

# **2017 Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations**

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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 rules contained herein have been considered and approved by the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association.

These 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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# Changes in the 2017 NCHA Rule Book

Throughout this book, new rules and updates to rules are indicated in bold italic type.

The following important changes have been made to the Rule Book's content this year, but this list is not comprehensive:

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## Foreword

The National Cutting Horse Association was founded to promote and regulate the showing of cutting horses in the contest arena. It continues to have a very bright future in its capacity as a non-profit organization dedicated to the cause of the cutting horse, whether on the ranch or in the show arena. Since its inception in the spring of 1946 when a group of ranchers and cowboys got together at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, it has rapidly developed into a worldwide organization. The main objective of the Association continues to be the development of standard methods for the equitable conduct of cutting horse contests.

The cutting horse is a ranch necessity. Rules on the ranch are not a necessity. In the contest arena, however, rules are needed in order to have a uniform means of judging horses and to give contestants as well as spectators a better understanding of what a cutting horse must and must not do. The NCHA rule book provides a means by which horses are judged as it spells out definite penalties and credits in order to provide a fair basis for judging contests. In addition to direction for judges, the Rule Book also provides guidelines for membership, affiliation, administration, show management and personal conduct of all members.

NCHA cuttings have grown from meager beginnings to events of major importance. Competition is intense with the quality of horses and riders so close that a strict set of guidelines is required to draw a fine line between horses for placement in a class. The Directors of the NCHA must keep constantly attentive to provide a means to this end.

Encouragement of fair play among contestants and the performance of good horses have always been paramount aims of NCHA; this is as true now as it was in 1946. Credit for the continued growth and success of the NCHA goes to its members. The Affiliates of the NCHA play an important part in the growth of membership and the grass roots sponsorship of cutting horse contests. At present, the NCHA has 132 Affiliates in excess of 21,000 members in the US and numerous foreign countries. Our organization has grown from fifty-four members in 1946. The membership consists of people from diverse backgrounds who may own, show or train horses for cutting contests or may simply have a great interest in the sport.

In addition to approving local shows, another important function of the NCHA is to keep complete records of all contests, locally and nationally. Individual records are maintained on each horse and rider. At the end of each annual point year the Top Fifteen horses and/or riders in each division are recognized and honored by the Association. Champions and Reserve Champions are named in each category and a champion stallion, mare and gelding are named in the open cutting division. Beginning with the 1999 point year, year end awards will be given to the World Champion Stallion, Mare and Gelding in the Novice Horse classes and riders' names will be included in the reporting in the *Chatter* show results.

The NCHA World Championship Finals is held annually after the point year is concluded. Beginning with the 2012 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. The youth will have their own point year and finals which will be held with the Summer Cutting Spectacular.

In addition to the Top Fifteen in world standings, NCHA also conducts *three* National Championships each spring. These shows are held in different locations in the US and qualified contestants may compete at *any or all of the* contests. These workoffs are maintained in an effort to encourage local participation. A contestant must be eligible for each class entered.

Limited Age events are also one of the Association's sponsored activities. These make up three of the world's richest horse events: The World Championship Futurity for three-year-olds; the National Cutting Horse Summer Spectacular which includes the Derby for four-year-olds and the Classic for five and six-year-olds; and the Super Stakes, which includes the Super Stakes for four-year-olds and the Super Stakes Classic for five and six-year-olds.

This book is printed as a service to the membership to be used as a guide in all NCHA activities. Any further questions should be directed to the NCHA office or your local affiliate.

### **Membership Categories, Fees & Benefits**

1. Membership shall be in four categories: Life Membership, 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.

#### **Life Members**

3. Any individual, firm or partnership may become a life member of the Association by payment of \$900.
4. Life memberships are non-transferable and shall cover the holder.

#### **Annual Membership**

5. An annual fee of sixty dollars (\$60.00) shall be paid for each annual membership; said fee to become due on December 31 of each year.
6. Annual membership shall cover the holder eligible to participate in any NCHA event. 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 annually along with all dues. Memberships will receive one copy of *Cutting Horse Chatter*.

#### **Youth Membership**

7. 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 youngster 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.)
8. Annual dues for NYCHA Membership shall be \$25 per year, due January 1st of each year. (This does not include "Cutting Horse Chatter.") Please write to NCHA Membership for youth information. A youth must have a Non-Professional or Amateur card to compete in Non-Professional or Amateur classes.
9. A Lifetime Youth Membership is available with payment of \$200. This membership is valid from the time of purchase until the youth "ages out" of the Youth class. (This does not include "Cutting Horse Chatter".)

#### **Affiliate Membership**

10. Organizations qualifying for NCHA affiliate status shall pay an annual fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); said fee to become due on January 1 of each year and to be considered delinquent if not received within ninety (90) days.

11. Each new affiliate organization shall pay in the first year an additional fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which represents a membership fee; total, fifty dollars (\$50.00).
  - 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 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 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 re-apply.

#### **Affiliate Guidelines**

12. Organizations having interest in cutting horses may be designated as Affiliates of the NCHA upon acceptance of their application and payment of required fees.
13. 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.
14. 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 By-Laws
  - 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 By-Laws 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.
- 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*

- 16. The official monthly publication of the NCHA is “*Cutting Horse Chatter*”, a magazine of current cutting horse activity. “*Cutting Horse Chatter*” is dedicated to the well founded and ever increasing popularity of cutting horses.
- 17. “*Cutting Horse Chatter*” is a privilege of individual NCHA Active Membership only.

# Standing Committees

18. 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. New members of Standing Committees will be appointed with the goal of balancing regional representation so 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.
19. 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 his committee assignment. In addition, the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, may relieve a member of his/her committee assignment for cause.
20. 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.
21. 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. 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.
22. 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.
23. The present Standing Committees are:
  - Affiliate Officers/Secretaries

- Amateur
- Finance and Audit
- Judges Rules
- Limited Age Events
- Limited Age Event Show Producers
- Long Range Planning
- Non-Professional
- Open Show
- Professional Trainers
- Promotion and Development
- Stallion Owners
- Youth

#### **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. When there is a question regarding eligibility, recommendation to the Executive Committee will be made for approval of those granted cards in which all and Amateur rules will apply.
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 regarding Amateur classes held at Limited Age and Weekend Events.
5. Make recommendations on new ideas that will encourage participation and growth of the Amateur division.

#### **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 corporation. 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.

#### **Judges Rules Committee**

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**

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.

### **Limited Age Event 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.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

1. Make recommendations with regard to the direction of NCHA for future growth and development.
2. Make recommendations regarding improvements to the structure of NCHA as set forth in its Constitution and By-Laws.

### **Non-Professional Committee**

1. Recommend the rules governing those who hold an NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card.
2. Publish a Casebook covering these Non-Professional and Amateur rules.

### **Open Show Committee**

1. Recommend rules and standards for the naming of NCHA area leaders and champions.
2. Recommend rules and standards to be used in qualifying for the NCHA affiliate and National Championships, in addition to recommendations in regard to purse, entry fees and the like.
3. Assist the local committee whenever possible in assuring the success of the championships.
4. Recommend rule changes with regard to NCHA approved cutting horse contests not limited by age of horse.

5. Recommend the requirements for participation in the World Championship Finals.
6. 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.
7. Work closely with World Championship Finals sponsors and/or possible sponsors to insure the success of the event for all concerned.

#### **Professional Trainers Committee**

1. Recommend rules governing those NCHA members who have identified themselves as professional trainers by paying a \$20.00 annual fee.
2. Recommend class structure changes for professional trainers to encourage participation.
3. Recommend ways NCHA can support professional trainers through annual directory, 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.

#### **Promotion and Development Committee**

1. Has responsibility to recommend policies and monitor progress of NCHA Marketing, the NCHA department established to obtain outside funds for the NCHA cutting competitions.
2. Recommend planning and implementation of projects which promote the cutting horse and publicize nationally the benefits of membership in NCHA.
3. Work with the Director of NCHA Marketing on all phases of marketing NCHA and the entire cutting horse industry.

#### **Stallion Owners Committee**

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 Super Stakes purse based on Stallion Subscriptions and Foal Nominations.

#### **Youth Committee**

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.

## Standing Rules Related to Approved Shows

**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 in at least one *Cutting Horse Chatter*. Early receipt of an approval application will give the show more publicity in the *Cutting Horse Chatter*. 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.

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.

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, however 8% fee is not due to NCHA.

There will be a \$2.00 per entry on approved classes National Championships 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 and/or Irrevocable Letter of Credit 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 days (7) 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 go-round or a finals is scheduled. Any changes regarding added money, entry fees, office charges or 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. (See Section III for classifications of NCHA Approved Judges.)

- a. Shows with added purses of more than \$1,000.00 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 videoed . 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 \$50.00. 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 eradicate the problem. If there is no video received from a videographer , the videographer will be fined \$500.00.



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 \$250.00. 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 Avg.	Average	Below Avg.
+	✓+	✓-
	✓	-

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 classes at weekend shows, if approved in writing in advance of the show by NCHA.

No cattle charge may exceed \$250.00. However, special consideration may be granted by the Executive Director for shows having \$5,000.00 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 Association 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. Rule eliminated.

l. Show management must limit the number of horses to be judged to a maximum of 150 per day for weekend shows or said management will be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 per infraction per day, subject to the discretion of the Executive Director. Show Management may use a judge who has been in previous classes to replace a judge who has judged 150 entries, provided that compliance with all other rules pertaining to judges is met. The following fine schedule for a LAE Show exceeding the 150 horse judging rule:

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

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.

Weekend shows can be fined up to \$500 for a show exceeding the 150 horse judging rule at the discretion of the Executive Director and this fine can be appealed.

Fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judges and monitor working the event.

At weekend shows the Judge has the option to stay and judge additional horses after the 150 to receive extra compensation from the fines paid for breaking the 150 horse cap. The extra compensation will be \$100 for 151-155 horses and \$200 for 156 – 160 horses. Judges will not be allowed to judge over 160 works.

- 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. “Bit Drop”: It is recommended that at each NCHA produced show, that one contestant per set be asked to dismount and clearly drop and show their bit 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.
- 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. Refer to Rules 2 and 3, respectively.

**STANDING RULE 7.** 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 and the purse offered does not exceed \$199.00. The name of the judge need not be published, but an NCHA rated judge must be the judge.

- a. There will be a \$2.00 National Championship Fee per entry on all approved classes and 8% NCHA Fee due on NCHA-approved 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.** There are twelve classifications within an NCHA approved show. Any owner or rider who shall permit his

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.

- 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 \$200.00 per day. Three head of fresh cattle per entry be provided in the Open and Non-Pro 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 Championships if he/she qualified two (2) horses in the point year.
- b. NCHA Open Cutting Horse class: Jackpots and shows adding less than \$200.00 will be classified as NCHA Open Cutting Horse classes. Points earned in these shows will not be counted toward World Champion Cutting Horse.
- c. 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 \$200.00 per day. The class must be scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse class approved by NCHA.
- d. NCHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse class: Jackpots and shows adding less than \$200.00 will be classified as NCHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes. Points earned in these shows will not be counted toward NCHA Non-Professional World Champion. The class must be scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse class approved by NCHA.

See Standing Rule 50.d.1-50.d.4 in the Non-Professional Rules and Casebook section.

- e. NCHA \$50,000 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. 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. A maximum of \$100,000 may be earned between NCHA-approved weekend earnings and NCHA Limited Age Event earnings to qualify for

Amateur status. Members with less than \$100,000 in total earnings and with earnings less than \$50,000 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 \$50,000 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 \$100,000 will make card holders ineligible to compete in Amateur competition. Certain Non-Professionals within this Association may be classified as Amateurs. Please see Amateur rules page 144.

NCHA approval shall be granted for this class only when all other Standing Rules for approval have been met and the class is scheduled with accompanying NCHA Open and Non-Professional Cutting Horse classes. Added money is permitted in this class, provided it does not exceed the added purse for the Open and Non-Professional classes. The cattle charge may not exceed the entry fee, except by special permission from the Executive Director.

- f. NCHA \$15,000 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. 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 8.
- e. The entry fee in \$15,000 Limit Amateur class with one go-round may not exceed \$90; 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-Pro'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. (Rules set forth in items 8.d., 1, 2 and 3 above shall apply.) 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 \$90; 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 equine discipline 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. 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-pro without restrictions. Also, effective January 1, 1997, a Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any equine discipline.

**NOTES:** 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.

- 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 ac-

- companying 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-Pro Rider Cutting Horse class: This class is restricted 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: This class will be 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 \$90 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.
- l. \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro 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. . Earnings will be recorded and will count for year-end awards or standings.
- m. NCHA Select Non-Professional Class (Weekend Shows Only): Non-Professionals and Amateurs age 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-pro. Earnings will be recorded and will not count for year-end awards or standings.
- n. 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. 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. 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.

**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 # 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.

# Horses	Place									
	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						
12-20	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 turnback 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. Married contestants, regardless of age, are ineligible for competition in youth classes.
  12. 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, he shall appoint a representative in his place for the duration of the show. Any representative so elected or appointed must be a contestant in the Youth class.
  13. It is recommended that all approved youth contests be provided fresh cattle.
  14. 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.
  15. NCHA will not approve any youth cuttings with added money.
  16. No youth classes will be approved by NCHA during the annual NYCHA Convention and Scholarship Cutting within 300 miles of Fort Worth, Texas.
  17. 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 does not need to purchase a non-pro/amateur card, but 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).
  18. Youth Regional Scholarship Cutting: Each region is eligible to receive \$2,000 in scholarship cutting funds from the NYCHA if the region provides at least \$8,000 in regional scholarship monies for a minimum of a \$10,000 Youth Scholarship Cutting. A maximum of two awards per year. The region must support the scholarship cutting and there must be consensus among the region as to the location. It must be advertised to all youth members in the region and every effort must be made to include youth participation from the entire region. The Scholarship Cutting must be announced in the Cutting Horse Chatter magazine and e-newsletter at least 50 days prior to the event. If the Scholarship Cutting is not held in conjunction with

an approved show, the show management must obtain approval from the Executive Director to hold the event.

After the cutting, the region must submit at least \$8,000 plus a list of scholarship recipients for the total (including the \$2,000 NYCHA funds) to the NCHA office to the attention of the NYCHA. The listing must include name, address, phone, NYCHA member number and social security number of each scholarship recipient.

#### 19. 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, Area Leaders, 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.

20. 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.

**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-51.d in the Non-Professional Rules and Casebook section.

**STANDING RULE 9.E.5.** Any owner who shall permit his 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 by the Executive Committee.

- 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. Points 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 or NCHA Achievement Awards.

**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 semi-finals will be hand drawn by 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. If a horse is drawn twice, the judge shall draw to determine which draw position is to be used. The original cattle changes are not affected.
- 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 his or her 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-Pro and Amateur horse ownership rules are followed in rider classes. No substitutions 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.

At the Championships, slots may be sold up to **5 p.m. the day** before a class starts for a fee of \$100, of which \$50 will be in the jackpot and \$50 as an office charge. Late entries will be allowed up to five days before the class starts with a payment of the original entry fee plus an additional one-half of that fee. Entrant will be last in a bunch without any additional cattle. The burden of proof for eligibility would be the member's responsibility in both instances.

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.

**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.

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 2 1/2 minute work) does not constitute a class and shall be canceled.

**STANDING RULE 13.** 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 is 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 finals 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 unit 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.** No entry fee (jackpot) shall be less than \$10.00. 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 area.):

<b>Added Money</b>	<b>Maximum Entry Fee % Based On Added Money</b>
\$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.)
- b. In all 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.)

There will be a \$2.00 per entry National Championships 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 that the added money at the National Championships.

Show results must be submitted with 8% fee. (classes that are not approvable are not 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.

- c. No deduction, other than as specified above, shall be made. Failure to comply will cause approval of the show to be withdrawn.
- d. 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.
- e. **MANDATORY PAYOUT SCHEDULE**

**Mandatory Payout Schedule**  
**Show Classifications All Classes**  
**# 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 finals 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 2 1/2 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.
- f. The Percentage Payout System described below is to be used when determining distribution of the purse for all approved classes. (NCHA World Series of Cutting events are exempt from using the Percentage Payout System):

**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

- g. 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. Finals 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.** 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 Novice Horse classes 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: 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.

**STANDING RULE 19.** 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 he/she works and to recognize winners in a similar manner at the conclusion of the contest.

**STANDING RULE 20.** The time allotted each horse to work is two and one-half (2-1/2) minutes, time to start when contestant crosses the time line. All monitored LAE events will use the 1-2 ½ clock and it will be optional at weekend events to use the 1-2 ½ minute clock.



The announcer starts the 1-2 1/2 minute clock as soon as the owner, rider and horse's name is called to the herd. The horse has to start the official 2 1/2 minute working time clock. If the competitor fails to enter the official time line in the time allotted a bell will sound and an additional 1-minute clock will start to repeat the process. The first offense for missing the clock will result in a warning. The second offense and all subsequent offenses by that rider will result in another \$500 fine. The 1 minute – 2 1/2 minute clock fines must be paid prior to entry into the next NCHA produced event.

# Show Management Handbook

*(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 \$10.00 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 re-run cattle are used, the cattle charge should be reduced.
3. Select one or more judges from the NCHA Approved Judges List. At least two judges must be used for shows offering added purses of more than \$1,000.00.
4. Determine the number of go-rounds to be worked and if a finals 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, he 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. Ladies
9. Three options are available for producing combined NCHA/AQHA weekend shows.

Option A: Separate AQHA recognized cutting classes. (All-age, Senior, Junior, Amateur and Youth)

Option B: AQHA classes coordinated with NCHA classes.

- AQHA All age 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 age 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 judges 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 he wants 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 num-

- ber 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 he may be, can put on a good performance unless the animal he cuts 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 and Non-Professional 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

Make sure all necessary forms are in order.

1. Secure an NCHA Application for Approval Form and note carefully 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 to be published in the *Cutting Horse Chatter* 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.

### Maximum Entry Fees & Office Charges

#### Entry Fees

\*Classes with less than \$200 added should charge in accordance with other shows in their area. No entry fee shall be less than \$10.00.

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.

#### Office/Cattle Charges

At shows having \$500 or more in added money, the office/cattle charge combined should not exceed 40-45% of the total charges (entry fee plus office charge plus cattle charge). When it is possible, show management is encouraged to lower this percentage. Under no condition can the office/cattle charge exceed the 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 NCHA Executive Director for shows having \$5,000 or more in added money per division.

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

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Check to see that you have sufficient DVDs. All approved classes must be video taped. These are to be held by management for thirty (30) days and may then be reused.

### The Cattle

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 re-runs.
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 re-run 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 re-run.

### **On Show Day**

#### **Check your equipment:**

1. Loud speaker 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. 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).
4. 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.
5. 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 \$50.00 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 ineligi-

- ble 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.
6. 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 Video Taping NCHA Approved Events**

1. All NCHA approved classes must be videotaped.
2. Only NCHA certified videographers should be used. Certification requires current NCHA membership, registering and passing the on-line NCHA test at <http://www.nchavst.com>. Periodic recertification will be required. Show producers must ensure the videographer has the proper certification and are aware of and are complying with the requirements prior to the start of the show.
3. While videoing classes please make sure that your videographers do not talk on a cell phone, do not 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 DVDs.
  - a. The Videographer will turn in a Weekend Field Monitor's Report along with all of the DVDs and judges sheets to the designated judge.
  - b. At least one DVD recorder will be needed.
  - c. Each DVD should be labeled with the name of the show, date, classes and judge names.
5. You may be requested to forward DVD show disks 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. 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 and horse begins to leave arena. 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. Camera operator should distinguish between classes and horses, graphic or sound. Speak into microphone and announce the required information or leave camera on while announcer is speaking. As each horse approaches the herd, the Videographer should speak into the camera. They should say, for example: "This is the Non-Pro Class, third horse". Please do not say the names of the horses or exhibitors unless you are the official show announcer.
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 DVD 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, please have adequate equipment available. A judge should be allowed to review the DVD in a place where he/she is completely separated from the contestants. All events using the Self Adjusted Monitor System must provide an isolated location to review the runs in question. The room is to include a good-sized TV (preferably with at least a 20-inch screen) with 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.
15. Starting in 2010, whenever a DVD is received at the NCHA office that is of poor quality, the NCHA Judges Department will:
  - a. notify the event's producer, and the show will be fined \$50.00. Fines may be increased if it is determined that the videographer has not been NCHA certified.
  - 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 a show producer, the show may be fined \$200.00, which must be paid prior to the producer's next event.
  - d. Upon receiving a third inferior quality recording, the Director of Judges shall take action as deemed necessary to correct or eradicate the problem.
  - e. If there is no DVD recording received from a show producer, the show will be fined \$500.00.

16. The Field Monitor system requires that each show reproduce and provide DVD copies for the NCHA Judge after each show. The judge will have three days to mail the copies of his judge's sheets and a copy of his DVDs of the approved NCHA classes that he/she judges.
  - 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 DVDs and judges sheets home. If it is a multiple judge Limited Age Event with \$10,000 to \$60,000 added, the DVDs 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.

### **The Representative**

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**

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**

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

### **The Contest**

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 the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses (#6). The back fence should be clearly marked.
2. Read NCHA Standing Rules on conduct of contestants (#35).
3. Tell or show contestants where their time will start. Time line should also be marked.
4. Ask the first rider in each group to have his 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

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 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 re-deposit the check. When a check is not made good either by another clearable check or re-deposit, 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 ninety (90) days of the show.

### After Your Show

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 \$2.00 per entry on approved classes National Championship 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**

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.

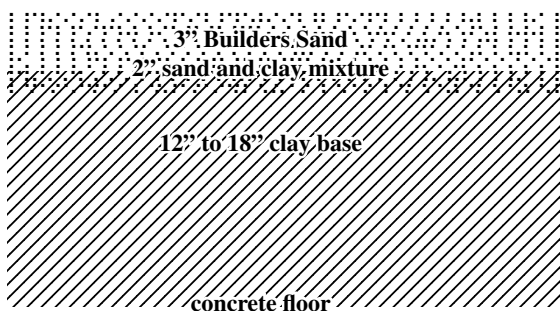
### **Ground**

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 more fair. 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 more shallow 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; another 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 insure a great show.

### **Loping Pen Guidelines**

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 warm up 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 don't 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 isn't broke and they can't do this maneuver.

### **Loping Pen Humor**

Try to maintain good humor in the pen. People have sometimes been in there for hours, days, a week it seems. Not only can they be preoccupied with what they may be doing, but they may be very tired, even delirious. Try to be defensive only in your driving and keep your attitude on the light side.

A final note . . . Always look out for trainers, horseback or not. Even if they were once a loper, they get instant amnesia when entering the loping pen. Don't run over them, good help is hard to find.

The following may be posted at cuttings in the loping pen:

#### **Loping Pen Etiquette and Guidelines**

- All individuals astride a horse in the arena at NCHA-produced events must be NCHA members.
- Stay to the inside if you want to go slow, stay to the outside if you want to go fast.
- Never stop in traffic. Stop and do dry work in an area with no traffic. Apply boots and groom in areas with no traffic.
- If you must tie your horse, tie them to something secure. Do not tie studs, kicking or biting horses in the loping pen. Someone may tie another horse close to them. Do not get upset if someone spansks your horse for kicking or biting.
- Riders must be in control of their horse at all times.
- Look before leaving or entering traffic. Yield to lopers.
- Do not exercise horses or season young horses when there is limited space in this loping area.
- Do not weave in and out of traffic without looking. Maintain constant speed and stay to inside when going slow to help avoid the need for other people to have to weave in and out of traffic.
- Change directions and maintain flow in one direction when asked. Always ask when you wish to change directions.
- Yield to tractor and be careful of pedestrians and other lopers wishing to exit or enter. Leave pen when asked by announcer.
- Try to maintain a good sense of humor. People may be tired and nervous. Be patient with newcomers and try to help them learn by referring them to these guidelines.
- Do not pony horses in the arena at NCHA-produced shows.
- To use your cell phone, move out of the flow of traffic.



### *Challenger Series Shows*

*NCHA launched the Challenger Series of weekend shows in 2017 to give cutters a fun and affordable entryway to the sport. Challenger Shows will complement the existing NCHA Championship Shows, with lower cost and more flexibility for show producers.*

*The Standing Rules and other guidelines which apply to Championship Shows apply to Challenger Shows, except as noted here.*

#### *Challenger Standings based on points*

*NCHA will establish Regional Top 15 Standings for the new Challenger shows. The Challenger Standings will be based strictly on points, rather than money earned. However, money won at Challenger Shows will count toward lifetime earnings, rider and horse eligibility and achievement awards.*

*The new Challenger Shows offer greater flexibility and cost savings for show producers.*

*A low show approval fee, flexibility in staffing shows and setting purses, and the option of a two-cow/two-minute format will all appeal to show producers. Challenger Shows can offer any combination of classes, and do not necessarily need to include an Open class, as traditional Championship Shows do. For example, a Challenger Show could consist of just a \$15,000 Amateur class with \$150 in added money, if that format met the needs of show producers and cutters.*

*The flexibility will enable breed shows and other established events to enhance their programs by offering an approved NCHA Challenger class or classes.*

*The new Challenger Shows will offer cutters additional opportunities to participate, typically at a significantly lower cost*

*Cutters in Challenger Shows will earn points toward Achievement Buckles and year-end standings, with a new year-end awards program established. Even cutters in a slump will be able to earn participation points to make progress in the standings, and bring them closer to awards.*

*In 2017 only, the Challenger Shows will offer new NCHA members, or former cutters whose membership has lapsed for more than one year, a free introductory membership to the National Cutting Horse Association.*

*Points awarded for any Challenger Show class will be based on the number of entries, with one point for every two entries, to a maximum of 10 points. No half-points will be awarded. If there is an odd number of entries, points will be rounded up.*

*So, placings in a 20-horse class, would be awarded as follows: 1st = 10 pts., 2nd = 9 pts. and down to 1 pt. for 10th place. All entries that mark a score of at least 60 will receive at least one point, which will help encourage ongoing participation. So in this example, places 11-20 would each receive one point.*

*In the case of ties, each entry will receive the points awarded to the highest tied placing, with the normal points going to any contestants following the tie. This is similar to the way points are currently awarded in Youth classes at Championship Shows.*

*NCHA Achievement Buckles will be awarded based on combined earnings of \$1,000 from Challenger and Championship Shows, or for 100 points earned at Challenger Shows. Dollars and points can not be mixed for awards.*

*Upgrade Medallions for Achievement buckles can be earned with additional points. For example, 250 points would earn a \$2,500 Medallion; 500 points would earn a \$5,000 Medallion, and so on.*

*Participation in the jackpot will be optional for the contestant. So, a cutter can enter without participating in the jackpot, but still receive whatever points he or she earns in the class.*

*Points are recognized only for Challenger Regional Standings, Achievement Buckles and other awards. For the purpose of achievement awards, points carry over from year to year. Points do not count toward lifetime earnings, or eligibility.*

#### *What's new in the NCHA Challenger Shows?*

*Here's an overview of the new features of the NCHA Challenger Shows.*

- *Available for Affiliates and other producers. Any NCHA Affiliate or independent show producer may hold an NCHA Challenger Show. Breed shows and other existing events can enhance their programs by adding NCHA Challenger classes.*
- *Parity of purses not required. Any NCHA-approved class or combination of classes can be included in a Challenger Show. Any class may be jackpot only, or may offer from \$1 to \$199 in added money, without regard to added money in any other class.*
- *Low approval fee. The approval fee is just \$200 for an added-money Challenger Show, or \$100 for shows with no added money. The approval fee must be sent when results are submitted to NCHA.*
- *A Regional Awards fee of \$2 per entry will be collected and submitted to NCHA with show results to fund year-end awards for leading participants in Challenger Shows.*
- *Entry fee may be lower than cattle charge, to give show producers flexibility and to help make participation more affordable for cutters.*
- *Judges, video personnel and secretaries do not need to be certified, with the exception that certified judges must be used for classes with added money. Video must be recorded for all classes, and retained for 180 days. Note: If an unapproved judge is used, he or she must have been a member in good standing for the last three years. An uncertified secretary must be an NCHA member in good standing.*
- *Two cows/two minutes format is optional. Instead of the*

*traditional format of two and a half minutes, with two or three cows to be cut, Challenger Shows may offer a two-minute format, with two cows provided.*

- *Membership dues may be paid after the show without affecting money or points earned at the show.*
- *No judges protest system will be available for Challenger Shows.*
- *Multiple judges may be used at a show.*
- *Judges' names do not need to be submitted to NCHA before classes with no added money. However, for added-money classes, a certified judge must be named seven days before the show.*
- *NCHA will record earnings, but earnings in Challenger Shows will not count towards World Standings. Only Championship Shows with \$200 or more in added money will count towards World Standings beginning with the 2017 point year.*
- *Weekend limited age events may not begin until the Challenger classes are completed, unless two arenas are being used.*
- *Regional Standings and Awards. NCHA will maintain Regional standings for all approved Challenger Show classes, and publish them online. Cutters will earn points in whichever Region they are competing in, so an individual could be ranked in the standings of more than one Region. Year-end awards will be presented to the leading participants in each class in each Region.*

### *Senior Tour*

*The NCHA Senior World Tour is based on a class-within-a-class at any approved weekend show. (Challenger shows will not count).*

*A senior contestant is defined as any Open, Non-Pro, 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 13 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 15 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 \$6.00 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 jack-potted.

NCHA recognizes the Senior Top 15 with one championship trophy and buckle, one reserve championship buckle and 13 finalist buckles in each eligible class.

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

### Senior Tour Point System

Same as Mandatory Payout, except for 1-3 entries

# Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1-3	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				
4 horses	\$24.00	\$16.00			
5 horses	\$30.00	\$20.00			
6 horses	\$36.00	\$24.00			
7 horses	\$42.00	\$28.00			
8 horses	\$37.60	\$26.40	\$16.00		
9 horses	\$42.30	\$29.70	\$18.00		
10 horses	\$47.00	\$33.00	\$20.00		
15 horses	\$60.00	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$15.00	
20 horses	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$20.00

Remember, only the points count towards standings.

Monies earned will count on lifetime earnings and on rider's and horse's eligibility.

# Regulations for Approved Limited Age Events

## 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 June 30, and by January 1 of a given year for shows that will be held between July 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 semi-finals 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 semi-finals 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 accompa-

nied 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 his eligibility for NCHA classes, but will be included in the horses 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 riders 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 one weekend show within the blocked dates at Major Limited Age Events provided there are LAE classes held the same day as weekend show. The Weekend Show approval application 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.
  - 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 videoed and DVDs held for thirty (30) days.
  - b. All approved events with \$100,000 added or more must use no fewer than five (5) AAA judges or AAAA 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 completion 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 2 ½ 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.
    - a. SAMS may be used with three 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.
  11. Draw parties may be held for the finals of a major NCHA-approved LAE. The contestant or owner may hand draw for

his/her 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.

Normal calendar movement will consist of shows using the projected start date of the NCHA Futurity and counting back from that date to determine what their show dates should be each year.

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, according to Mapquest.
- 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, according to Mapquest.
- 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 post-mark; 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 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 months of the year: Pre-existing Limited Age Event shows whose applications are due in the office June 1, of each year will be approved or denied by July 1, or in time to be published in the August issue of *Cutting Horse Chatter*. 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 or in enough time to be published in the March issue of *Cutting Horse Chatter*. 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 in *Cutting Horse Chatter* as furnished by show secretary.
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 don't meet the necessary requirements. For information obtaining this option, please contact the NCHA Judges Department.

# Standing Rules of the NCHA

## Section I—General Rules

**STANDING RULE 1.** The NCHA has its basic purpose for the public exhibition and constant promotion of the cutting horse.

**STANDING RULE 2.** 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. Show management may assess a \$5.00 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 \$50.00. 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. 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.** 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.** The NCHA shall guarantee all entry fees paid by contestants to show management representing cutting horse contests only, provided:

- (1) The contestants must be NCHA members in good standing;
- (2) The show must remit eight percent (8%) of all entry fees to the NCHA;
- (3) The contest must be approved by NCHA;
- (4) Relief must be requested within ninety (90) days of the show's closing date of entries.
  - a. Automatic disciplinary action will be taken against any NCHA member causing implementation of Standing Rule 4 in a twelve month period:
    1. First offense—\$25.00 fine.
    2. Second offense—\$500.00 fine and six (6) months probation.
    3. Third offense—\$500.00 fine and six (6) months suspension. Any probation or suspension assessed under section a.2 or a.3 of this rule will begin immediately and the probation or suspension period will continue for 6 months after the full payment of the worthless check and payment of the associated fine have both been made.
    4. No points for NCHA annual awards or certificates may be received by either the owner or rider of any horse requiring implementation of Standing Rule 4 on the date of the offense. Failure to make full restitution, including the above named penalties, within fifteen (15) days of official written notice from the NCHA will cause all points for NCHA annual awards or certificates to be canceled from the date of the offense until the date full restitution is received by NCHA.
    5. Payment of entry fees by a third party shall not release either the owner and/or rider of responsibility under this rule.
    6. Any member or non-member will be subject to all provisions of Standing Rule 4 when any check given in connection with the exhibition of cutting horses is returned by the maker's bank. This includes checks given to show managements that are not reimbursable by NCHA, as well as any check paid to the Association for any reason whatsoever.  
 In addition, all provisions of this rule shall apply when any member or non-member has a debt outstanding with any show management for entry fees and/or related show charges when payment has not been received for same within fifteen (15) days after request for payment has been made.
  - b. 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 same, or any other person(s) designated by said organization or individual to act on its behalf.
    1. Show Management may take any actions necessary which it feels are in the best interest of the show, in compliance with NCHA Standing Rules. In the event that a member feels that Show Management has not acted in the best interest of the show or has violated NCHA Standing Rules, the member

- may file a protest with the Executive Director. The protest will be handled in accordance with Standing Rule 37.
2. The NCHA point year will end two Sundays before Thanksgiving each year for approved weekend shows and the Sunday before Thanksgiving for Limited Age shows. The new point year will begin on December 28.
  3. NCHA will not approve any youth cuttings on weekdays between Labor Day and Memorial Day, with the exception of any Winter Circuit youth cuttings as long as they are between December 28 and the first Sunday of January.

#### **Section IV—Contestants**

**STANDING RULE 30.** 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.** A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to himself, or his horse, or due to sickness or death in his family. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any contest he is participating in due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge or judges, show management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money he may have won in previous go-rounds. After the draw is complete, a contestant will forfeit all fees.

**STANDING RULE 32.** 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 his or her 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 Rules 2 and 3, respectively.

**STANDING RULE 33.** 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.** A contestant shall not enter any part of the arena at any time at a cutting horse contest approved or sponsored by the NCHA with any kind of training device, tack, or equipment not permitted by the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests (see Judging Rule 16):

- a. The show management, contestant's representative, or judge must disqualify a contestant if he enters the arena with any such equipment, and all entry fees and/or premiums pertaining to said contestant shall be forfeited.
- b. After the buzzer sounds, the cutter will discontinue working and ride his horse forward past the judges stands before dismounting, except to retrieve a lost article. Failure to comply will result in:
  1. First offense—\$200 fine.
  2. Second offense—\$500 fine.
  3. Third and subsequent offenses within 12 months—90 day suspension.  
The bit may be inspected at the judge's discretion; and in the event a violation of the rules is discovered, the violator will be subject to a one (1) year suspension.
- c. All cutting horses must be ridden astride.
- d. 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 special permission from 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 abuse of a horse in any manner is strictly prohibited. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse. Any act of inhumane treatment, abuse or intent to abuse 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. **Horse Abuse:** Horse Abuse 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 crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. The decision of show management or

- judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management or a judge determines, in the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, show management or a judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance rule.
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 abuse 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 closing date of the show 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 inches square and shall contain wording as provided by the NCHA.
  6. Any reported violation under this Zero Tolerance Policy 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 months' probation or some period of suspension
    - 2nd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 12 months' probation or some period of suspension
    - 3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine and 6 months' suspensionThe 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 six (6) months 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 call or run until 8:00 am the following day. The meeting will be tape 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 rulebook.
  - h. The penalty will be shown two or three times if necessary. The overhead 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 months' probation or some period of suspension

2nd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 12 months' probation or some period of suspension

3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine and 6 months' 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 actually 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 months' probation or some period of suspension

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

3rd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 6 months' 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**

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**

NCHA Medication Rules do not allow drugs and medications that can affect a horse's performance, disposition or appearance. 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.
- Exceptions:
  - ❑ **Acepromazine Maleate** is considered an approved medication when used for the safety and welfare of the horse and administered or prescribed by a licensed veterinarian.
 

**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).

## 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.

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. Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs).

- 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. Full doses of medication must be given 24 hours apart prior to the last dose given before showing.
- 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 (Regu-mate®)
13. Acetazolamide
14. Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride (Vasodilan®)
15. Dexamethasone (Dexject SP®)
16. Acepromazine Maleate\*(PromAce®) (Medication Report Must be Submitted)

\* These exceptions do not apply if the drug is prohibited by governmental regulations, such as the California Equine Medication Monitoring Program.

### 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 and each of the following requirements must be met to prevent disciplinary action if the medications are detected in plasma samples:

- 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 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, and RAC class 2 substances, which are considered prohibited substances unless the horse is withdrawn for 24 hours and a medication form completed and filed.
- 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 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. 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.

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.

### **5. Random Testing**

Horses will be randomly selected for testing with an emphasis on class winners at shows. In addition to performing random testing, the horses placing in the first three places, including ties, in the Open, Non-Pro and Amateur classes at NCHA Triple Crown events will be tested. The NCHA Executive Director may also, in his 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 at any NCHA-produced or approved events.

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 his or her 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. After receiving a test notification from the veterinarian or NCHA official, the exhibitor will have 15 minutes to report to the designated medication testing stall with the horse chosen by the NCHA for testing. If there is any anticipated delay in getting the horse to the designated testing stall due to an imminent cattle change, the owner or owner's representative must report to the testing veterinarian at the designated testing stall within the 15 minute period to make arrangements with the NCHA for immediate testing of the horse in another location. In no event should the horse leave the show arena before the horse is tested unless arrangements are agreed to in advance by an authorized NCHA representative to take the horse for testing to a testing stall

located outside the show arena. 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.

In the event that an alleged violation of this rule is referred to the Grievance Committee and a violation is found, it is recommended that the disciplinary action taken to address such a violation be at least a fine of \$10,000 per occurrence and 12 months' suspension. This is only a guideline and can be increased 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.

## **6. 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 himself from acting on that case.

## 7. Rule Violations and Discipline

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

Failure to timely file any medication report required by this rule will result in a fine of \$150.00 for the first failure to timely file a required report. A fine of \$300.00 will be assessed for a second failure to timely file a required report. 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 under section 7(b) 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. Any violation of Rule 35A.5 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.

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. 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.

(1) For a first offense:

- (a) Resulting from an overage of one permitted medication - \$500.00 fine
- (b) Resulting from the presence of more than one NSAID (if each NSAID is within therapeutic levels allowed in these Rules and Guidelines) - \$1,000.00 fine
- (c) The discipline for any violation resulting from the presence of (a) a prohibited substance, (b) a permitted medication at levels more than twice the permitted levels allowed under these Rules and Guidelines or (c) overages of more than one permitted medication 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. This provision does not apply to violations resulting from the use of a prohibited substance.

(2) For a second offense, a fine to the responsible person(s) of up to \$5000 each and up to 12 months probation each;

(3) For a third offense, a fine of up to \$10,000 each to the responsible person(s) and up to a 6 month suspension each.

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.

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's 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*.

### **8. 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. 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. Other persons shown to have participated in a violation of the Medication Rules may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

### **9. The Guidelines**

The Guidelines outlined below are applicable to most horses and can minimize the chances of positive drug tests.

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 is 15.0 micrograms per milliliter. When phenylbutazone 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). Neither a total daily dose nor part of an injectable dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. In the event the phenylbutazone is administered orally, half of the maximum daily dose (1.0 gram per 1,000 pounds) can be administered each 12 hours during a five-day treatment program. Phenylbutazone should not be used for more than five consecutive days.
- 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 millili-

- ter). 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 (1/2 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.

**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 82day 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 35day 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.

### **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.

### **10. 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.

### **11. 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.

### **12. Policies for Taking Random Samples**

The following policies have been adopted by the NCHA to govern the manner in which random 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 randomly 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 random 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.** 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, he shall appoint a representative in his place for the duration of the show. Any representative so elected or appointed must be a contestant in the class involved.

1. He must represent all contestants with the show management and be the sole liaison with said management.
  2. He must report if he observes 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.

**Section V—Contestant Conduct and Related Complaints**

**STANDING RULE 37.** Any member desiring to file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of these rules may do so by submitting the complaint in writing to the NCHA Executive Director together with a check, money order or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the NCHA. (There is no \$50.00 fee for reporting Horse Abuse). A complaint must be filed (postmarked, faxed or hand delivered) with the NCHA Executive Director within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved. Upon receipt, all complaints will be referred to a Grievance Committee appointed by the NCHA president which will consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of seven (7) members for investigation and consideration. A quorum will consist of three (3) members with one (1) of these members being the elected Chairman.

- a. If after review and investigation of the complaint, the committee is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, the committee may take such disciplinary action consistent with the provisions of these rules as it deems appropriate.  
The Grievance Committee shall use the following guidelines in determining what disciplinary actions to take, if any:

**Grievance Committee Policies**

- 1. Statute of Limitations  
Seven (7) years after disciplinary action, member would have a clean record and a further infraction of the rules after that seven (7) year period would be dealt with as a first offense.
- 2. First Offense—when permitted
  - a. heavy fine
  - b. probation
  - c. or both of the above
- 3. Second Offense
  - a. heavy fine
  - b. suspension
  - c. or both of the above
- 4. Other offenses within the seven (7) year period will be dealt with severely—fines and suspension will be increased as appropriate.

The Grievance Committee, the Executive Committee and any Hearing Committee 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.

- b. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding unless a written notice of the member’s intention to appeal the decision is received in the NCHA office within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the letter notifying said member of the disciplinary action taken against him. Any such appeal must be accompanied by filing fee of \$3,000.00. If notice of appeal and filing fee are 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 member. If the disciplinary action is dismissed by the Appeal Hearing Committee the \$3,000.00 filing fee will be fully refunded. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of NCHA Standing Rule 38.
- c. Probation shall be for a length of time to be decided by the appropriate committee. For each probation imposed the appropriate committee shall also set a term of suspension. The term of suspension shall only become effective upon the probated member’s violation of his probation. Probation shall be considered violated whenever the probated member is found to have violated an NCHA rule, by the appropriate committee, during his term of probation. In the event that no suspension is imposed for the subsequent rule violation, the probated suspen-

sion shall begin on the day that the subsequent rule violation is found by the appropriate committee.

In the event suspension is imposed for subsequent rules violation, the probated suspension shall begin on the day after the suspension for the subsequent rule violation is completely served.

- d. Complaints submitted by an NCHA Director, a class representative, show management or judges, shall be handled in the same manner as outlined above, (\$50.00 deposit is not required). Any such complaint must be filed (postmarked, faxed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved or within seven (7) days of the alleged rule violation, whichever is applicable.

### **Section VI—Contestant Appeal Guidelines**

**STANDING RULE 38.** Any member may be disciplined, fined, placed on probation or suspended from the Association, and any member or non-member may be denied all privileges of the Association by the Executive Committee or Hearing Committee or Grievance Committee whenever it shall have been established by a preponderance of the evidence that such member or non-member has violated any rule of the Association. When the rule in question contains a specific punishment provision, any disciplinary action taken by the Executive Committee or Hearing Committee must be consistent with that provision.

- a. When anyone shall be accused of any rule violation, he/she shall be given not less than fifteen (15) days notice of a time and place for an appeal hearing of such accusation by the Executive Committee, or by a Hearing Committee appointed by the NCHA President, at which time and place he shall have the opportunity, in person or by counsel, to be heard and to present evidence in his own behalf and to hear and refute evidence offered against him. An appeal is a “denovo” proceeding and could result in a new finding concerning whether or not there was a violation of a rule(s) and either an enhancement or decrease in the punishment imposed by the Grievance Committee. Any appeal will require a deposit of \$3,000.00 which is refundable only if the appeal is successful.”
- b. Eight (8) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of disciplinary hearings.
- c. The NCHA President may appoint a special Hearing Committee to conduct any disciplinary hearing for any appeals. This committee shall have a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members. Each member of the committee must be a member in good standing of the NCHA. A majority of the committee members shall constitute a quorum for hearing purposes.
- d. No continuance shall be granted unless requested in writing at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing and good cause is shown. A continuance shall be granted or denied at the sole dis-

- cretion of the NCHA President or the Chairman of the Hearing Committee.
- e. The decision of the Executive Committee or Hearing Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
  - f. When disciplinary action is taken against a member or non-member 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*.
  - g. Any person who has been suspended by the NCHA 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 in whole or part by a suspended person or that has a suspended person as its agent 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 his 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 suspension.
  - h. 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.
  - i. 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.

**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.

**STANDING RULE 40.** Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Association, and any non-member, approved show, or official thereof may be denied privileges of the Association for the failure to pay when due any obligation owing to the Association (including "*Cutting Horse Chatter*") or for giving a

worthless check or denied credit card charge for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, stock charges, premiums, or any other fees or charges connected with the exhibition of cutting horses; provided, however, that the member or non-member subject to suspension shall be given fifteen (15) days written notice of the amount due and the intention of the Association to suspend or withhold privileges. That suspension 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. Any suspension and denial of privileges under this rule shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due the Association, and/or any affected show management. NCHA Standing Rule 4.a.1., 2., and 3. will be enforced whenever suspension or denial of privileges are incurred under Rule 40 for giving a worthless check or denied credit card charge. Any past due amounts (60 days or more) owed to NCHA for any reason will be deducted from any premium checks won by debtor.

**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, By-Laws, 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.

**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 his attorney, either in person, by fax, or by mail, postage prepaid, to his 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.

5. Recommend the requirements for participation in the World Championship Finals.
6. 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.
7. Work closely with World Championship Finals sponsors and/or possible sponsors to insure the success of the event for all concerned.

#### **Professional Trainers Committee**

1. Recommend rules governing those NCHA members who have identified themselves as professional trainers by paying a \$20.00 annual fee.
2. Recommend class structure changes for professional trainers to encourage participation.
3. Recommend ways NCHA can support professional trainers through annual directory, 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.

#### **Promotion and Development Committee**

1. Has responsibility to recommend policies and monitor progress of NCHA Marketing, the NCHA department established to obtain outside funds for the NCHA cutting competitions.
2. Recommend planning and implementation of projects which promote the cutting horse and publicize nationally the benefits of membership in NCHA.
3. Work with the Director of NCHA Marketing on all phases of marketing NCHA and the entire cutting horse industry.

#### **Stallion Owners Committee**

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 Super Stakes purse based on Stallion Subscriptions and Foal Nominations.

#### **Youth Committee**

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.

### **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.

### **HALL OF FAME:**

Horse—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), Breeders Derby, Breeders Classic/Challenge, and/or NCHA Open World Champion.

Award: Certificate presented at the NCHA Convention.

### **NON-PRO 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. Exclude 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 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 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 during the annual Convention and official Certificate presented at Futurity Finals.

**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 class at NCHA Limited Aged Events, in the approximately 1,500 approved shows held each year, will be used in determining the winner.
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.



- Any horse that wins the Triple Crown will automatically receive the Horse of the Year title.
- *Mercuria NCHA World Series of Cutting shows will earn points.*

		<b>HORSE OF THE YEAR POINT SYSTEM</b>									
		Number of Entries					Points Earned for Placing				
Place		<50	51-75	76-100	101-125	126-150	151-175	176-200	201-300	301-400	401+
1		20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
2		16	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144	160
3		14	28	42	56	70	84	98	112	126	140
4		12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120
5		10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
6		9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
7		8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
8		7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
9		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
10		5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
11+		4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40

**AWARDS**

- *The non-working finals round* will award points 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 Non-Pro money must be earned by the same horse throughout the point year to accumulate points for the Non-Pro 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 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.
- Each round of the World Finals, including the cumulative 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 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: 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 check (or 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**

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**

In honor and memory of Zane Schulte, the son of Thomas and Barbara Schulte, the Zane Schulte Award is a humanitarian award to be presented 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. He or she is 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**

*The Mary Kingsbury Award will be given annually to an Amateur who exhibits the true spirit of an NCHA member and continually uplifts, encourages and strives for the greater good for all cutters. The Amateur Committee oversees the award.*

### **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 area for this prestigious title. Back-up materials must be provided to Open 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 area affiliates) .....	5
• Other activities (examples) .....	10
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100</b>

**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.

Any member who is on probation from the NCHA will not be eligible to receive any awards, such as the Todd Drummond Award or Zane Schulte Award, 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.

**EARNINGS FOR AREA STANDINGS:**

Open, Non-Professional, \$50,000 Amateur, \$25,000 Novice, \$5,000 Novice, \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider, and \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider—Earnings from classes having \$750 or less in added money in the area in which the owner or rider resides or designated area. (No money or points will be awarded retroactive after submitting Area designation in writing to NCHA).

\$35,000 Non-Professional—Earnings from all \$35,000 Non-Professional classes in the area in which the rider resides or designated area. (No money or points will be awarded retroactive after submitting Area designation in writing to NCHA).

\$15,000 Amateur—Earnings from all \$15,000 Amateur classes in the area in which the rider resides or designated area. (No money or points will be awarded retroactive after submitting Area designation in writing to NCHA).

\$2,000 Limit Rider/Any Horse—Earnings from all \$2,000 Limit Rider classes in the areas in which the rider resides or designated area. (No money or points will be awarded retroactive after submitting Area designation in writing to NCHA).

Youth—Points earned in all Youth classes in the area in which the rider resides as of the last day of the youth point year. NCHA will recognize both Junior and Senior Top Ten standings in the Cutting Horse Chatter. A World Champion will be named in both divisions. (No money or points will be awarded retroactive after submitting Area designation in writing to NCHA).

If an area has not been designated, the earnings will count in the area where the owner resides at the end of the point year.

A horse owner and rider will be allowed to designate an area, other than where they live, in writing, in which they are to compete in a given year for area standings. If an area has not been designated, the primary residence will be determined on where the owner of the horse had filed his/her income taxes.

**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.

### **REGIONAL STANDINGS**

*Regional Top 15 Standings will be tracked and published on the NCHA website. The Regional Standings will be based on money earned at all Championship shows in the Region. Awards will be given to the leading participants at the end of the year.*

### **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 area, 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 handmade buckles to the Top Fifteen (15) riders in all NCHA approved classes. The youth will have a 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 finals.

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 finals.

All other classes will have two go-rounds and a non-working finals.

The champion of each class will receive an Official NCHA Trophy and Champion Buckle.

# 2017 Judging Rules & Casebook

(New Rules and Rule Changes in Bold Italics)

## **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 his 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 his 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.

1. Herd Work .....	Rule 1
a. Failure to comply .....	Rule 1
2. Cutting toward center and driving a cow .....	Rule 2
3. Loose reins .....	Rule 3
4. Setting up cow and working in center of arena .....	Rule 4
5. Disturbance .....	Rule 4
a. Noise directed at cattle .....	Rule 4
b. Running into herd, scattering or picking up cattle .....	Rule 4
c. Training or abuse of horse .....	Rule 4
6. Back fence .....	Rule 6
7. Horse turns tail .....	Rule 7
8. Reining .....	Rule 8
a. Positioning after cut is clear .....	Rule 8
b. Second hand on reins while cutting or working.....	Rule 8
c. Cueing in the shoulder .....	Rule 8
d. Toe, foot or stirrup on shoulder.....	Rule 8
9. Losing a cow .....	Rule 9
10. Changing cattle after specific commitment.....	Rule 10
11. Losing working advantage (miss) .....	Rule 11
12. Pawing or biting cattle .....	Rule 12
13. Hot quit .....	Rule 13
14. Horse quits cow.....	Rule 14
15. Failure to separate a single animal after leaving herd.	Rule 15
16. Equipment .....	Rule 16
a. Rule compliance.....	Rule 16
b. Dress.....	Rule 16
c. Effective before start .....	Rule 16
d. Exception .....	Rule 16
e. Violation .....	Rule 16
f. Violation penalties .....	Rule 16
17. Horse or contestant falls to ground .....	Rule 17
18. Leaving working area before time expires.....	Rule 18
19. Re -works - incorrect working period (time) or outside disturbance .....	Rule 19
20. Scoring .....	Rule 20
21. Benefit to contestant.....	Rule 21

**Credits**

Herd Work	
Rule 1 .....	page 108
Driving a cow	
Rule 2 .....	page 109
Loose reins	
Rule 3 .....	page 110
Setting up a cow-working center of arena	
Rule 4 .....	page 110



## Penalties

1 point - (miss) losing working advantage	
Rule 11 .....	page 124
1 point - reined or visibly cued/positioning after cut is clear	
Rule 8 .....	page 116
1 point - toe, foot, or stirrup on horses shoulder	
Rule 8d .....	page 117
1 point - noise directed to cattle	
Rule 5a .....	page 111
3 points - cattle picked up/running into or scattered herd	
Rule 5b .....	page 111
3 points - failure to make a deep cut	
Rule 1a .....	page 108
3 points - hot quit	
Rule 13 .....	page 126
3 points - pawing or biting cattle	
Rule 12 .....	page 126
3 points - second hand on reins while cutting or working	
Rule 8b .....	page 116
3 points - cueing in shoulder	
Rule 8c .....	page 116
3 points - back fence	
Rule 6 .....	page 115
5 points - horse quitting cow	
Rule 14 .....	page 130
5 points - losing a cow	
Rule 9 .....	page 120
5 points - changing cattle after specific commitment	
Rule 10 .....	page 121
5 points - failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd	
Rule 15 .....	page 131
60 score - horse turns tail	
Rule 7 .....	page 116
0 score - horse falls to ground	
Rule 17 .....	page 134
Disqualification from go-round - leaving working area before time expires	
Rule 18 .....	page 135
Disqualification from contest - illegal equipment	
Rule 16 (also Standing Rule #34) .....	page 132
Rule 19 .....	page 135
Rule 20 .....	page 138
Rule 21 .....	page 139

# Standing Rules 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 his or her 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 area, 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 \$50,000 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.
- e. Approved Judge Seminars will be held by the NCHA every other year, with Judge Applicant Clinics in alternate years.
- f. Rule removed.
- g. The Director of Judges is authorized to test and certify people on an individual basis, in the 6th box during a finals or oth-

erwise, who have won \$100,000 or more. These applicants will be approved as AA until they successfully judge 6 shows without a valid protest, at which time they will be advanced to AAA.

- h. 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 (AA to AAAA). A score of 75 or higher out of 100 will pass. An applicant score of 75-80 will earn a 2-A rating. A score of 81-95 will earn a 3-A rating and 96 and higher will earn a 4-A rating.

**STANDING RULE 22.** Each judge must sign his 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.** 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 his scores is counted in a go-round, all of his 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.** A judge may not judge his parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or his spouse if they live in the judge's household; or he may not judge his employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that he has 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 25.** In order for a judge to maintain or advance in rating, he or she 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 Avg.	Average	Below Avg.
+	✓+	✓-
	✓	-

c. Replacement or “fill in” judges must abide by the Weekend Monitor System to receive one judging credit. (Must report to his/her 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.** All judges must attend an NCHA Judges Seminar every other year to retain their approval as a judge. Any judge failing to attend 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 attending 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 he may not reapply again within a ten (10) year period.

**STANDING RULE 27.** 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 reevaluated 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 doesn't 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. 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 doesn't 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 with a \$1,000 added class by himself or herself. 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.
- c. "2A" Judge: In order to maintain this rating a judge must obtain one (1) credit per two (2) year period. If the judge doesn't 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 \$499.00 or less. 2A judges may officiate at any weekend contest having an added purse of \$1,000 or less with a 3A 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.
- d. When the system is in place, a judge who is reevaluated 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 closing date of the show involved 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 (\$200.00) made payable to the NCHA. Each class protested will require the \$200 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 DVD of the class involved to NCHA if needed.
- b. The video or film 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 or films 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 his 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 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 (top 6). 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 his or her judge classification while judging an individual class, a major protest will be affirmed against the judge. Grade standards for NCHA Approved Judges are: 4-A - 75-85; 3-A - 75-85; 2-A - 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 3A or 4A judge, he/she 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, he/she must also be reevaluated through an NCHA Monitored Event before being restored to 4A.

2-A 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 2-A judge does not judge the required number of shows each year. 2-A judges who have one (1) valid protest must judge five (5) shows without valid protest. If during this five (5) show period, the 2-A 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 3-A rating for a twelve (12) month period. 3-A 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 3-A judge has another valid protest affirmed on his or her 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 2-A for one (1) year and must judge five (5) shows without valid protest to regain a 3-A rating. 4-A 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 4-A 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 3-A 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 4-A rating.
- g. All affirmed protests will be recorded on the record of the judge involved.
  - h. Where protests are affirmed, the two hundred dollar (\$200.00) 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. His or her 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 he/she judges. If the review results in an additional valid protest, the judge in question will be dropped one judge classification as specified in Rule 27.d.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 would 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 he/she 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 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 \$200.00 made payable to the NCHA and postmarked, faxed or hand delivered within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved. 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 he determines in his 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 his 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 himself 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 his 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 \$500.00 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 before the judging and shall talk only with representatives of show management, beyond the exchange of normal greetings, verbally or by electronic or social media, until the entire show or contest is completed. Judges must appear in western attire and remain in western attire during the entire show.
- c. Under no circumstances will a published judge judge over 150 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 (d) of this Rule shall be a minimum fine of \$500.00 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 of six (6) months probation and/or six (6) months suspension from the Association.
- g. A judge who fails to whistle out a contestant for horse abuse or causing a disturbance to the herd, will be fined \$300.00.

#### ***Apprentice/Mentor Judge Program***

***The Apprentice/Mentor Judge Program is formed on a one-year trial period. This would allow for an approved judge to be mentored***

*by a more experienced judge of their choice. There would be a fee of \$150 to be paid to the Judges Department in advance which will be forwarded to the Mentor Judge after completion of the training. The apprentice judge must follow all of the same judge's rules and guidelines as their Mentor.*

# Judging Rules

## JUDGING RULE 1

Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show his 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 his 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 his 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 he begins to cut his second cow, another volunteer steps out and the Cutter cuts it. He works that cow. The Cutter then rides deep into the herd for his 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, he allows 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 his right side. When the cattle are in front of the Cutter, he steps to make his 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 his horse. It is necessary, how-

ever, 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 his cut. Cutter B's horse walks quietly into the herd but is obviously nervous and moves excessively while Cutter B is making his cut.

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

**EXAMPLE 5:** While making a cut, Cutter A makes several moves with a cow before he is 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 cow out with very little disturbance to the cow or the herd.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit for his cut than Cutter A. In this case the judge is not penalizing Cutter A; he is, however, giving more credit for the job done by Cutter B. **NOTE:** While making a cut, no credit shall be given the horse which is reluctant to take an indicated cow or which obviously resists its rider's choice.

## JUDGING RULE 2

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 his stock sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by his work, thereby showing his ability to drive a cow.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Cutter A and Cutter B have, in the judge's opinion, identical works. Cutter A drove his 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 his work than Cutter B. In this case, the judge is not penalizing Cutter B; he is, 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 his second cow very near the back fence and begins working there. Cutter B cuts his 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 his cut and traffic has cleared, Cutter A begins his work. Cutter B begins his work and continues to drive his 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 his stock additional distance from the herd, showing his ability to drive a cow. This credit(s) can occur at any time in the work.

### **JUDGING RULE 3**

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 his 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 attention, 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**

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. He works his second cow entirely on the left one-third of the arena. Cutter B has a similar work, except he holds his cows much nearer the center of the arena.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit for his 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. He holds both cows very near the center of the arena. Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. He holds his first cow very near the center of the arena. He cuts his second cow and is 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 his work than Cutter B. Cutter B has committed no rule infractions; however, the point value of his 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 his first cow near the center of the arena. He works his second cow on the left one-half of the arena. In the judge's opinion, Cutter A holds a working position on his second cow, but his 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 his 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 his 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 he is 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

If the cutting horse or his rider creates disturbance at any time throughout his working period (2-1/2 minutes), he 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, he 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 training or abuse of his horse by the contestant or disturbance of the cattle. Any contestant failing to stop immediately will be fined \$500.00 payable to NCHA prior to entry in any other NCHA approved event.

**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. He is forced to legally quit his first two (2) cows because his 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.

**NOTE:** Working area of the horse is defined as an imaginary line paralleling a straight line connecting the outer limits of the back fence and being in front of the horse's head.

**EXAMPLE 5:** The Cutter is working his third cow when the buzzer sounds. The quits in his run are legal; however, each time he quit working, his 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. He drives the red cow forward, causing the white cow and black cow to step to his right, behind the horse's buttocks. As he starts to work the red cow, the black cow and white cow join the red cow. He quits 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 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 him 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 horse, but his 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 his work terminated.

**NOTE:** Even though the Cutter was not training or abusing his horse, he was creating a disturbance of the cattle. Show management should provide each judge with a whistle so that he may quickly stop a work.

**EXAMPLE 10 (A)** After losing a cow, the Cutter cuts another cow and stops his horse each time the cow stops; he does not jerk or excessively cue his horse.

(B) The Cutter's horse is not working properly. The Cutter cues his horse in the shoulder aggressively and then jerks him 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 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 him.

(B) The Cutter picks up his horse and reins him until the additional cattle have returned to the herd. He then drops his hand and continues to work the cow.

(C) The Cutter reins his horse in an attempt to separate his original cow from the additional cattle. He then decides not to separate the cow and quits legally.

(D) The Cutter quits the cow while it is turned away.

(E) The Cutter continues to work his original cow until the additional cattle have returned to the herd. During this time, the Cutter does not cue his 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 his 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 cattle leave the herd and join the cow being worked. The Cutter reins his horse in an attempt to separate his 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 his 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 original cow.

(B) The Cutter quits while his original cow is moving straight across the pen, or turning in toward him.

(C) The Cutter loses his original cow at approximately the same time.

(D) The Cutter reins his horse twice while the additional cattle are clearing and then continues to work.

(E) The Cutter reins his horse one (1) time and then quits his 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 his original cow from the additional cattle before quitting.

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 his 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 his 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:

(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 her 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 feet of the back fence and goes back to the center of the arena. The Cutter quits the cow legally and completes his 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 he quits.

(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**

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.

**RULING:** The Cutter automatically receives a score of sixty (60) points.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is working and his horse attempts to turn tail toward the cow. The Cutter stops the horse before he is 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 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, regardless of whether the reins are held high or low. 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, he 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 cut, the Cutter moves his hand up and down, side to side while selecting a cow to work. He then places his hand:

(A) near his horse's neck and leaves it there while working:

(B) above the saddle horn and leaves it there while working:

(C) near his 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 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 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 he repeats this activity. If he cuts three (3) cows and shakes his reins each time, the total penalty shall be three (3) points. In (B) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:** The Cutter is working with his hand held low. His reins are adjusted short enough so that the bit is bumped two (2) different times during his 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 his run he moves his hand very slightly in a turn;

(B) during his run his hand moves sufficiently for the judge to believe that he is reining his horse in the turn;

(C) while going across the arena he moves his hand toward the cow being worked to hold his horse out from the herd;

(D) during his run he pushes his hand forward to encourage his horse to move along with a cow;

(E) as his horse is stopping, the Cutter leans backward in the saddle causing his 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 his horse until the cow is clear of the other cattle and then releases his horse.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** The intent of Rule 8a is to prevent the Cutter from helping his horse after a cow is clear of the herd. Judges shall be careful to allow the Cutter to handle his horse enough to clear the cow that he has 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 his horse's buttocks.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and reins his 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 then releases his horse and works 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 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. He reins his horse until the other cattle are cleared away by his herd holders and immediately thereafter releases him.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 9:** The Cutter cuts a cow that is walking away from the herd.

(A) The Cutter reins his horse until he has stepped out of the herd and then releases him.

(B) The Cutter reins his horse until he has 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 horse by having his hand up and some tension on his reins. He does not move his horse around; he is holding his horse's attention on the cow until the cow moves.

(C) The Cutter reins his horse until he has stepped out of the herd. Almost simultaneously the Cutter releases his 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. He steps to that cow and reins his horse until his herd holders have the other cattle behind his horse's buttocks (cleared away). He then continues to hold tension on his reins while the cow that he has cut trots several feet across the arena. When the cow stops and turns around, the Cutter stops his horse and reins him back to the cow before releasing him.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter cues his 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 him 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 horse around with a cow.

(B) uses two hands on the bridle reins to stop his horse and then allows him to turn on his 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 horse around.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 13:** The Cutter drops one bridle rein and:

(A) uses his free hand to retrieve it while cutting a cow;

(B) uses his free hand to retrieve it while working a cow;

(C) uses his free hand to retrieve it after he has obviously legally quit the cow and stopped his 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 horse within the body of the herd and uses the second hand to straighten his 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 horse after legally quitting a cow.

(B) Pull his horse around after legally quitting a cow.

(C) To pull his horse around while moving through the herd.

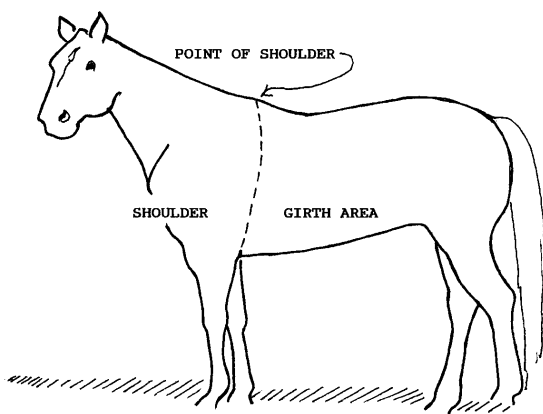
**RULING:** In (A), (B), and (C) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**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 he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalized five (5) points.

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter is working a cow that out-maneuvers his horse and returns to the herd.

**RULING:** Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:** The Cutter is working a cow that pushes him 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 horse has the working advantage, but the cow is turning toward the horse.

(B) The Cutter quits the cow after he has lost his 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 him. As these cattle come around, the Cutter does not step out of the herd and makes no attempt to cut any of them. He allows the cattle to go by and:

(A) turns and starts more cattle around. He cuts from these cattle;

(B) turns and rides to these same cattle; starts them back around and makes his 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 and the cow leaves the working area of the horse; 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. Working area of the horse is defined as an imaginary line paralleling a straight line connecting the outer limits of the back fence and being in front of the horse's head.

## **JUDGING RULE 10**

If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, 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 has a group of five (5) cattle in front of him. He:

(A) looks at a brown cow, but does not attempt to move his horse toward the brown cow. He then cuts a red cow.

(B) moves his horse toward a brown cow and reins once to move his horse in the direction she starts. He 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 left side, two (2) cows pass by on his right side, leaving no cows for the Cutter to cut.

(E) waits until the cows begin to come around him in single file. The Cutter then steps, applying a slight pressure to the cattle as they come by. He cuts the cow that is most willing to remain in front of him.

**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 makes two moves to a specific animal. One move may also result in commitment to a specific animal when 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 right. He drives one (1) cow out and as that cow moves around him, 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 his 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 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 him. He selects an animal and visibly commits to it. In his 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 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 him. He selects an animal and reins his 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 his 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 horse and cuts the cow away from the others without the group rejoining 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 his horse (Rule 8).

In (B) penalize the Cutter one (1) point each time he reins his 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 his 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 horse changes to the returning cow;

(B) the Cutter anticipates that a change might occur and reins his horse to prevent it. The horse's attention is momentarily diverted toward the returning cow, but he does not change cattle;

(C) his 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 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 is clear of the herd, or traffic, his horse abruptly attempts to change to a different cow.

(A) The Cutter had not released his horse and immediately reined it back.

(B) The Cutter had dropped his hand indicating his 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 his working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position; he 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 he loses his 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. (F)

**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 his control and working advantage of the cow within a short distance.

**RULING:** Assess a one-half (1/2) 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 his 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 his 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 his working advantage. The cutter reins the horse back and, after taking several steps, the horse regains his working advantage.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (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 his working advantage. The cow stops and turns away, the cutter quits without regaining his 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 his 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).

**JUDGING RULE 12**

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 his 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 his 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 horse kicks out with one or both hind legs, or playfully jumps into the air slinging his 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 time line. 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 1/16th 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 his horse

(B) obviously turned toward his 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 him.

(A) the judge is certain that the cow had turned toward the Cutter as he 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 his/her quit before the cow's first foot, not the cow's head or neck, goes back in to 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 him 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 his 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 his 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 he picks up on his reins or places his free hand on his 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 his reins to signify that he is quitting the cow. In the judge's opinion the cow was turned away when the Cutter picked up his 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 his horse so that it is reasonable to assume that he intends 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 his 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 time line and the cow is turning toward him

(B) not behind the time line and the cow is turning toward him.

**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 his turnback horses, the Cutter quits the cow while it is turning toward him.

**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 his quit when the cow turns away from the cutting horse will receive no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 14:** The Cutter is working his cow in the middle of the pen. As the Cutter initiates his quit, by picking up his rein hand and/or reaching for the horse's neck:

(A) The Cutter realizes that the quit is hot; he immediately put his rein hand down and/or puts his 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; he immediately puts his rein hand down and/or puts his 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.

**NOTE:** A cow is still slow walking and has not obviously stopped and the rider initiates a quit while the cow is still moving.

**RULING:** Assess a three (3) point penalty.

#### 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 his horse quits a cow. The Cutter reins and re-starts his horse. The Cutter continues his 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**

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 he selects the cow he wants, 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, he picks up additional cattle. The Cutter quits his cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.

(B) at no fault of the Cutter, he picks up additional cattle. The Cutter quits his 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 he is able to release his 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 his 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 his 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 him. After clearly committing to one of these cows, the cow he committed to turns and runs past the turn-back horses and the other cow(s) remain. The Cutter:

(A) stops his horse and returns to the herd to make another cut.

(B) positions his horse and waits for the remaining cow(s) and begins to work.

(C) holds his horse and waits for his 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 time line) or the cow has left the working area. At that point in time, the Cutter may begin to work any cow in front of him or return to the herd and select another cow. The time line will be visibly marked.

**EXAMPLE 6:** The Cutter is attempting to make a cut. He commits to a cow in a group of cattle. His 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 he is 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 him. As these cattle come around, the Cutter moves toward the cattle so that it is reasonable to assume that he is attempting to cut one of them. The cattle all trot past him; he then returns to the herd and drives some more cattle out and makes his 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 him, he 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 3/8 of an inch in width and must be attached to the bit by ny-

lon 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. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he shall be disqualified. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of Rule 16.

- a. All horses must comply with Rule Sixteen 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 Sixteen 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 the 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 Sixteen 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 Sixteen, they must report the violation immediately to the Association Executive Director.

g. Violations of Rule 16, 16b, c, d, e & h shall result in:

1. First offense—\$200.00 fine.
2. Second offense—\$500.00 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. (Re-runs shall not be granted for equipment failure.)

### JUDGING RULE 17

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 his 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 his 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 his 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, before the end of his time.

**RULING:** The run shall be scored zero (0).

**EXAMPLE 2:** After working his first cow, the Cutter dismounts and tightens his cinch or picks up an object from the ground. He then remounts and completes his run.

**RULING:** Score the run zero (0). The Cutter has allowed his horse to quit working after his time has started.

### **JUDGING RULE 19**

A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the judge or judges' opinion 2-1/2 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 activities. Any rework must take place within the group of cattle drawn by the contestant and must 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 his 2-1/2 minutes work, if in his/her opinion a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness so as to warrant a rerun, he/she 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 rerun 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 re-work will automatically be granted.

**Short Clock:** A contestant will only be granted a re-work if their

run was major penalty free at the sound of the buzzer.

**Re-work:** The contestant must ask the Judge or Judges for a re-work before the next horse crosses the timeline.

**Long Clock or No Clock:** A re-work will be automatically granted whether or not a major penalty has occurred. The contestant must take a re-work.

**EXAMPLE 1:** A Cutter is working his 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 re-run. The Cutter has the right to choose whether he wants to work again immediately or at the end of his 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 insure that gate latches are secure and that the pen is strong enough to hold the cattle.

**EXAMPLE 2:** 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 re-run. The Cutter must work in the same group of cattle.

In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**EXAMPLE 3:** Before the buzzer sounds, the gate comes open and all of the cattle escape from the arena. The Cutter is unable to complete his run because he has no cattle to work.

**RULING:** In this instance, the run has terminated itself. The judges shall confer, and if a majority of the judges has assessed a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty, the Cutter shall be scored a zero (0). If less than a majority of the judges has assessed a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty, the Cutter shall be granted a re-run.

**NOTE:** If the judges' stands are equipped with intercoms, the secretary shall ask each judge whether he has called a major infraction; and then based upon the judges' replies, announce "The Cutter shall receive a re-run" or "The score is zero."

**EXAMPLE 4:** While the Cutter is working, a skydiver lands near the arena causing the Cutter's horse to run off.

(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 re-run. In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**EXAMPLE 5:** While the Cutter is working, it becomes apparent to the judge that he has worked longer than 2-1/2 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 2-1/2 minutes.

(B) The judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty before he realized that the Cutter had worked for longer than 2-1/2 minutes.

**RULING:** In (A) and (B) the judge shall grant a re-run.

**NOTE:** It would be difficult to determine in some instances whether the major infraction occurred before or after the actual 2-1/2 minutes had expired; therefore, in this instance only, the Cutter shall receive a re--run.

**EXAMPLE 6:** The buzzer sounds ending a run. In the judge's opinion, the Cutter worked for less than 2-1/2 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 re-run.

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 re-run shall be granted, and the Cutter shall receive a score of zero (0).

**EXAMPLE 7:** During a run, a chair falls into the arena. The noise frightens the cattle, causing them to scatter.

(A) The run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction at the time of the disturbance.

(B) The judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction before the disturbance occurred.

**RULING:** In (A) the judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run. In (B) the judge shall not stop the run.

**NOTE:** A judge shall not terminate a run in which he has called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction unless:

(A) human life is in danger.

(B) he is applying Rule 5.c.

**EXAMPLE 8:** In a contest using two or more judges, a judge terminates a run for the purpose of granting a re-run. The other judge(s) do not agree that the run should have been stopped.

**RULING:** (A) If two (2) judges are being used, a re-run 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 re-run will be granted.

**EXAMPLE 9:** While the Cutter is working, a judge falls out of his judging stand, or the judging stand collapses, or the stand overturns.

(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 re-run. 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 2-1/2 minute buzzer. The Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s) immediately if the clock has not been started or malfunctions.

**EXAMPLE 10:** 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 re-work 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 re-work if a majority of the judges agreed that there was due cause.

In (B) no re-work can be granted since the run contained a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty.

### JUDGING RULE 20

A judge marks from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (1/2) 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 73-1/2

**RULING:** Legal. The judge may mark any run he chooses 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

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 his 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 himself, “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. for 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 his turn-arounds or while traveling across the arena; thereby forcing the cow being worked further away from the herd until he no longer has 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 his or her 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 his 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 him/her 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 his 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.

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.

- b. In a late class at a weekend show, the cattle are re-runs 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.

- c. In re-run cattle, the Cutter receives no excessive help from his herd holders and is able to drive the cattle out on his own to make a cut.

**RULING:** Credit should be received and the run content increased.

- d. In re-run cattle, the Cutter walks his 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 his cut.

**RULING:** The run content of the run will be reduced.

- e. After the cut is made, the herd holder does not move his 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.

- 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. He rides his 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 himself so that the herd will not scatter.

- 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 his 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.

- 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 his 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.

- 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 his 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 2-1/2 minute run. A Cutter shall be rewarded credit for his willingness to exhibit his 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 equals the score.

Run content is a numerical value - penalties = score

**EXAMPLE 1:** The Cutter works two cows and is attempting to cut his third cow when the buzzer sounds.

**RULING:** The Cutter may work any number of cattle that he chooses.

**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 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 goes past on a turn losing working position and has to take several steps before regaining it. Two turns later he loses his working position again and reins his horse to aid him in his recovery. He is able to quit the cow legally. He 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 his 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. He holds 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. He holds his

first cow very near the center of the arena. He cuts his second cow cleanly but works 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 his cattle near the center of the arena, Cutter B must receive a higher score because the degree of difficulty of his 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 his horse is more appealing to watch than that of Cutter A's.

**RULING:** Cutter B shall receive more credit because the eye appeal of his 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 his horse. He stays 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 his 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 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 2-1/2 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.

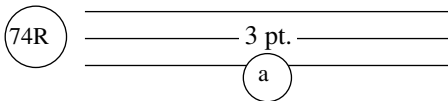
- I. There will be no adjustment to the following:
  - A. No change in run content.
  - B. No change in one (1) point penalties.
  - C. No review of any run not reported to the announcer at the time the judge calls in his score.
- II. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or 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, he must designate the specific infraction in the appropriate penalty box.

3 pt.	5 pt.
a	

If the judge wishes to review the penalty, he 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 he records his score with the "R", he circles the penalty to indicate where the review will be made. The score on his 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 Casebook with him in case he needs to aid his decision making process. If the judge, after reviewing

**MONITOR SYSTEM**

the video, decides that his score must be lowered based on the penalty review, he does the following:

- A. He leaves the original mark for the horse and circle in place. He does not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.
- B. Next to the original score and circle he indicates 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 judge's sheet or the back of his 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, he shall initial it within the circle. The judge then turns his score sheet in to 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 more fair and 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<sup>SM</sup>"**

1. Deal with the three (3) and five (5) point penalties only. You are never to re-judge 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 rulebook 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 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.

3 pt.	5 pt.
a	

i.e. 74R

- c. Review the major penalty only; 3 or 5 points as designated.
- d. Use the 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 his 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.

III 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<sup>SM</sup>” 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 Case Book.

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**

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**

The Adjusted Monitor System (AMS<sup>SM</sup>) is a system that has been designed to make judging equally fair for each contestant. The AMS<sup>SM</sup> 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 judge's 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 judge's 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 he 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 he wishes, and if he requests any clarification of the rule in question, then it is given to him 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 his score or leave his score as originally marked. In no way is the judge intimidated or encouraged into changing his or her score or leaving his or her score as originally marked.
  - h. If the judge wishes to change his 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:

GoRound \_\_\_\_\_ Group of Cattle \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to change from a \_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

(horse's name)

three-point penalty

five-point penalty

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Signature

---

Date

- i. Monitor(s) will be given the authority to educate a judge after he has signed his penalty slip and made his 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 semi-finals 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.*



**NCHA CHALLENGE SYSTEM**  
LAE Monitored Events Only  
(excluding World Series events)

Entry Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Working Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$5000 Filing Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Penalty: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Must be submitted to Show Management before 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 by the monitors and the announcer at the end of each set.

2012 Rules Book  
P.O. Box 1000, Texas 75121-1000  
Phone 817.264.4100  
http://www.nchacutting.com

**National Cutting  
Horse Association**

**MONITOR SYSTEM**

# 2017 Non-Professional & Amateur Rules and Casebook

*(New rules and rule changes in bold italics)*

## What is a Non-Pro?

**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 cards. (See Rule 51.a.1.)

**Standing Rule 51.a.:** Riders of cutting horses may be classified as Non-Professionals and Amateurs.

**Standing Rule 51.a.1:** 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 equine discipline 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. A Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any 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.
3. Non-Professional or Amateur members may show a family owned horse, as defined in Standing Rule 51.a.4, provided the rider pays all entry fees and expenses.
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 immediate family as defined in Rule 51.a.4.

## Exception

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 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 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 horses 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.

Senior Limited Non-Pro Exception. A member may apply for Senior Limited Non-Pro status if at the time of the application:

- (A) the member has reached 60 years of age;
- (B) has less than \$400,000 in lifetime earnings; AND
- (C) meets all non-monetary requirements for Non-Pro status stated in NCHA rules. If the member is granted Senior Limited Non-Pro Status, the Limited Non-Pro eligibility cap will be raised to \$400,000. At the end of the point year in which the member reaches \$400,000 in lifetime earnings, he/she will no longer be eligible for Senior Limited Non-Pro status.

Any violation of any non-professional or amateur rules will be dealt with in a severe manner by NCHA.

**EXAMPLES:** I just became a member of the NCHA, and I have never trained a cutting horse. May I enter the Non-Pro?

**No.** Any member wanting to show in any Non-Pro contest must first apply for a Non-Pro card and have it approved.

I am under 18 years of age and show in the Youth. May I enter the Non-Pro?

**No.** Every rider regardless of age must have a Non-Pro card to be eligible to show in a Non-Pro class.

**EXAMPLES:** As a Non-Pro what can I do?

In regard to remuneration, as a Non-Pro you may:

- a) share expenses while hauling, i.e. gas, lodging, food, etc.
- b) accept a horse from anyone provided there is no pre-arranged agreement to return the horse to its prior owner
- c) buy a horse based on installment payments, provided a fixed amount is stated and paid. A copy of the written sales agreement must be provided to NCHA and needs to state the name of the horse, the sale price, payment dates and amounts and the date of final payment.
- d) receive compensation for judging cutting horse contests and other horse show classes
- e) board horses in your barn and provide cattle for training; however, you may not work the boarder's horse on cattle in any arena, pen or pasture, or on a cutting device
- f) endorse products publicly

2. As a Non-Pro what can I not do?

In regard to remuneration, as a Non-Pro you may not:

- a) receive remuneration (pay) to show, train or assist in training cutting horses or cutting horse riders under any circumstance or in any capacity
- b) show, train or assist in training a cutting horse in exchange for any goods or services (i.e. feed, rent, cattle use, veterinary bills, transportation for self or horse, etc.)
- c) transfer a horse to another non-pro for the sole purpose of sharing expenses

If a non-professional or amateur has any question, the NCHA office must be contacted for clarification on any rule.

**Standing Rule 51.a.2:** Non-Professional Card. Every rider, regardless of age, competing in an NCHA Non-Professional or Amateur Cutting Horse Contest must possess a non-professional card and amateur card, if applicable, issued by the NCHA.

**This card must be available for inspection at any show entered.**

**Standing Rule 51.a.2.A:** There shall be a charge for said card which 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 his status. Fee must be paid annually.

**Standing Rule 51.a.2.B:** 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, fee paid, 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 the application fee and is subject to final approval from NCHA. If NCHA final approval is not obtained, earnings (if any) will be pulled.

**EXAMPLE:** Why should I have a Director sign my application for a Non-Pro card?

To better control Non-Pro rules violations, and to verify facts, it is the feeling of the Association that someone who knows the applicant should endorse Non-Pro applications.

**EXAMPLE:** What if I don't know a Director?

In this case, send your application to the NCHA business office stating that you don't know a Director and they will submit the application for approval.

**EXAMPLE:** My spouse is a Director. Can he (she) sign for me?  
**Yes.**

**EXAMPLE:** Can a Director from outside my District sign my application?

**Yes.** Any active Director may sign your application, but it is preferable if the Director is from your District.

**Standing Rule 51.a.2.C:** 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 and processing fee. It is the member's responsibility to notify the NCHA office immediately upon any change in circumstances that may affect his 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 or 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:** 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*.”

**EXAMPLE:** Can the NCHA deny me a card or remove my card?

**Yes.** However, if you feel that it is unjust, you may appeal the decision pursuant to the provisions of this rule and Rule 38.

**EXAMPLE:** The NCHA has requested that I give up my Non-Pro card. Can I wait until the end of the year?

**No.** At the request of the NCHA, you must surrender your card immediately.

**Standing Rule 51.a.2.E:** 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 premiums 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 fee is paid. No money or points will be awarded retroactive to payment of fee. In addition, a \$25.00 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:** 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 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.

## AMATEURS

Standing Rule 51.a.6 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 co-habitational relationship) or has been married (or had a co-habitational 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, step-parent 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. the member has received more than \$100,000 (\$50,000 Limited Age/\$50,000 Weekend) in eligibility lifetime NCHA cutting horse earnings.

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

**Amateur 3-Year/\$50,000 Exception:** *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 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 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.*

**Amateur 3-Year/\$15,000 Exception:** *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 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 and binding.*

**Senior Amateur Exception.** *A member may apply for Senior Amateur status if at the time of the application: (i) the member has reached 60 years of age; (ii) has less than \$200,000 in lifetime earnings (as reported by Equistat); and (iii) meets all non-monetary requirements for amateur status stated in NCHA rules.*

*A person applying for amateur classification under this exception shall obtain a Senior Amateur 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.*

*If the member is granted Senior Amateur Status, the amateur eligibility cap will be raised to \$200,000. The LAE and Weekend split increase from \$50,000/\$50,000 to \$100,000/\$100,000. At the end of the point year in which the member reaches \$100,000 in winnings in LAE events, he/she will no longer be eligible to compete as an amateur in those events. At the end of the point year in which the member reaches \$100,000 in winnings in weekend*

*events, he/she will no longer be eligible to compete as an amateur in those events. At the end of the point year in which the member reaches \$200,000 in lifetime earnings, he/she will no longer be eligible for Amateur status.*

### **Unlimited Amateur**

At 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;
- and the Unlimited Amateur class for which qualification will be based on all lifetime Limited Age Non-Pro earnings (approved classes) of less than \$100,000 (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 \$100,000.00 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 life time Non-Pro Limited Age Event earnings (approved classes) of less than \$100,000.

An Amateur competitor who reaches \$100,000 or more in life time 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 he or she wins any money, he or she will forfeit his or her 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 he or she qualifies 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.

#### **5-year/\$15,000 Senior Unlimited Amateur Exception:**

An applicant may be granted eligibility to compete in Unlimited Amateur events 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.

### **Rookie Card Application**

Members who are Amateur card holders with zero lifetime earnings in NCHA events at the beginning of the point year are eligible to apply for a NCHA Rookie Card. The Rookie Card will be limited for one year from time of issuance and allow a qualifying member to show any eligible horse, regardless of ownership, in any class in weekend events only. Any earnings while a member is on a Rookie Card exception will not count toward awards, eligibility or standings. In order to qualify for a Rookie Card, the member must fill out the Rookie Card Exception Form prescribed by the NCHA, submit that application to the NCHA and receive NCHA approval for Rookie Card status. The holder of a Rookie Card may opt out of rookie card status at any time by notifying the NCHA in writing. All earnings won after any such opt out will count toward awards, eligibility and standings.

### **Ownership**

**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 (co-habitational relationships) are 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 Section 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 in their opinion fits the infraction.

**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.

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.

A Non-Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which (1) the Non-Profes-

sional 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.

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.

The Executive Committee, the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee or designated members of these committees 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.

Upon purchase or gift of a horse (for the purpose of verifying non-pro horse ownership), a transfer must be filed with the breed association within 30 days of the date of transfer. In the case of an unregistered horse the following documents 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. The violation of any provisions of this paragraph will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence and each transaction will be subject to review.

**EXAMPLES:** I just bought a horse, but the breed association has not processed the papers yet. May I show him in the Non-Pro or Amateur?

**Yes.** A signed transfer is not sufficient; however, if the original papers and complete transfer along with the transfer fee are on file with the breed association or in the possession of the NCHA showing you as current owner, eligibility for entry will be granted.

I just bought an unregistered horse. May I show in the Non-Pro or Amateur?

**No.** All unregistered horses must have a verified bill of sale. The sale date on this bill of sale shows the date the horse changed hands, but it is not proof of ownership until verified by the NCHA Show Department..

What is needed to describe an unregistered horse?

The NCHA requires four pictures (one of each side of the horse), showing all markings and a statement from a veterinarian attesting to the horse's age.

The burden of proof rests with the owner as to ownership.

My wife and I have a family corporation. May our horse be registered to the corporation?

**Yes, subject to requirements of Standing Rule 51.a.4.**

I am the sole owner of Diamond T Ranch. May I show horses owned by Diamond T Ranch in Non-Pro classes?

**Yes.**

Jim, a business associate, and I own a corporation which includes several horses. May we ride them in Non-Pro classes?

**No.**

I recently purchased a mare to show in Non-Pro/Amateur competition. Part of the purchase agreement included the former owner receiving the first two foals out of this mare when I breed her. Is this legal under NCHA rules?

**Yes.**

**EXAMPLES:** May I give or receive a horse?

**Yes.** A gift must be reported in writing to the NCHA office within 30 days and the gift provided cannot be based on monetary gain such as money earned or any increase in value shared at a later date.

May I give or receive a horse with the understanding that I will return it after I have shown it in all of the aged events?

**No.** 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. Any horse three years old or older that returns to the previous owner for any reason must be reported to the NCHA. Failure to do so is cause for disciplinary action, including fines, probation and/or suspension.

May a Non-Pro/Amateur purchase a horse on time—i.e., \$20,000 purchase price with \$10,000 down payment and the remaining \$10,000 paid by monthly payments of \$1,000 for ten months?

**Yes.** A Non-Professional may purchase a horse on time provided a copy of the written sales agreement, signed by both parties, is provided.

vided to NCHA and it states the name of the horse, the sales price, date of sale and terms of payment.

**Standing Rule 50.d.6:** “A Non-Professional competitor who wins \$50,000 or more in Open competition can continue to compete as a Non-Professional in Open classes until the beginning of the next point year. After that point year and the NCHA World Championship Futurity immediately following, if that Non-Professional competitor enters an Open Limited Age Event and competes on any horse regardless of whether or not he or she wins any money, he or she will forfeit his or her Non-Professional status and can no longer compete in Non-Professional contests. For the purpose of this rule the Non-Professional winnings in Open competition will be calculated at zero dollars at the beginning of the 2000 point year (The new point year begins December 28). The 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. A class 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: 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.

**Standing Rule 51.a.4:** 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, said card can be automatically revoked. Additional penalties for ownership rule violations may include loss of Non-Professional/ Amateur status for up to life of the member, up to three (3) years suspension from the NCHA, up to a maximum of \$10,000 fine. Any other member who aids and abets the rule violator will be subject to the same penalties depending on the severity of the incident.

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’s 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’s half sibling’s child, parent’s half sibling’s stepchild, parent’s step sibling child, parent’s step sibling’s stepchild, legal ward or legal guardian. Any member who owns a horse that he wants his immedi-

ate 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 his 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 entry fees and expenses paid by an immediate family member.

Penalties for ownership rule violations could include loss of amateur/non-professional status for life, fines, probation and/or suspension. 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:** 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 special 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.

**EXAMPLE:** I have won less than \$2,000; I have a Non-Pro/Amateur card. Can I show any horse, owned by me or not, in the \$2,000 Limit Rider Class?

**Yes.**

**EXAMPLE:** I train Thoroughbred race horses. I do not ride them. I barely ride at all. Cutting looks fun. Can I get a Non-Pro/Amateur card?

**Yes.**

**Standing Rule 51.a.4.B:** 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 he/she does 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 \$50,000 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 his/her 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.

#### *Apprentice Trainer Card*

***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-professional and/or amateur rules and regulations with regard to remuneration. The applicant may not participate in any non-professional, 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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***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.*

**Standing Rule 51.a.5:** Any owner/rider who shall permit his 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. 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.

### **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 Amateur/Non-Pro 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.

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

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

## Article I GENERAL

**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

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.** Except as hereinafter provided relative to voting for Directors and Officers, each member in good standing of the Association shall be entitled to one vote at a meeting of the members. Voting by online voting or mail ballot for the election of Directors and Officers of the Association shall be required. Only online or mailed ballots shall be accepted and counted. Ballots may not be transmitted in any other form, including but not limited to facsimile transmission. Otherwise, voting must be in person at a meeting of the members of the Association and voting by proxy shall not 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 on line 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 on line.

(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

**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, 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 another 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*. 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 re-election, and is willing to make the commitments necessary to serve on the Board of Directors if elected shall so indicate on the Director Consent Form and return same via U.S. mail to the Executive Director or his 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 the President, in the President's sole discretion. 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 sent via email (and/or by U.S. mail) to each member as outlined in Article II, 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 II, Section Five to the membership of the Director District involved and each member within said Director District shall be requested to indicate his or her 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 stag-

gered three year terms. Each Director shall hold office for the term for which he is elected and until his 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 his or her term of service, any Director who misses two regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be immediately terminated as a Director. 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 his/her 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 the unexpired term of the vacating Director.

**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 members of the Association to be held during the annual Association Convention. Unless approved by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) 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 only in person, and may not be held via conference telephone call, the Internet, video conference or any other electronic communications system.

**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 at any meeting of the Board of Directors must be in person and 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 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 (2/3) 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 II 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 revised election system shall be phased in as follows:
  - (i) At the June 1998 annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the four members of the Executive Committee with expiring terms shall be replaced by four members elected at-large by the Board of Directors in the same manner as set forth in Article V, Section One hereof. Those elected shall serve one-year terms ending in June 1999.
  - (ii) At the June 1999 annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the eight members of the Executive Committee with expiring terms shall be replaced by eight Regional Directors as described in subsection (b)(i) of this Section. At such meeting, the terms of service for all Regional Directors then elected shall be determined by random drawing. Three of the eight Regional Directors so elected shall receive three-year terms ending in June 2002, three shall receive two-year terms ending in June 2001 and two shall receive one-year terms ending in June 2000.
  - (iii) At the June 2000 annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the four at-large members of the Executive Committee with expiring terms shall be replaced by three at-large members as described in subsection (b)(iii) of this Section. The at-large member then elected who receives the highest number of votes shall receive a three-year term, the electee who receives the next highest number of votes shall receive a two-year term and the remaining electee shall receive a one-year term. The two Regional Directors with expiring terms shall each be replaced by a Regional Director from their respective Regions. Each Regional Director so elected shall receive a three-year term.
  - (iv) At the June 2001 annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the three Regional Directors with expiring terms as members of the Executive Committee shall each be replaced by a Regional Director from their respective Regions. Each Regional Director so elected shall receive a three-year term. The one at-large member with an expiring term shall at such time be replaced by one at-large member elected to serve a three-year term.
  - (v) At the June 2002 annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the three Regional Directors with expiring terms as members of the Executive Committee shall each be replaced by a Regional Director from their respective Regions. Each Regional Director so elected shall receive a three-year term. The one at-large member with an expiring term shall at such time be replaced by one at-large member elected to serve a three-year term.
  - (vi) 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.
  - (vii) 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. Nominations for all at-large members shall be taken from among the floor, with voting to 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. Nominations for all Regional Directors 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. During his or her 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 member 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 his or her 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. 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. The call of said meeting must be by notice to all members of the Executive Committee at least ten days prior to said meeting. 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, 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, the Director receiving the next highest number of votes for the Executive Committee position being vacated, in descending order, shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**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 the June 1998 annual meeting of the members of the Association, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the remaining members of 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 chairman from among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet sixty days prior to the 1998 annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate not less than six candidates collectively for the three elective offices of the Association. Each candidate nominated for such offices must have served a minimum of one year on the Executive Committee at some point and must be a member in good standing of the Association for the immediately preceding three years. In determining the nominees for such offices, the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors.
- (b) Prior to the June 1999 annual meeting of the members and prior to each annual meeting of the members thereafter, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for the purpose of electing a Vice President. The Nominating Committee shall be constituted in the manner described in Section One (a) of this Article VI. 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 Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must be a member in good standing and have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension or probation, for a period of six (6) years, be a present director of the association and have completed 6 years of service as a director of the association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served a minimum of one year on the Executive Committee at some time point. 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, or in the case of the 1998 election the name of each candidate for the three elective offices of the Association, 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 1998 election, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be the duly elected President, the nominee receiving the second highest number of votes shall be the duly elected President-Elect, and the nominee receiving the third highest number of votes shall be the duly elected Vice President. 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 chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The President shall conduct the business of the Association in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and other rules and regulations of the Association. 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 an 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 his or her 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 operating officer of the Association. The Executive Director shall be employed by the Association upon such terms and conditions as the Executive Committee may from time to time deem appropriate. 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.** A Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve under the direction of and at the discretion of the Executive Committee. 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 (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 (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

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)

**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

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*, 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 telecopied, said material shall be deemed delivered upon successful transmission of such telecopy. 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 mailed to the Board of Directors or the members at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

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 on January 21, 2015, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout.

***Chuck Smith***  
***Interim Executive Director***

**APPROVED SHOWS**

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  - youth classes.....25
  - \$3,000 and above .....29
  - number of go-rounds .....17
- affiliate guidelines .....8
- affiliate membership.....8
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- Approved Classes
  - Open .....19
  - Non-Professional .....19
  - \$15,000 Amateur.....20
  - \$35,000 Non-Pro.....20
  - \$5,000 Novice Horse .....21
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  - \$25,000 Novice Horse .....21
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