2026 NCHA FUTURITY

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For the 2026 NCHA Open & Non Pro Futurity, Open & Non Pro Derby, Open & Non Pro Classic Challenge

All rules of NCHA Ltd (National Cutting Horse Association) not in direct conflict with the rules of the 2026 NCHA Futurity, as approved by the Board of Directors of NCHA Ltd and as published herein will apply. These rules are subject to change by action of the NCHA Ltd Board only.

Futurity, NP Futurity &/or Amateur - All horses must be three years old born no earlier than 1st August 2022 to 31 July 2023.
Derby & NP Derby &/or Amateur - All horses must be four years old born no earlier than 1st August 2021 to 31 July 2022.
Classic/Ch & NP Classic/Ch & or Amateur – All horses must be five, six or seven years old born between 1st Aug 2018 to 31 Jul 2021.

To be held in Tamworth from the Sunday 24th May to Sunday 7th June 2026
(Dates are subject to change)

I. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. OWNERS and RIDERS must be "FULL" financial members of the NCHA Ltd at the time of nomination and at time of competition.
2. The event is open to all horses irrespective of breed.
3. All nominations must be completed online via the NCHA iCompete online entries system.
4. Entries MUST be accompanied by proof of age; proof of age to be determined by official Registration or Recording Certificate issued by respective Breed Society. Unregistered horses & Pending Registrations must include an NCHA Age Inspection Form. Age Inspection form to be completed by a registered veterinarian and include at least four colour photographs of nearside, offside, front, and rear. **NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**
5. All nominations will be inspected prior to the competition for verification of age by the official NCHA Equine Dentist. A horse will not be eligible to compete if the age as determined by examination of its teeth exceeds the age as shown on the registration certificate or the notarised statement required for unregistered horses. Right of appeal will be by way of written application to the Executive Committee.
6. The 2026 Futurity will consist of a five (5) Judge system.
7. Each horse is allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work during a run. The working time starts when the rider crosses the official timeline.

a) As soon as the horse, owner and rider's name are called to the herd by the announcer (the "rider announcement" – including the first horse of the herd), the timekeeper will start the 1-2 ½ minute clock to let the rider know how much time the rider must cross the official timeline and begin the rider's run.
b) If the rider has helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 2 ½ minutes from the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.
c) If the rider has not helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has not drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 1 minute from the time of the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.
d) If the rider fails to cross the official timeline in the time allotted under the 1-2 ½ minute clock, a buzzer will sound and on additional minute will be added to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock. (This is the only warning that the rider will receive relating to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock.)
e) If the rider receives any additional buzzers relating to the 1-2 ½ minute clock at any time during the show, it will result in a $200 fine per occurrence. (i.e.- second buzzer is $200 fine, third buzzer is an additional $200 fine, etc.) THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.

8. No Cattle Hire will be charged for finalists.
9. Any late payment of scheduled fees will incur a 50% loading.
10. All scheduled payments/fees including late fees due must be received by the NCHA prior to the draws.
11. Late fees will not be included in the payouts.
12. Prize money will be paid to the person whose name is declared in the bank details section of the iCompete entry.
13. If instalments or final payment is not made by the due date, the nomination will be regarded as withdrawn and re-entry will only be accepted on payment of late fees.
14. A 5% Discount will be provided should the entry be paid for in full by 7th October 2025 for a Open and Non Pro Futurity entry.
15. Open Futurity entries must be named (Excluding Non Pro Slot Entries) on nomination with the first payment, due 7th October 2025.
16. Change of Horse ownership does not affect eligibility, but the NCHA must be notified of the transfer with applicable transfer fees paid to the NCHA office, prior to the start of the event.
17. The NCHA reserves the right to cancel these competitions without liability and return all entry fees paid less the portion of event costs incurred up to the cancellation period, at any time should unforeseen circumstances occur. SUNDRY COSTS MAY VARY.
18. No horse will be allowed to start in the 2026 Futurity and Non Pro Futurity where it can be proven by the Board of Directors of the NCHA that the horse has been shown or judged in an Affiliated or Unaffiliated cattle working event prior to the Futurity.
19. Prize money Payouts will be as per NCHA Rule Book and/or Cadush system.
20. Recognition awards and ribbons will be presented to finalists.
21. Number of finalists will be as per the NCHA rule book.
22. Prize money Payouts will be completed within 30 days from the final day of competition.
23. Any violation of the rules will render the competitor ineligible to collect any prize money/trophy/prizes or returned if previously collected to the NCHA.
24. All scratching's must be submitted to the NCHA via iCompete.
25. Draws will be posted a minimum of ten days prior to the start of the show.
26. OPEN FUTURITY FINAL ONLY – Manual Draw When the draw for the Open Futurity Final is conducted manually Back-to-back positions are not permitted.
    If a rider is drawn in consecutive positions (back-to-back), the second draw must be moved to after the following rider in the draw.
    How to move the second draw
    The second draw will be placed immediately after the horse that was drawn after the rider's original second position.
    This adjustment is made to keep the show running smoothly.
    Exception – Last in the herd
    If the rider's second drawn position is the last run in the herd, no change will be made and the back-to-back draw will stand remain unchanged.
27. A refund will only be applicable after all scheduled payments have been received by 2nd March 2026.The refund will consist of the sundry costs ONLY.
28. A person with an Open entry may add an entry to the Non Pro Division (being the same horse) with no penalty up to Monday 11th of May 5pm.
29. Entrants in the Open Derby and Open Classic Challenge are required to qualify for the 2nd go round. The top 80% plus ties only will advance to the 2nd go round in draw.
30. Entrants in the combined Non Pro/Amateur Derby and Non Pro/Amateur Classic Challenge are required to qualify for the 2nd go round. The top 80% plus ties only will advance to the 2nd go round in draw.
31. The 20% on contestants that don't go through in the Open Derby, Open Classic, Non Pro/Amateur Derby and Non Pro/Amateur Classic Challenge, will receive a portion of their cattle hire fee returned.
32. Should there be a tie for first place they will be awarded Co-Champions of the event. The prize money for first and second place will be added and divided equally between the Co-Champion owners. All champion listed prizes/trophies will be awarded to the highest aggregated horse over the three rounds. The reserve champion listed prizes/trophies will be awarded to second highest aggregated horse. If there is still a tie, then the awards will be decided by the toss of a coin. The NCHA will ONLY supply a duplicate Buckle for the Co-Champion.

33. If there is three or more tied for first place, then a runoff will be conducted. The tied competitors will do a manual draw for order of work in the same herd as the final.
34. NCHA LIMITED OPEN FUTURITY/DERBY/CLASSIC CHALLENGE is Only eligible for Professional Trainers that have earned lifetime earnings of less than $100,000 as at commencement of the 2026 Point score year. Finals will be as per the NCHA Rule book. Any late limited entries must be entered and fully paid by 4pm the day before the event starts.
35. Any Dogs in the Camping Area must be on a lead or adequately restrained. No dogs will be allowed in the seated area of the Complex.

II. RULES APPLICABLE TO NON PRO ENTRIES

1. A Non Pro has two options when entering the Non Pro Futurity, Non Pro Derby and Non Pro Classic Challenge divisions.
   a) You may name your horse when you make your first payment.
   b) You may enter the riders name only; this will be considered a 'slot' entry.
2. A Non Professional/Amateur rider's 'slot' entry or named entry may be sold to another Non Professional/Amateur as an entire Entry – IT CANNOT BE SPLIT.
   a) A Non Pro may sell their entry before the draw. This will attract an administration fee of $165.
   b) A Non Pro may sell their entry after the draw but before the beginning of the first scheduled go-round. The buyer will be required to submit horse's registration papers or a bill of sale showing proof of ownership to the NCHA along with $330. When a Non Professional sells a 'slot' entry after the draw they cannot repurchase another 'slot' entry in that class. They may however buy a horse from another Non Professional which is entered in that class and show the purchased horse in the allocated draw position which has been assigned to that horse.
   c) Naming of slots are to be completed by Monday 11th of May 5pm. After this date the charge will be $330 to name your entry. The horse or horses to be ridden are not yet named, you have the option to withhold this information until 1hr prior to the event. Failure to notify the office of the horse's name 1 hour prior to the commencement of the event will result in disqualification.
   d) If a Non Professional does not name their horse or horses before the draw, the working order will be drawn in the name of the rider; if two horses are entered, they shall work in alphabetical order. A rider that names one horse will work in the first assigned draw and the other draw will be left vacant.
3. Double Entry and Transfer Privileges; an entry made in a Non Professional rider's name (slot) may not be transferred to the Open Division.
   a) A Non Pro may transfer to the Open Division before the draw and only if the horse is named on the first scheduled payment entry form, and will be required to pay the difference between the Open and Non-Professional Futurity entry fees plus $165 transfer fee.
   b) A Horse can only be entered (1) one time in each division.
4. A person with a Non Pro entry where the entry was named on the first payment may add an entry (being the same horse) to the Open division with no penalty, up until the draws.
5. NCHA LIMITED NON PRO FUTURITY/NON PRO DERBY/NON PRO CLASSIC CHALLENGE is only Eligible for Non Professional riders that have earned life time earnings of less than $25,000 as at commencement of the 2026 Point score year.
6. **Note*** There will be in the 2026 NCHA Futurity there will be pencil finals for the Limited Non Pro Futurity, Limited Non Pro Derby and Limited Non Pro Classic/ Challenge.
7. Any late Limited/Amateur entries must be entered and fully paid by 4pm the day before the event starts.

III. RULES APPLICABLE TO AMATEUR ENTRIES

a) The 2026 Futurity will hold Amateur divisions separate to the Non Pro Futurity and Non Pro Derby and Non Pro Classic/Challenge.
b) Amateurs may enter the Amateur divisions only. It is not compulsory to enter the Non Pro class.
c) The entry fee for the Amateur divisions will be the same cost as the Non Pro Division of that class.
d) Should an Amateur enter both the Non Pro Class and the Amateur division, the entry fee will be the total of the Amateur division plus $1,020 for the Non Pro Futurity and $970 for the Non Pro Derby and Non Pro Classic Challenge.
e) Finals will be as per the NCHA Rule book.
f) A separate final will be held for each event.
g) Entry into the Amateur Division must be made online via the NCHA iCompete online entries system.
h) Entrants in the combined Amateur/Non Pro Futurity, Amateur/Non Pro Derby and Amateur/Non Pro Classic Challenge are required to qualify for the 2nd go round. The top 80% plus ties only will advance to the 2nd go round in draw.