re-separating the animals.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** Rule 15 applies only while the Cutter is making a cut. Once a cow is separated from the herd, the Cutter has satisfied the requirements of Rule 15.

**EXAMPLE 4:** Before the Cutter can separate a cow on their third cut, the buzzer sounds.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 5:** During the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cows in front of them. After clearly committing to one of these cows, the cow they committed to turns and runs past the turnback horses and the other cow(s) remain. The Cutter:

- (A) stops their horse and returns to the herd to make another cut.
- (B) positions their horse and waits for the remaining cow(s) and begins to work.
- (C) holds their horse and waits for their original cow to be returned to the working area and then begins to work this cow.

**RULING:** In (A), (B) and (C), no penalty.

**NOTE:** A Cutter may legally quit a cow under any circumstances so long as the cow is behind both turnback horses (provided the turnback horses are behind the timeline) or the cow has left the working area. At that point in time, the Cutter may begin to work any cow in front of them or return to the herd and select another cow. The timeline will be visibly marked.

**EXAMPLE 6:** The Cutter is attempting to make a cut. They commit to a cow in a group of cattle. His/her horse does not:

- (A) respond to the Cutter and the cow returns to the herd with the group of cattle.
- (B) respond to the Cutter immediately, but they are able to stop the cow before it returns to the herd.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a five (5) point penalty. In (B), no penalty; however, the point value of the run may be reduced due to the lack of a quiet, clean cut.

**NOTE:** Any time a Cutter commits to a specific animal and fails to cut the same animal, a five (5) point penalty will be charged.

**EXAMPLE 7:** During the process of cutting, the Cutter starts a large number of cattle around them. As these cattle come around, the Cutter moves toward the cattle so that it is reasonable to assume that they are attempting to cut one of them. The cattle all trot past them; they then return to the herd and drives some more cattle out and makes their cut.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate.

**NOTE:** After a Cutter moves away from the herd driving a group of cattle in front of them, they must cut a cow before re-entering the herd.

## **JUDGING RULE 16**

Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. All bridles on horses must have split reins. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. Braided rawhide balls across the horse's

nose are not permissible. A judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse's nose. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat, or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where an NCHA approved or sponsored event is being held. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible. Leather curb straps or curb chains must be at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch in width and must be attached to the bit by nylon string, nylon straps, or leather straps. Decorative knots, rawhide balls or tassels are not permitted on curb devices. Breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal. Chaps and spurs may be worn. A competing horse's tail cannot be tied in any manner which would restrict movement of the tail. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to them if they are suspicious of any infraction of this rule and also the Standing Rule 35.A.1 – Zero Tolerance Policy. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, they shall be disqualified.

- a. All horses must comply with Rule 16 while in the arena.
- b. Any person horseback in the arena (both in and outside the working area) after the start of an NCHA approved weekend or LAE or NCHA sponsored event must wear western attire including hats. The hat requirement may be waived, both in and outside of the working area of the arena, at outdoor shows in extreme weather conditions with the consent of both show management and the judge(s). Contestants must wear long sleeved shirts with collars and buttons or snaps completely down the shirt front. Tank tops, T-shirts, and all types of sweat-shirts are not permissible. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Long sleeves must be worn rolled down. Under the advance approval of show management, safety helmets are permissible in place of a western hat. Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of Show Management and NCHA Directors.
  1. Cell phone use will not be allowed by herd settler or by one of the four helpers when the judges are in the stands. The herd settler cannot be on the phone at any time.
  2. Judges are not allowed to use their cell phone while in the judges' stand.
- c. Rule 16 shall become effective one (1) hour prior to the published starting time of championship and jackpot cuttings. At limited age events and other special events approved by NCHA, Rule Sixteen shall become effective one hour prior to the published starting time each day and shall remain in effect until one hour after each day's performance is concluded. An announcement will be made each day when the rule goes into effect, but not hearing the announcement will not be a valid excuse for violating the rule. Alleged violations will be sent to the Grievance Committee for review.
- d. Rule 16 may be set aside by show management for an official practice session provided that the practice session ends at least one hour prior to the start of any performance.
- e. Contestants are limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers on horseback at a time.
- f. If an Officer, Director, or duly elected or appointed contestant's representative of the NCHA witnesses a violation of Standing

Rule 16, they must report the violation immediately to the Association Executive Director

- g. Violations of Rule 16b, c, d, e & h shall result in:
1. First offense—\$200 fine.
  2. Second offense—\$500 fine.
  3. Third and subsequent offenses within 12 months - 90-day suspension.
- h. Any member seeking approval to use an electronic hearing device during an NCHA approved contest must meet or exceed the minimum criteria for hearing impairment, based on the results of an audiogram administered by a licensed physician.
1. A letter requesting the use an electronic hearing device must be submitted to NCHA, along with the member's audiogram results.
  2. The transmitter of the device must be one of the contestant's four (4) helpers.
  3. The user of an electronic hearing device can be required to be tested by an NCHA appointed physician if a complaint or protest arises in connection with the user's degree of hearing impairment.

**EXAMPLE 1:** During a work, the judge suspects that the hackamore is too tight.

**RULING:** At the completion of the work, the judge shall examine the hackamore. If the judge can pass two fingers completely around the horse's nose under the hackamore, no penalty. If the hackamore is, in fact, illegal, the Cutter must be disqualified.

**NOTE:** In the event a contestant is disqualified for illegal equipment, it is the responsibility of the judge to report the incident to the judging department.

**EXAMPLE 2:** During a work, the judge suspects that a training device is being used.

**RULING:** At the completion of the work, the judge shall examine the Cutter's bridle. If the bridle is found to be illegal, the Cutter shall be disqualified.

**NOTE:** In the event a rider's equipment breaks during a horse's performance, the horse will be permitted to complete its allotted time and shall be scored in accordance with the other NCHA Rules for Judging Cutting Horses. (Reruns shall not be granted for equipment failure.)

## **JUDGING RULE 17**

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When a contestant is thrown from a horse or the horse falls to the ground, the run shall be terminated, and no score (0) will be given.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working a cow, the Cutter falls from their horse one minute into the work.

**RULING:** The judge shall stop the run and score the run zero (0).

**NOTE:** A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working a cow, the Cutter's horse falls to the ground. The Cutter gets up and leads their horse out of the working area.

**RULING:** Automatic score of zero (0) points will be given for leaving the working area before time expires.

**NOTE:** If the contestant leaves the working area before time expires after either the Cutter and/or horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of zero (0) shall be given. (See Rule 18).

**NOTE:** A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.

### **JUDGING RULE 18**

Any rider who allows their horse to quit working, leaves the working area before their allotted time is up or refuses to work will be disqualified for that go-round with no score.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter loses a cow and decides to retire from the herd and rides out, or stops working, (***does not attempt to cut or reenter the herd***) before the end of his/her time.

**RULING:** The run shall be scored zero (0).

**EXAMPLE 2:** After working their first cow, the Cutter dismounts and tightens his/her cinch or picks up an object from the ground. They then remount and completes his/her run.

**RULING:** Score the run zero (0). The Cutter has allowed their horse to quit working after his/her time has started.

### **JUDGING RULE 19**

A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the judge or judges' opinion 2½ minutes time was not allotted for the work or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those caused by the contestants or their help and the judge or judges have stopped the time. Such factors would include gates coming open, fences falling down and objects entering or falling into the working portion of the arena but would not apply to cattle scattering through wildness or normal arena a occur before a change of cattle is executed. At the contestant's option, the rework may occur immediately or as the last work in that set of cattle. No rework shall be granted if the contestant involved has incurred a three (3) or five (5) point (major) penalty prior to a disturbance. After the cutter has completed their 2½ minutes work, if in their opinion a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness so as to warrant a rerun, they may immediately make a request for the same or to the designated judge or judges who shall report this fact to show management before the next horse is called to work. Show management shall make such facts as are available known to the judge(s) and if the majority are in agreement that due cause did exist a return may be granted provided the original work was free of a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) infraction. If the clock has not started, a rework will automatically be granted.

**Short Clock:** ***A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if the run was free of a major penalty at the sound of the buzzer or time was called.***

**Rework:** The contestant must ask the judge or judges for a rework before the next horse crosses the timeline.

**Long Clock or No Clock:** A rework will be automatically granted whether or not a major penalty has occurred. The contestant must take a rework.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While the Cutter is working, it becomes apparent to the judge that they have worked longer than 2½ minutes.

- (A) The run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction when the judge realized that the Cutter had worked for longer than 2½ minutes.
- (B) The judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty before they realized that the Cutter had worked for longer than 2½ minutes.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) the judge shall grant a rerun.

**NOTE:** It would be difficult to determine in some instances whether

the major infraction occurred before or after the actual 2½ minutes had expired; therefore, in this instance only, the Cutter shall receive a rerun.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The buzzer sounds ending a run. In the judge's opinion, the Cutter worked for less than 2½ minutes.

(A) At the time the buzzer sounded, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

(B) Before the buzzer sounded, the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:** In (A) the judge shall grant a rerun.

In (B) the judges shall confer. If a majority of the judges had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction, no rerun shall be granted, and the Cutter shall receive a score of zero (0).

**Excessive Disturbance** – If a disturbance has been created by factors other than by the contestant or the help of the contestant and the judge or judges have stopped the clock or at the completion of the contestant's time, a contestant may immediately make a request for a rework to the designated judge or judges who shall report this request to show management before the next horse is called to work. Show management shall communicate such request to the judge or judges immediately. If the majority are in agreement that due cause did in fact exist a rework may be granted provided the original work was free of a 3 or 5 point major infraction before the disturbance occurred.

***Disturbance is defined as "any departure from normal; anything that disturbs; commotion; disorder"***

**EXAMPLE 3:** A Cutter is working their third cow and the gate behind the cattle comes open, or the cattle push the pen down.

(A) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

(B) At the time of the disturbance, the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:** In (A) the judge shall stop the run and grant a rerun. The Cutter has the right to choose whether they want to work again immediately or at the end of their set of cattle.

In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**NOTE:** The judge has the sole right to terminate a run.

**NOTE:** The show management should make every effort to ensure that gate latches are secure and that the pen is strong enough to hold the cattle.

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter is last to work in a group of cattle, and the gate comes open.

(A) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

(B) At the time of the disturbance, the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:** In (A) the judge shall stop the run and grant a rerun. The Cutter must work in the same group of cattle. In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**EXAMPLE 5:** In a contest using two or more judges, a judge terminates a run for the purpose of granting a rerun. The other judge(s) do not agree that the run should have been stopped.

**RULING:** (A) If two (2) judges are being used, a rerun will be granted. (B) If three or more judges are used and a majority of the judges has assessed a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) penalty before the time was stopped, no rerun will be granted.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While the Cutter is working, a judge falls out of the judging stand, or the judging stand collapses, or the stand over-turns.

- (A) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- (B) The judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction at the time of the disturbance.

**RULING:** In (A) the judge shall stop the run and grant a rerun. In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**NOTE:** In (B) the fallen judge shall mark the remainder of this run from the ground.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE TO SECRETARIES AND TIMERS:**

The judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a work prior to the 2½-minute buzzer. The Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s) immediately if the clock has not been started or malfunctions.

**EXAMPLE 7:** While the Cutter is working, a small dog runs back and forth beneath the judge's stand(s) distracting the cow which has been cut out and causing it to ignore the Cutter's horse. The Cutter immediately appeals for a rework after time expires.

- (A) The Cutter's run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- (B) The Cutter's run contained a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:** In (A) the Cutter may be granted a rework if a majority of the judges agreed that there was due cause.

In (B) no rework can be granted since the run contained a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty.

### **JUDGING RULE 20**

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A judge marks from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (½) points are permissible.

**EXAMPLE:** The first horse in a contest works. The judge cannot decide whether to mark the run a 73 or 74. The judge decides to mark the run 73½.

**RULING:** Legal. The judge may mark any run they choose using one-half points; however, the reason for the one-half point is to allow the judge to differentiate between runs. It is, therefore, not desirable to begin one's scorecard with a one-half point marking.

**NOTE:** Judges are encouraged to use a full spread of scores in judging a contest. It is highly unlikely that in a class of twenty-five horses ten horses would have identical works and be marked the same score; however, many cutting horse contests conclude with several of the horses that place sharing the same scores because judges did not assess a high enough point value to those good runs that occur early in the contest. By using a full spread of scores, the remaining horses in the contest are more likely to place in the positions earned by their performance.

### **JUDGING RULE 21**

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When the judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit always goes to the contestant. Penalties:

- (a) 1 point—(miss) losing working advantage (11)
- (b) 1 point—reined or visibly cued (8)
- (c) 1 point—noise directed to cattle (5a)
- (d) 1 point—toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder (8d)
- (e) 1 point—hold on too long on a cut (8a)
- (f) 1 point—working out of position
- (g) 1 point—hand too far forward

- (a) 3 points—hot quit (13)
- (b) 3 points—cattle picked up or scattered (5b)
- (c) 3 points—second hand on reins (8b)
- (d) 3 points—cue in shoulder (8c)
- (e) 3 points—pawing or biting cattle (12)
- (f) 3 points—failure to make a deep cut (1)
- (g) 3 points—back fence (6)
- (a) 5 points—horse quitting a cow (14)
- (b) 5 points—losing a cow (9)
- (c) 5 points—changing cattle after a specific commitment (10)
- (d) 5 points—failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd (15)

60—if horse turns tail (7)

0—if horse falls to ground (17)

Disqualification (score 0)—illegal equipment, or leaves working area before time expires.

**EXAMPLES 1.** The Cutter is working and quits a cow.

- (A) The judge is certain that the quit was illegal.
- (B) The judge is not certain whether the quit was illegal.
- (C) The judge cannot see the quit because the turnback horse is in their line of vision.

**RULING:** In (A) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 3). In (B) consider the quit legal.

In (C) consider the quit legal. A judge must never guess or anticipate when making a call.

**NOTE: A GOOD RULE OF THUMB:** A judge is duty-bound to call all penalties. If a penalty occurs, call it. If the judge must ask themselves, “Was that a penalty?” the benefit goes to the Cutter. Cutting horse runs are seldom identical. A judge can determine the difference in cutting runs by following these guidelines.

#### 1. GIVE CREDIT

- A. for entering the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the animal brought out (Rule 1).
- B. for taking an animal toward the center of the arena (Rule 2).
- C. for driving a cow, a sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by the contestant’s work (Rule 2).
- D. or setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible (Rule 4).

**NOTE:** Horse Charging – While working, the cutter’s horse consistently applies pressure on the cow being worked, either through their turnarounds or while traveling across the arena; thereby forcing the cow being worked further away from the herd until they no longer have a working advantage.

A horse charging certainly detracts from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.

**NOTE:** Force off of a Cow – Any time a contestant must quit a cow because their horse is in an incorrect working position.

Being forced off of a cow definitely detracts from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.

**NOTE:** A herd holder’s duty is to assist the Cutter in containing the



herd and group of cattle the Cutter is trying to cut from. This gives the Cutter ample opportunity to demonstrate to the judges their ability to work the herd, drive a cow, and set a cow up in the middle of the pen. These conditions allow a judge to reward credit to the Cutter under Rules 1a, 2 and 4. After assisting the Cutter in making a cut, the herd holder should move to a position toward the arena wall that will enable them to contain the herd, but not distract from the run. Any excessive action by the herd holder will be dealt with as a reduction in run content. Although there is no specific major penalty for this action, it does hinder the Cutter's horse from showing their full potential. Therefore, judges will begin reducing run content when excessive help from herd holders affects the run, such as: saving a major penalty from occurring; cutting the pen down; and in fresh cattle, driving the herd out for the Cutter to cut from. Herd holders should keep in mind they are jeopardizing the Cutter's score when they give too much assistance to the Cutter.

**EXAMPLE a.** In fresh cattle, as a Cutter enters the herd, one or both of the herd holders gets behind the cattle so that it is obvious to the judge that the herd holders are doing as much or more to drive the cattle out as the cutter is.

**RULING:** The run content of the run will be reduced.

**EXAMPLE b.** In a late class at a weekend show, the cattle are reruns and have become very difficult to move away from the back fence. Both herd holders assist the Cutter in moving the cattle out far enough to make a cut.

**RULING:** No reduction of run content.

**EXAMPLE c.** In rerun cattle, the Cutter receives no excessive help from their herd holders and is able to drive the cattle out on their own to make a cut.

**RULING:** Credit should be received, and the run content increased.

**EXAMPLE d.** In rerun cattle, the Cutter walks their horse to the back edge of the herd and stops. While the Cutter is sitting still the herd holder on the opposite side rides in behind the cattle and drives them away from the back fence. When the cattle are a sufficient distance out, the herd holder moves out from behind the cattle and allows the cutter to move up and make their cut.

**RULING:** The run content of the run will be reduced.

**EXAMPLE c.** After the cut is made, the herd holder does not move their horse to a position on the arena wall but stops in a position several feet off the wall. The herd holder is not moving but it is obvious to the judge that the cow being worked is being influenced by the presence of the herd holder's horse.

**RULING:** The run content of the run will be reduced.

**EXAMPLE f.** As the Cutter leaves the arena wall with a cow, the herd holder on the opposite side believes the Cutter's path may cause the herd to split. They ride their horse out into the arena to a position that will prevent this from happening.

**RULING:** No reduction in run content. The herd holder has the right to position themselves so that the herd will not scatter.

**EXAMPLE g.** While a Cutter is working, the herd holder is sitting in the corner. As the Cutter and cow approach the corner, the herd holder:

1. remains in position but moves their horse slightly.
2. comes out of the corner in an obvious attempt to stop or turn the cow.

**RULING:** 1. No reduction in run content.

2. Run content will be reduced.

**EXAMPLE h.** The Cutter has worked a cow for several seconds and

needs to get off. The cow is obviously not going to turn away without some assistance.

1. As the cow approaches the side, with the Cutter in working position, the herd holder moves their horse up to turn the cow away.
2. The Cutter has lost control of the cow and is out of position when the herd holder turns the cow away.

**RULING:** 1. No reduction in run content.

2. The point value of the run will be reduced.

**EXAMPLE i.** After a miss, it is obvious to the judge that the Cutter is about to lose or back fence a cow. The herd holder moves their horse to prevent this from happening.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for the miss (Rule 11) and reduce run content for excessive herd help.

2. Consider the degree of difficulty of the run. Degree of difficulty is determined by the amount of effort exerted by the cow in its attempt to return to the herd. A cow that turns quickly and moves rapidly is more difficult to hold in a working position than a cow that turns and moves slowly. A judge must give credit when a Cutter is able to hold a working position on a tough cow.
3. Consider the eye appeal of the run. Runs that are attractive because of the style of the horse and the correctness of the overall performance shall receive credit.
4. Consider the amount of courage shown by the Cutter. A judge shall give credit for a Cutter staying on a tough cow. Credit shall be rewarded for a Cutter coming off the fence with a cow and then establishing a working position near the center of the arena before quitting the cow.

**NOTE:** Coming off the fence in an attempt to set up a cow in the center of the arena before quitting and staying on a tough cow are high risk situations. If a rule infraction occurs in these situations, a judge must call it; therefore, the Cutter who shows this type of courage and commits no rule infractions, shall receive credit.

5. Consider the amount of time that the Cutter actually spends working cattle during the 2½-minute run. A Cutter shall be rewarded credit for his/her willingness to exhibit his/her horse actually working cattle. Obvious stalling in the herd or reluctance to cut a cow to allow time to run off the clock shall have a negative influence on the total point value of the run.

**NOTE:**

- (A) Run content is a numerical evaluation (60-80) based on a running analysis of what actually occurs during the work, without regard to penalty.
- (B) Guideline for evaluating a work. The judge will start judging each horse when the Cutter's time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of (70). The run will conclude at the first sound of the buzzer. The Cutter's run content will be based upon compliance with credit situations. Numerical value of run content will fluctuate up or down (60-80) throughout the run. Run content may be decreased without actual occurrence of a penalty. Actual occurrence of major penalties will only be deducted at the conclusion of the run.

At any point in the run a judge should be able to ascribe a numerical value based on the above standard. The standard is run content, a numerical value, minus penalties equal the score.

Run content is a numerical value - penalties = score

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter works two cows and is attempting to cut their third cow when the buzzer sounds. **RULING:** The Cutter may work any number of cattle that they choose.

**NOTE:** No penalty exists for “dying in the herd.” The judge shall, however, always consider the amount of time spent working when marking a run. It is possible that the Cutter who “dies in the herd” actually did more work than the Cutter who is working at the buzzer.

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working his/her first cow, it becomes evident to the judge that the Cutter has started a spectacular run. The degree of difficulty is high. The eye appeal of the run is high. The Cutter is demonstrating a high degree of courage. The Cutter cuts a tough second cow and begins to work it. He/she goes past on a turn losing working position and has to take several steps before regaining it. Two turns later he/she loses his/her working position again and reins his/her horse to aid it in its recovery. He/she is able to quit the cow legally. He/she cuts a tough third cow and holds the cow in a working position until the buzzer sounds. In the judge’s opinion, the run has an original point value of 76.

**RULING:** Subtract three (3) one (1) point penalties, one (1) point for each time the Cutter actually lost their working position and one (1) point for reining.  $76 - 3 = 73$

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter has a run that in the judge’s opinion has an original point value of 73. Just prior to the buzzer sounding, the Cutter lost a cow.

**RULING:** Subtract a five (5) point penalty from the original point value.  $73 - 5 = 68$

**EXAMPLE 4:** The Cutter has a run that in the judge’s opinion has an original point value of 74. The run was penalty free.

**RULING:** Record the score as 74.

**EXAMPLE 5:** Cutter A cuts cleanly and works two cows. They hold both cows very near the center of the arena. Both of the cows worked by Cutter A are slow and neither makes much effort to return to the herd. Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. They hold their first cow very near the center of the arena. They cut their second cow cleanly but work it almost entirely on the right one-third of the arena. The first cow worked by Cutter B is slow and makes very little effort to return to the herd. The second cow moves rapidly and turns quickly in its attempt to return to the herd. Both Cutter A and Cutter B have penalty free runs.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit than Cutter A. A judge must always consider the degree of difficulty in a run. While Cutter A more nearly fulfills the requirements of Rule 4 by holding their cattle near the center of the arena, Cutter B must receive a higher score because the degree of difficulty of their run is much higher than that of Cutter A.

**EXAMPLE 6:** Cutter A and Cutter B have runs that in the judge’s opinion have similar degrees of difficulty. Cutter B’s run is more attractive than Cutter A’s. The style of their horse is more appealing to watch than that of Cutter A’s.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit because the eye appeal of their run is higher than that of Cutter A’s.

**EXAMPLE 7:** Cutter A is working a cow that runs to the fence and turns away from their horse. They stay on that cow and is able to establish a working position on the cow near the center of the arena. Cutter A then

holds that cow for two (2) turns and quits legally. Cutter B is working a cow that runs to the fence and turns away from their horse. Cutter B stays on that cow and the cow runs all the way across the arena and turns away. The Cutter stays with that cow again and legally quits it when it turns away on the other fence. Cutter B was not able to contain the cow in the center of the arena after coming off the fence.

**RULING:** Cutter A shall receive more credit than Cutter B. Even though Cutter B demonstrated courage in coming off the fence with the cow, the results of the courage did not positively influence the point value of the run. To be eligible for credit, the Cutter must establish a working position and contain the cow near the center of the arena after coming off the fence.

**EXAMPLE 8:** Cutter A has a run that is high in degree of difficulty, but low in eye appeal. Cutter B has a run that is high in eye appeal, but low in degree of difficulty. Cutter C has a run that has a moderate degree of difficulty and a moderate amount of eye appeal.

**RULING:** Cutter C shall be placed the highest. His/her run is more complete. It has a degree of difficulty with eye appeal. Cutter A shall be placed between C and B. The degree of difficulty is more valuable to the point value of a run than is eye appeal.

**EXAMPLE 9:** In the judge's opinion. Cutter A and Cutter B have similar runs. The degree of difficulty, the amount of eye appeal, the amount of courage are each very similar. Cutter A actually spends more time working cattle during the 2½-minute period than did Cutter B.

**RULING:** Cutter A shall receive more credit than Cutter B.

### **All NCHA Championship Shows must use SAMS (Self Adjusted Monitor System)**

It is imperative that the system be announced prior to the start of the show.

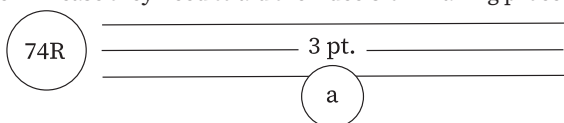
- I. There will be no adjustment to the following:
  - A. No change in run content.
  - B. No change in one (1) point penalties.
  - C. No review of any run not reported to the announcer at the time the judge calls in their score.
- II. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or a five (5) point penalty is in question on the judge's card. The judge must report the score and indicate that a review will take place on that particular score. For instance, if a horse has a completed run with run content score of 74 and has incurred a three (3) point infraction, they must designate the specific infraction in the appropriate penalty box.

3 pt.	5 pt.
a	

If the judge wishes to review the penalty, they will report the score as follows to the announcer: "74R"

The announcer must announce "74R" for the review to be valid, and this announcement must be made when the run is complete and before the next run takes place. It is the judge's responsibility to be sure the call indicating the "R" is announced. At the same time, they record their score with the "R", they circle the penalty to indicate where the review will be made. The score on their card would appear:

All reviews should be made during a cattle change, but in no case will the review be permitted to take place during the following class. A judge must resolve any and all reviews in that particular class before moving on to the next class. A judge should have an NCHA Rule Book with them in case they need to aid their decision-making process. If the



judge, after reviewing the video, decides that their score must be lowered based on the penalty review, they do the following:

- A. He leaves the original mark for the horse and circle in place. They do not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.
- B. Next to the original score and circle they indicate the new score and initials same. If there is no room on that horse's score line, a judge may use the bottom of his/her judge's sheet or the back of his/her score sheet to record the "adjusted" score and initial the change. Under no circumstances should the judge use another piece of paper or any other means to indicate a change of score. If the judge does not change the original score, they shall initial it within the circle. The judge then turns their score sheet into the announcer (show management) and the announcer will make the following statement:

Horse #19, Docs Tommy, has a score of 74 (if no adjustment) or 71 if adjusted."

If there are more adjustments in that group of cattle, each announcement will be the same.

Under this system, it is imperative that the elected representative and show management enforce each and every rule pertaining to "judge-contestant" contact. If any contact is made with the judge by a contestant over the review process before, during or after the process, the cutter will be excused from the arena, all entry fees forfeited, and the judge will file an immediate letter with the NCHA stating the situation and all related facts. The system is being implemented not only as aid to assist the judge but also to provide the contestant with a fairer and more accurate score.

To aid this system, show management must provide video equipment by which the review process can take place. Any system will work as long as it provides a clear picture and is consistent for all contestants. The procedure has been designed to add an element of fairness to our judging system and the better the review process and equipment, the easier the review becomes.

At the judge's discretion, this system may be used in any cutting class.

Judges should approach the use of the system as an aid to their overall success in placing horses in the correct order. The following is offered to all judges based on our successful NCHA monitor system that is currently in place at all NCHA sponsored events and is being used by many Affiliates at their aged events and/or major circuits.

### **Summary of "SAMS"**

1. Deal with the three (3) and five (5) point penalties only. You are never to rejudge the run or the run content or adjust any one (1) point penalties.
2. Make your call after careful thought process and move on to the next review. Do not dwell on the call. Our current system has

- taught us that after three reruns of the same situation the judge should have a working knowledge and basis in fact for a decision.
3. Rule 21 is in the Rule Book to determine in favor of the cutter if a penalty situation does not have an absolute conclusion. However, it is important that Rule 21 is used as an aid, not a crutch. If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.
  4. Do not let the review process affect your concentration or confidence. All judges will make an error, and the review process, along with the Judge Casebook, will increase your capacity to make the correct call when the situation reoccurs. The goal of any judging system is to put the money and horses in the proper order.
  5. The penalty review will not have any impact on the run content except to add or subtract the penalty value (3 or 5 points) to the score.

To recap, here are the important points:

- a. Record your score as normal. Designate the appropriate penalty for reviews.
- b. Communicate your score to the announcer.  
i.e., 74R

3 pt.	5 pt.
a	

- c. Review the major penalty only; 3 or 5 points as designated.
- d. Use the judge casebook, if necessary, to aid your decision.
- e. Complete the reviews and make the class complete before moving to the next class.

In the event of equipment failure, all scores reviewed or not reviewed will remain official, and the judge continues to mark their card in the normal fashion.

- III. A. Two or three judges—one uses the “R”, and the other(s) did not: The judge(s) marking the “R” will review the situation first. If the judge(s) do not change their score, the other judge(s) will not be required to look at the run. If the judge(s) change the score, then the other judge(s) will be required to review the situation. If the decision of the judge that called the “R” results in the difference of a major penalty between the judges; the other judge (s) will be required to review the situation. This should be done totally separate with no communication between the judges during the reviews.
- B. Two or three judges—no “R” is called: The judge with the highest rating and most credits has the responsibility to communicate with the show secretary to review each judge’s score card to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points) to be reviewed.
- IV. The NCHA does not allow the use of the “self-review” system where more than three judges are being used. The NCHA has trained and qualified a number of “field monitors” available at an affordable cost to monitor large shows. With three or more judges, the system has difficulty because of the many review situations created and the time factor involved. A “field” or “staff” monitor can be used with much greater efficiency.

The “SAMS” is a positive step toward better NCHA judging and more

accurate placing of horses. The goal of the NCHA judging system has been and remains the proper purse distribution based on credits and penalties.

If you have any questions about the system or its use, please contact the NCHA judging office, and we will attempt to answer all inquiries.

**Attention Show Management:** In order for the judge to use the Self Adjusted Monitor System you must provide an isolated location for the judge to review the runs in question. The room is to include a good-sized TV, video player and NCHA Casebook.

Under no condition is a judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants or other judges.

### **Guidelines for Weekend Monitors for US, Canadian and European Judges**

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1. Judges may communicate with their Field Monitors during a show for purposes of Rule Book clarification only. No videos shall be shown to the Weekend Field Monitor during the show.
2. All Judges are required to leave the show with a copy of the judge sheets, a copy of the video of all classes judged and a copy of the Weekend Monitor's Report from the Videographer.
3. Judges are required to communicate with the respective Field Monitor prior to mailing the DVDs and judges sheets.
4. A Judge is required to mail a copy of the judge sheets and video to the assigned field Monitor no later than the Wednesday after the weekend judges.
5. Judges are required to be available for communication with the respective Field Monitor for a minimum of fourteen days from end of a show.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the Weekend Field Monitor Program will result in: 1st offense - letter of reprimand  
2nd offense - \$100 fine  
3rd offense - \$300 fine  
4th offense - removal from the NCHA Judges List

### **Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System**

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The Adjusted Monitor System (AMS) is a system that has been designed to make judging equally fair for each contestant. The AMS is required to be used with five judges and may be used with three judge show. In the five-judge system, the high and low scores will be discarded. The following guidelines are to be used by the monitors who will be administering the Adjusted Monitor System.

1. First and foremost, the monitor is not the judge, but is there in the capacity to monitor and make rulings on major penalty discrepancies, based on reviewing film and using the "NCHA Judging Casebook of Rules and Regulations for Judging Cutting Horse Contests."
2. Monitor(s) may talk to contestants and owners about a particular run or penalty provided the Director of Judges or a designated non-contestant liaison is present. The monitor(s) will be allowed to watch the show in a designated area. They will not talk to contestants or owners beyond the exchange of normal greetings during the show.
3. The monitor(s) will deal only with three and five-point penalty discrepancies in the judges cards.
4. The monitor(s) will be concerned with obvious penalties. All other calls will be ruled as judgment calls.



5. Procedure of the monitor:
  - a. The monitor(s) look at the judges' cards for three or five-point penalty difference. In the event the judges are split on a particular penalty, then the work is reviewed on film, and is then ruled on by applying the "Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Shows" found in the NCHA Rule Book.
  - b. If the monitor(s) are in full agreement that the rule in question was violated or not violated, then the judge in error will be asked to the monitor room. If the monitor(s) are split on the rule in question, Rule 21 is applied.
  - c. If the judge charged a penalty, the judge will be asked to show the monitor where they charged the penalty in that run.
  - d. If the judge did not charge a penalty, then the penalty will be shown to the judge.
  - e. In either case, the judge can see the situation as many times as they wish, and if they request any clarification of the rule in question, then it is given to them from the Rule Book and casebook examples.
  - f. If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one-point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty.
  - g. At this time, the judge has the opportunity to change their score or leave their score as originally marked. In no way is the judge intimidated or encouraged into changing their score or leaving their score as originally marked.
  - h. If the judge wishes to change their score, an affidavit is signed by the judge signifying the penalty, and the score is adjusted by the amount of that penalty from a to a.

**EXAMPLE:**

Go Round \_\_\_\_\_ Group of Cattle \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_

Horse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

three point penalty     five point penalty

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- i. Monitor(s) will be given the authority to educate a judge after they have signed their penalty slip and made their decision on a call when there is obvious misapplication of a rule violation.
6. The monitor(s) will have full use of video equipment, including video replay, slow motion, and wide angle or overhead film to determine each infraction in question.
  - A. If a monitor finds a penalty to be ruled inconclusive due to video evidence; the run will not be reviewed by a judge or judges. (Inconclusive film evidence). If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.
7. There will be no inquiries, runs will be reviewed on the basis outlined in 5a. However, contestants may ask to review a run

- in question with the Director of Judges or with a liaison and the monitor(s).
8. If there are no discrepancies on the judges' cards, the run will not be reviewed, except for the evaluation of judges during go-rounds. Four or five runs will be looked at in each bunch of cattle.
  9. The monitor(s) will not review one-point penalties; however, they may review any run with a judge where there are clear misapplications of multiple obvious one-point penalties.
    - A. Scores of 195 and below, in a go round, will not be reviewed.
  10. All reviews with judges will be audio recorded.
  11. Once the scores are adjusted, show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.
  12. Penalty Analysis Sheet:
  13. In the finals, only scores of 181 and higher will be reviewed or adjusted.
  14. Under this system, only the total combined scores, after throwing out the high and low, will be displayed only to the public by a scoreboard, not visible to the judges. Scores should not be announced.

### **Judge Challenge System**

The Challenge System is to be used at all LAE monitored events (excluding World Series of Cutting events).

The Challenge system gives a contestant the opportunity to challenge a judging decision. When all five judges call the same major penalty, the contestant can request a review on their run. Only the contestant can challenge their own run. The challenge cost is \$1,000 and must be submitted by a completed form and payment to the show management prior to the start of the next go-round.

In the event the challenge occurs from a finals, the challenge must be submitted to show management before the results are made official. If the challenge proves to be legitimate, then the contestant will be refunded their \$1,000. If it is not, and the judges leave their original ruling, then the NCHA will retain the \$1,000.

If the contestant's score is changed by the judges and is high enough to advance to the next go-round, it will advance and work in its pre-drawn position. The extra horse will be added into that round, but the bubble score required to advance to the next round will never be changed.

If the next round is a semifinals or finals round, the contestant will be hand-drawn into the round, never changing the bubble score.

Both monitors and all five judges will review all challenges submitted.

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