

**NCHA Annual Convention  
General Membership Meeting  
Recommendations to Executive Committee  
June 25, 2023 – Grand Ballroom B  
South Point Hotel • Las Vegas, Nevada**



Affiliate Officers Secretaries Committee

1. Discuss non parity Open/Non-Pro added money at the weekend level. Leave it up to each Affiliate/Producer what works best in their area.

Recommendation was to take no action motion Caren Birdwell second Ashley Hallinan all in favor.

2. Circuit Points – Challenger/Championship same number of points.

Recommendation to separate Challenger Shows from Championship Shows and have Award program for the Challenger Shows motion Vicki Green second Caren Birdwell all in favor.

3. Co-approved other Associations NCHA Affiliates in the region may be consulted before approving on top of their shows.

Recommendations to table at this time for further clarification motion Rebecca Waters second Vicki Green all in favor.

Elected as Chair: Caren Birdwell

Elected as Vice Chair: Vickie Green

Amateur Committee

1. Inclusion of other association earnings in the \$15,000 and \$50,000 Amateur classes.

The Amateur Committee recommends upholding the previous motion to adopt the same language used in the 2000LR rule change for all weekend \$15,000 and \$50,000 Amateur.

2000LR new verbiage: In order to qualify to show in this class, riders cannot have earned more than a total of \$2000 (\$15,000, \$50,000, etc..) in lifetime earnings in all cutting horse competitions at the beginning of the point year, whether NCHA or any other equine association.

The rider has the burden of proof that he/she meets the eligibility requirements to compete in this class. **MOTION PASSED/UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**2. Consider combining NP/Unlimited Amateur at independently produced Small LAE shows.**

The Amateur Committee recommends giving the small LAE Producer the option to combine the Non-Pro/Amateur (all levels) at aged events. **MOTION PASSED/ UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Review Amateur Exceptions**

The Amateur Committee recommends changing the 3YR/\$50,000 Amateur Exception to a 5YR/\$15,000 Exception.

~~3 year/\$50,000~~ 5 year/\$15,000 Exception (for previous trainer's spouses, children and lopers) 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~~ **five year** period prior to the date of application: (i) has not been married to a person had a cohabitational relationship with a person or resided with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3; (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~~ **\$15,000** or more in lifetime total earnings 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. **MOTION PASSED/UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Entry Structure – Consider the use of Watt:**

The Amateur Committee recommends allowing show management to utilize the Watt Arena for the Limited Amateur. The Amateur committee would like to see the workings of the revised schedule as to how this will work. **MOTION PASSED/UNANIMOUSLY.**

Elected as Chair: Jennifer Palmer

Elected as Vice Chair: William Cole

**Approved LAE Show Producers Committee**

This Committee exempt from the rule all regions had to be represented wants LAE Show Producers on this Committee.

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Recommend that the Governance Committee review equal representation for Premier Show Producers Committee considers each Premier Show to have a representative on this committee in addition to the already established regional representation, then report back to this committee or submit to Executive Committee. Motion Kathy Cardon Second Phil Benadum; all in favor.

**Standardize class Names/Eligibility**

Recommend standardization across all approved LAE shows to follow the NCHA leveling format in regard to class names and dollar amounts with the option to include/omit Hall of Fame roll back at the discretion of show management. Motion Kathy Cardon Second Della Hillerman unanimous; all in favor.

**NCHA Monitor expense/compensation**

Recommend support of the concept to compensate Monitor's daily fee, but since the Monitor is an employee of NCHA, Producers request the additional money come from the 2% fee paid from LAE shows. Motion Phil Benadum Second Tracy Barton; all in favor.

**2024 Proposed LAE show dates (January-April)**

Recommend approval of calendar with change start date Abilene to January 2<sup>nd</sup> and if possible, mark the calendar in RED for Run for the Million and The American show dates Motion Phil Benadum Second Jason Reed unanimous; all in favor.

**Aged Event Shoot-Out Proposal**

Recommend supporting the concept presented for Horse/Rider of the Year across all classes and levels. Motion Kathy Cardon Second Theresa Nelson; all in favor.

Re-Elected as Chair: Coleta Rosson

Elected as Vice Chair: Della Hillerman

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**Finance and Audit Committee**

1. Investment Report

Recommend amending the Investment Policy Statement to incorporate the new short-term investment portfolio.

2. New Business

Recommend passing a resolution that the Association will maintain reserves equal to at least 3 years of operating costs.

Re-Elected as Chair: Steve Smith

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Jim Haworth

**Governance Committee**

1. NO Recommendations for the EC at this August Meeting.

Elected as Chair: Sharon Beach

Elected as Vice Chair: Dan Agnew

**Growth and Development Committee**

1. Recommend a “Monday Minute” style weekly communication from NCHA to members. **Passed.**
2. Recommend forming an Ad Hoc group to investigate updating class limits. **Passed.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Dean Rebhuhn

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Joseph Kalt

**Judges Rules Committee**

1. Recommend updating the Judges Score Card- run content box left empty to indicate an average run, same as a checkmark.

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- Standing Rule 6.d page 32 and Standing Rule 25.b page 49.  
Passed unanimously.
  
- 2. Recommend adding verbiage to the Judges Code of Ethics. Article 6 and adding it to the end of Standing Rule 21.  
Passed unanimously.
  
- 3. Recommend adding verbiage to: Regulations for Approved Limited Age Events: Add 4.g. Page 124.
  - 4.g: Judges must get approval from the Director of Judges to judge consecutive aged events.  
Passed Unanimously.
  
- 4. Recommend a verbiage addition to Standing Rule 21. Page 47.
  - Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Judges Code of Ethics.  
Passed by unanimous vote.
  
- 5. Recommend changes to Standing Rule 27. Page 50-54 and Standing Rule 21.b Page 47:  
Removal of all 1A rating wording to support changes to 2A rating.  
Passed Unanimously.
  
- 6. Recommend additional wording in Standing Rule 28.a- Page 54 and in Standing Rule 29- Page 55.  
28.a: (in part)
  - The Director of Judges may take such disciplinary action as he determines in his sole discretion is appropriate, **based on the severity of the violation in question**, including temporary or permanent revocation of all privileges to serve as an NCHA judge.Standing Rule 29: (in part)
  - **However, all disciplinary actions listed in this rule are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his sole discretion, based on the severity of the incident in question.**Passed unanimously.
  
- 7. Recommend changes to the Judge Challenge System at LAE Monitored Events Page 165-166 and Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System- Adding 5.a.1 Page 164:  
**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

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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 final, the challenge must be submitted to show management before ~~the awards for that final are given. 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 to that round, but the bubble score required to advance to the next round will never be changed. If the next round is a semifinals or finals round, the contestant will be hand-drawn into the round, never changing the bubble score. Both monitors and all five judges will review all challenges submitted.

**5.a.1: Page 164:**

- In finals only, in a case where an R is either placed on the scoreboard or announced by error (when all 5 judges called same penalty), the monitor will contact contestant to make them aware of the error.

**Passed Unanimously.**

**8. Recommendation to add to number 8 of the Approved Limited Aged Events. Page 125:**

- NCHA Self-Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) may be used with three (3) judges or less. **All shows using more than (3) judges must use a NCHA monitor.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**9. Protest Timeline. Page 51. Remove wording.**

- For limited age events, the filing deadline. ~~is seven (7) days from the end of the show.~~

**Passed unanimously.**

**10. Recommended changing/adding verbiage to Judging Rule 5.b-Page 132 and Judging Rule 5.b - Example 5-Note- page 133.**

**Judges Rule 5.b-Page 132:**

Each time a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd while working or picks up **one or more cow's** ~~eattle~~ through fault of the horse, it will be penalized three (3) points. Note: At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.

**Judges Rule 5.b - Example 5-Note- page 133:**

- **NOTE: The definition of a wild cow as it pertains to rule 5.b, is a cow that goes into motion on its own (not caused by the cutter).**

**Both passed unanimously.**

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Re-Elected as Chair: Tim Smith  
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Dave Stewart

### Limited Aged Events Committee

#### Timeline for Publishing Payouts

The committee agreed to publish projected payouts following the draw for each Triple Crown Event.

#### Event Set Up

The committee agreed to make available additional practice pen and block work options at the Triple Crown events.

#### Schedule

##### Use of the Watt

The committee discussed a variety of scheduling options to move classes to the Watt to maximize schedule efficiency.

#### Entry Structure

##### Amateur Division

A motion was made by Monty Buntin to investigate Amateur Triple Crown entry format in cooperation with the Amateur Committee. The motion was seconded by Julie Clarke and passed unanimously.

#### Owner's Night

A motion was made by Monty Buntin to develop a task force to focus on an Owner's Night at future events. The motion was seconded by Justin White and passed.

#### New Business

*Jesse Lennox proposed the idea of creating a top 15 Horse of the Year finals during the 2023 Futurity. – The committee agreed in consensus to support this idea.*

Elected as Chair: Eric Van Boekel  
Elected as Vice Chair: Monty Buntin

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Non-Professional Committee

1. Consider combining Unlimited Ama and NP at independently produced Small LAE shows.

Recommendation:

Give LAE Producers the option to combine the Non-Pro/Amateur (all levels) at small limited aged events.

2. Non-Parity Open/Non-Pro added money at weekend

Recommendation:

No change to the current rule relating to Open/Non-Pro parity of added money on the weekend level.

3. Julie Hansma Sportsmanship Award

Recommendation:

Non Professional sportsmanship award. Beginning with the 2023 Point Year

4. Non Pro Rider of the Year

Recommendation:

Non Pro Rider of the year, all money.

Re-Elected as Chair: Sherry Graham

Elected as Vice Chair: Jamie Sokol

Professional Trainers Committee

1. Change Leveling Terminology for Open

Recommendation:

NCHA adopt the use of Open I, Open II, and Open III to replace the current Limited, Intermediate, and Open terminology.

2. Aged Event Shoot out Proposal

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Recommendation:

Proceed with the Shoot -out format for the 2024 show season. A sub-committee consisting of Jay Winborn, Shianne Megel, Jesse Lennox, Coleta Rosson, Phil Benadum, Casey Green, Jennifer Palmer, and Sherry Graham has been developed to iron out additional details for the program.

Re-Elected as Chair: Kathy Daughn

Elected as Co-Vice Chairs: Jesse Lennox and Kenny Platt

Stallion Owners Committee

1. NO Recommendations for the EC at this August Meeting.

Elected as Chair: Rock Hedlund

Elected as Vice Chair: Todd Quirk

Weekend Show Committee

1. Discuss non parity Open/Non-Pro added money at weekend level. Leave it up to each Affiliate/Producer what works best in their area.

**Recommend to make no changes; all in favor.**

2. Discuss raising entry fee at the World Finals for the Open/Non-Pro class.

**Recommend support of the concept with input from the Finance Committee; all in favor.**

3. Clarification rider shows in World Finals excluded from National Circuit Championships.

**Recommend exception be granted if horse is sold that was in the Top 15 Open/Non-Pro be allowed to be shown in other classes; all in favor.**

4. Discuss the approval of Championship Shows with no added money can now be true jackpot (entry fee cap \$350) shows which would count for the World Finals and change 8% fee to flat fee at the weekend level (example \$10 per entry).

**Recommend concept with cap have Finance Committee vet and report back 8% vs flat fee; all in favor.**

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Re-Elected as Chair: Bradey Davis  
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Chris Howell

**Youth Committee**

**1. Levels of Excellence Academic Program (LEAP)**

Following discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Sabrina Mesalam, and **SECONDED** by Cindy Smith to develop the growth of the NYCHA Leap Form to coincide with the update and growth of opportunities available to our youth members. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. National Youth Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame**

Revisions and updates were recommended to be made to the National Youth Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame Criteria.

A **MOTION** was made by Sabrina Mesalam and **SECONDED** by Sherry Cowan to change the verbiage of the NYCHA Horse Hall of Fame to state that to be considered for the Youth Hall of Fame, an NCHA youth member is eligible to apply *“upon the completion of a high school diploma or GED equivalent as long as the meet the rest of the criteria”*. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Nikki Roberson and **SECONDED** by Sabrina Mesalam to change the verbiage of the NYCHA Hall of Fame criteria to state, “Have been in the Top Fifteen Youth World Standings or Finalist at Eastern, Western, or Summer Spectacular at least once.” **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Nikki Roberson and **SECONDED** by Sabrina Mesalam to make the addition of listing all NYCHA Officer/Director positions on the NYCHA Hall of Fame application during the submission process. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A **MOTION** was made by Nikki Roberson and **SECONDED** by Sabrina Mesalam for the addition of two letters of recommendation required to be included when NCHA Youth members submit their NYCHA Hall of Fame applications. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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A **MOTION** was made by Cindy Smith and **SECONDED** by Sherry Cowan to deny the request to have the NYCHA Hall of Fame Committee, including the NCHA Youth Director, have final approval on NYCHA Hall of Fame honorees. This will alleviate any personal opinions from the NYCHA Hall of Fame selection process. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. National Youth Cutting Horse Association National Officer/Senior Regional Director/Area Director Applications**

Due to a lack of participation, and the hardships of communication between all leadership positions in the National Youth Cutting Horse Association, the discussion of attendance was brought forward. For the 2022/2023 year, several NYCHA leadership position responsibilities were not fulfilled due to the lack of instruction on the current Officer and Director Applications.

Following the discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Nikki Roberson and **SECONDED** by Sherry Cowan to include the verbiage,

- 1) If I miss two meetings, I will have a meeting with the NCHA Youth Director and the NCHA Youth Committee Chair
- 2) If I miss three meetings, I will automatically be terminated from the NYCHA Officer/Director Position

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Amy Lippincott

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Kristen York