NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

NCHA AUSTRALIA

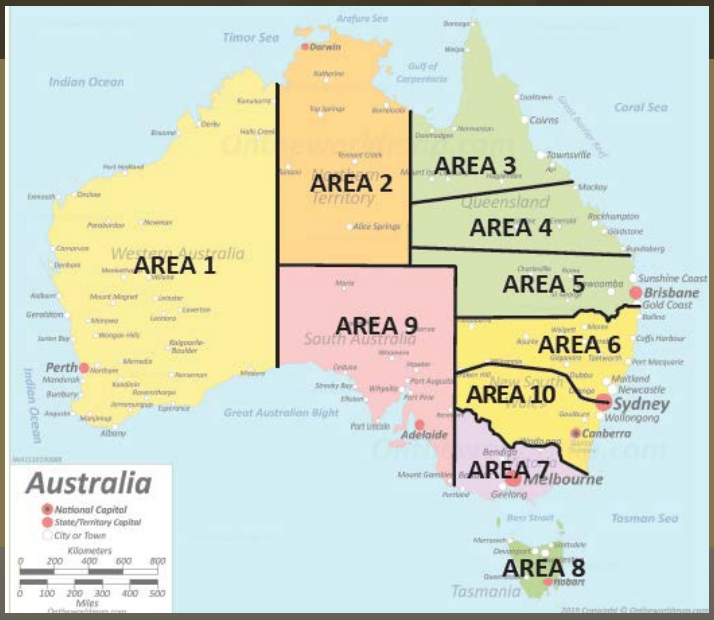
2024

RULES AND REGULATIONS

www.ncha.com.au

NCHA

AUSTRALIA



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Require More Information?

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For any further updates or changes to the NCHA Rule Book please refer to your current Chatta or visit www.ncha.com.au

Please note: Italic print represents rule changes made in the last 3 years

FOREWORD

The National Cutting Horse Association continues to have a bright future. A non profit organisation, the NCHA is dedicated to the equine sport of cutting, whether it be on a property or in the show arena. From its humble beginnings near Fort Worth, Texas in the USA in 1898, the sport has quickly developed into an internationally recognised event.

As more and more contests are held each year with ever-increasing prize money, a greater amount of time is given to the training of cutting horses. As this results in competition becoming more and more intense and every year, it is necessary for the National Cutting Horse Association to adjust and add more detailed rules to enable a judge to draw the finer points between horses. To achieve this, the National Cutting Horse Association Directors must constantly review contest rules.

Encouragement of fair play among contestants and the performance of good horses have always been the paramount aims of the NCHA and this is as true now as it was at the introduction of the sport to Australia. Credit for the success of the association goes to its members. The Affiliates of the National Cutting Horse Association also play an important part in the presentation of cutting horse contests.

At present, the National Cutting Horse Association has over 40 affiliates and in excess of 1000 members in six states and two teritories of Australia and also New Zealand.

One of the most important functions of the National Cutting Horse Association is the improvement of cutting horse contests and maintenance of a complete record of these contests. Individual records are maintained on each competing horse and/or non-professional rider. At the end of each year, the NCHA awards trophies to the high point horses and riders in all divisions of competition, including open and non-professional, as well as Youth and Rookies.

The Association also sponsors and runs a number of major shows.

The NCHA is a life member of the R.S.P.C.A.

The NCHA is an Affiliate of the National Cutting Horse Association (USA), as a life member.

OFFICERS

The association is run by nine elected directors consisting of:

- President
- Two Vice Presidents
- Director(s) of Finance
- Five Directors

The present Standing Committees are:

- Executive Committee
- Major Shows Administration
- Non Professional Administration
- Judge Management Administration
- Finance Administration
- Affiliate Administration
- Rule Management Administration
- Marketing Administration
- International Administration
- Hall of Fame Administration
- Owners and Breeders Aministration
- Professional Trainers Administration
- N.C.H.A. Youth Australia
- Disciplinary Committee

Note: Any NCHA staff member will not be permitted to stand on any NCHA committee or Board of Directors.

NCHA CHATTA

The official quarterly publication of the National Cutting Horse Association is the NCHA Chatta. A magazine of current cutting horse activity, the Chatta is dedicated to the well founded and ever increasing popularity of the true cutting horse. The Chatta is a privilege of individual NCHA active memberships.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. **NCHA Ltd t/a National Cutting Horse Association** is hereafter called the NCHA.
2. **Cutting Horse Register**
   a. "Cutting Horse Register" means the NCHA horse register.
   b. "Imported" in relation to a horse means a horse that has been born outside the three mile limit of the Commonwealth of Australia.
   c. "Registered" in relation to a horse means that it is registered with the NCHA.
   d. "Registered Owner" in relation to a horse means the person registered with the NCHA as the owner of such horse.
   e. "Registered Number" in relation to a horse means the number allocated to it when accepted for registration in the NCHA Cutting Horse Register.
   f. "Owner" in relation to a horse includes, where the context reasonably permits, both the legal owner of the horse and the owner of any interest therein and the beneficial owner of the horse.
   g. "Name" in relation to a horse means the prefix or suffix, the registered number and the words or letters assigned to the horse upon registration with the NCHA.
   h. "Records" means the records of the NCHA.
   i. Where the context reasonably permits: Masculine gender includes the feminine and neuter genders. The singular number includes the plural number.
3. "**Affiliated**" means a contest officially recognised by the NCHA.
4. "**Contest**" means a class with two (2) or more entries competing (attempting to complete a two and a half (2.5) minute work).
5. "**Competition**" means any judged cutting horse competition where placings, ribbons, prizes or points are awarded.
6. "**Age Event**" means a competition restricted by the age of the horse (refer section NCHA Age Events for specific rules).
7. "**Jackpot Competition**" means a competition where prize money is restricted to entry fees.

8. "**Show Committee**"

   a. "Show Committee" in relation to a competition means the committee responsible for conducting the competition.

   b. The term "show management" as used herein is the organisation or individual acting as sponsor of a cutting horse contest for which said organisation or individual sought and received the approval of NCHA to conduct the same.

9. **Competition Ground**" means the arena within which the competition is being or is about to be conducted. Recommended minimum size to be 24m - 30m x 45m - 60m. The surface should be of tilled earth or fine sand with a minimum depth of 10cm (4") to 15cm (6").

10. "**Competition Secretary and The Secretary of the Competition**" means the secretary of the competition.

11. "**Prize Money or Purse Money**" means the amount of stated cash to be distributed as prize money.

12. "**Prize**" includes any reward, gift or presentation whether in the form of a certificate, a card, ribbon, monetary payment, trophy or otherwise.

13. "**Awards**" include decision, placing and adjudication.

14. "**The Closing Date for Entries**" in relation to a competition means the date on or before which entries must be received as last published by the body conducting the show.

15. "**First Day**" in relation to a competition or age event means the day on which judging of a competition commences.

16. "**Exhibit**" used as a verb includes the verb "Show" and vice versa, and to exhibit or to show includes to compete.

17. "**Misconduct**" includes any conduct considered to be unworthy of a sportsman or calculated to induce a breach of the peace or to create a nuisance or to prejudice the smooth running or prestige of any recognised competition.

18. "**Restricted Cutting Horse Contest**" as used herein is interpreted to mean a cutting horse contest where entry is limited by the age or sex of the horse – individual breed shows, mare, gelding, stallion or any event deemed restricted by the NCHA Board of Directors.

1. "**Non Pro**" as used herein is the abbreviation for the words Non Professional Rider or Non Professional Card Holder who is also a full member of the Association.

2. "**Entry**" – A nomination becomes an entry, for the purpose of calculating prizemoney or the number of horses advancing to a final, when the draw is completed. Any nomination scratched prior to the draw is not an entry in the event.

CUTTING HORSE REGISTER

1. The NCHA may, subject to the constitution and regulations, register any horse in the Cutting Horse Register. The NCHA may decline to register any horse or decline to accept any transfer without assigning any reason thereto.

2. Registration in the NCHA register shall be open to all horses irrespective of breed or sex.

3. All horses must be registered in the Cutting Horse Register prior to competing at any NCHA or affiliated event.

4. In the case of an imported horse, the name of the horse shall include the bracketed abbreviations "(imp)" and the name of the country.

5. No name or part of a name shall be registered if, in the opinion of the NCHA, it is likely to mislead either with regard to sex, relationship, origin or otherwise.

6. A horse shall not be described or referred to in cutting publications other than by its registered name.

7. All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their breed association, and all horses not breed registered must be shown under the name in the NCHA Register only, at any and all contests approved by the NCHA.

8. The NCHA reserves the right to insist that a distinguishing prefix be added to the name of the horse seeking registration in the NCHA Cutting Horse Register where this name by similarity is likely to cause confusion in the Cutting Horse Register.

9. A number shall be allocated to each horse registered in the Cutting Horse Register.

10. The NCHA may either cancel, suspend or vary the registration of any horse in the register at any time for any reason which the NCHA, in its absolute discretion, may consider sufficient and without assigning any

reason thereto and no member or owner shall have any claim against the NCHA by reason of any such cancellation, suspension or variation.

11. During the period of suspension of registration of a horse, it shall be deemed to be not registered.

12. Upon any sale, exchange, gift, lease, loan, mortgage or other disposition of a horse or any interest in a registered horse there shall be lodged by a registered owner with the Secretary of the NCHA within sixty (60) days of such disposition either -

    a. An application for transfer in the prescribed form signed by the owner as transferrer and by the transferee; or

    a. An application for the cancellation of the registration of a horse.

13. A transfer shall not be deemed complete until signed by both transferor and transferee.

14. The NCHA may accept or, without assigning any reason thereto, refuse to record any transfer.

15. Subject to the regulation, every transfer approved by the NCHA will be entered in the Cutting Horse Register.

16. If transfers and the relevant fees for horses in the NCHA registry are not lodged with the NCHA following the sale of a horse the new owner will have no points recorded (either for the horse or rider) until such transfer and proof of ownership with the prescribed fee is paid. Horse transfers must be in place prior to a horse being shown, or any money/points won will not count toward earnings or year end standings.

17. The NCHA Cutting Horse Register is open to all horses whether registered with a breed society or not.

NCHA EVENTS

The classifications of NCHA approved events are:

a. **OPEN -** Open to all horses regardless of breed, age, sex, colour, conformation, appearance or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only.

b. **$15,000 NOVICE** - For horses that have won less than $15,000 in affiliated NCHA cutting horse competitions in their lifetime, including Non Pro & Rookie earnings and excluding all age/restricted earnings and all Non Pro age/restricted earnings, or that have not accrued 120 or more points in their lifetime.

c. **$5,000 NOVICE** - For horses that have won less than $5,000 in affiliated NCHA cutting horse competitions in their lifetime including Non Pro and Rookie earnings & excluding all age/restricted earnings and all Non Pro age/restricted earnings, or that have not accrued 30 or more points in their lifetime.

d. **OPEN NON PRO** - Open to all NCHA Non Professional Card Holders regardless of lifetime earnings.

e. **NOVICE NON PRO** - Open to all Non Professional Card Holders competing on a Novice horse (a horse with lifetime earnings of less than $15,000, excluding all age/restricted earnings, or which has not accrued 120 or more points). Earnings will be tabulated for both horse and rider and high point standings and awards will be determined by the horse. Non Pros must own the horse(s) shown in this class.

UPDATED 1/8/2024

f. **$15,000 NON PRO** - Open to Non Professional Card Holders with lifetime earnings of less than $15,000, excluding all age and restricted earnings as determined by the records of the NCHA.

UPDATED 1/8/2024

g. **$7,500 NON PRO** - Open to Non Professional Card Holders with lifetime earnings of less than $7,500, excluding all age and restricted earnings, as determined by the records of the NCHA.

h. **AMATEUR** – Open to all NCHA Non Professional Card Holders, with current NCHA Amateur status.

UPDATED 1/8/2024

i. **ROOKIE** - Open to all persons who have won less than $3,000 in any NCHA approved cutting horse competition, or who have not accrued 60 points in their lifetime, excluding all Snaffle Bit events and Snaffle Bit age events. Any Youth who has accumulated 100 or more lifetime points will also cease to be eligible. Money or points earned while competing on a day fee will be included for eligibility purposes. The burden of proof of eligibility will be on the competitor. The Rookie event is exempt from Non Pro ownership rules.

j. **YOUTH** - Junior Youth must be aged 13 years and under as at the start of the competition year; Senior Youth are aged 14 - 18 years as at the start of the competition year. NOTE: Junior Youth MUST wear an approved helmet whilst astride any horse anywhere on the grounds where an NCHA affiliated event is being conducted.

k. **SNAFFLE BIT** – The Snaffle Bit is a one or two handed contest, open to all riders who have less than $3,000 lifetime earnings (excluding age events) or 50 points. Points won in a Snaffle Bit class will accumulate to determine a competitor's eligibility for that class, but will not count towards lifetime earnings or the status of the rider. Money and points earned in Snaffle Bit classes (excluding age events) will count toward class eligibility. Once a horse and rider combination which is eligible to compete in Snaffle Bit classes competes in an Open/Non Pro/Amateur or Novice class, that horse and rider combination is no longer eligible to compete in a Snaffle Bit class. Points earned whilst competing on a day fee will be included for eligibility purposes. The burden of proof of eligibility will be on the competitor. A competitor may borrow a horse and pay a day fee to compete. A competitor can show a maximum of two horses in this class, however only the points from the highest earning horse will count towards high point awards. Twisted wire snaffles, gag snaffles or shank snaffles shall not be used. Snaffle bits are to be a minimum of 10mm (3/8") and have a smooth single jointed mouthpiece. Bosals and hackamores may be used. They shall be of rope or braided rawhide and have no metal parts.

l. **RESTRICTED EVENTS** – events granted special approval by the NCHA with unique terms and conditions in which earnings do not count toward year end standings or class eligibility.

m. **AGE EVENTS** – events determined by the age of the horse (Futurity – 3-y-o; Derby 4-y-o; Classic 5-y-o, 6-y-o and 7-y-o).

1. $15,000 Novice, $5,000 Novice, Novice/Non Pro, $15,000 Non Pro, $7,500 Non Pro, Rookie, Snaffle Bit - may finish the points year in the class in which they commenced the year, even if they break the respective class barriers during that year.

   Money won in age events, Youth and restricted events do not count toward class eligibility (excluding the Rookie class).

2. A horse or Non Pro's eligibility to enter NCHA approved classes will be based on NCHA lifetime earnings of said horse or Non Pro after the running of the National Finals. This rule refers to $15,000 Novice; $5,000 Novice; Novice/Non Pro, $15,000 Non Pro; $7,500 Non Pro, Rookie and Snaffle Bit.

METHOD OF CONDUCTING CONTESTS

1. The herd of cattle should be held at one end of the arena by two riders who do not allow any cattle to pass them until the contestant has the animal he/she has chosen to work cut out from the herd. After this animal has been driven past the riders holding the herd, it will have to be turned back giving the contestant a chance to show his 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 in a show with several spectator performances, only the contestants, herd holders and turnback riders be allowed in the arena during the cutting horse event. Spectators must be considered at all times, and by restricting the number of horses in the arena, greater concentration is encouraged on the horse working.

2. Usually yearling or two year old cattle in good condition 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 contest depends on the number of horses entered and the number of go-rounds to be worked. The minimum number of cattle required by the NCHA for an approved contest be equal to three times the number of works scheduled. In other words, at least three (3) head of stock per horse per go- round must be provided. In a one (1) go-round contest with forty (40) horses, one hundred and twenty (120) cattle would be needed; if two (2) go-rounds, two hundred and forty (240) cattle, etc. Before the draw is made for working order, the number of horses to work in each group of cattle must be determined with a maximum of 17, although it is recommended not to exceed 15.

   The cattle should then be separated in direct proportion to the number of horses to be worked, (i.e. 12 horses, at least 36 cattle; 15 horses, at least 45 cattle). Where Finals are to be held, four (4) head must be provided per run.

   Exception: Jackpot shows may allocate cattle at 2 ½ head of cattle per contestant.

   Further exemptions may be granted under extenuating circumstances upon application and approval by the board.

4. In some cases, shows may schedule other classes in addition to NCHA Open and Non Professional contests. It is recommended that fresh cattle are allocated to Open and Non Professional contests since higher entry and cattle fees are usually charged for these classes. Youth contests should always be provided fresh cattle. If Open, Non Professional and Youth classes are not held first, seperate fresh cattle should be provided and held back for these classes.

   The advertised starting time for an event or class shall be the time at which the cattle will be let into the arena, and NOT the time at which the settle is presumed to be completed. For the purpose of clear and consistent communication with competitors, show management shall consider that a cutting commences when the relevant set of cattle is let into the arena.

5. Show management must provide a means of announcing or displaying the score for each horse immediately after its work. This will greatly increase spectator interest and enthusiasm for the contest.

6. Whenever possible, it is recommended that stands be provided for the judges, and that they be placed in the arena. This is particularly true for large contests where a complete go-round will be worked without interruption. During rodeo or horseshow performances the judges can be mounted on horse back or in utility vehicles to assure them a good view.

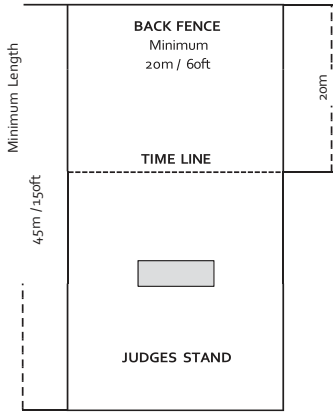
7. It is mandatory to have a management plan and risk management plan when organising a cutting show. Having a good arena director will ensure that contestants are ready to follow immediately after the proceeding competitor. This will help put on a good show and will make the event more popular. Have every detail worked out before hand 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.

8. While the event preceding the Cutting Horse Contest is going on, get the cattle in the yard 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, turnback riders and the contestants are ready, and the Judges have their judging sheets and a pen and see that the announcer has all of the information they need. All of this will add a lot to the show.

9. Any person riding a horse at an event anywhere on the grounds must be a member of the NCHA. Lopers and assistants are included in this requirement. Under no circumstances are non- members to mount a horse at an approved NCHA event. Day membership is available.

CONTEST ARENA REGULATIONS

1. Arena Size
   Recommended Width 24m (80') – 36m (120') x
   Recommended Length 45m (150') – 80m (250')
2. The back fence should be a minimum of 20m (60') wide and should be the same distance from the side fences on either side.
3. The timeline should be a minimum of 20m (60') from the back fence.
4. It is recommended that the judge or judges' stand/s be at least 38m (120') from the back fence.



5. The surface should be of tilled earth or fine sand with a minimum depth of 10cm (4") to 15cm (6"). Note: If the arena floor is of concrete a 30cm (12") rolled clay base must be provided, then a minimum depth of 15cm (6") of sand. If the floor is of rolled clay, a minimum depth of 15cm (6") of sand and if floor is of natural cushioned earth, then a depth of 10cm (4") is sufficient. The arena should be watered to control dust which can cause problems for contestants and animals.
6. The time allotted to each horse to work is two and a half (2.5) minutes.
7. The timeline is merely a point at which the contestant's run begins.

The designated working area is the area of the contest arena between the judge and or judges' stand/s and the back fence. However, for the purposes of rule 16 b of the judging casebook, the whole arena will be considered.

8. Show committees must calculate how long their show will take to complete. A good rule of thumb is that it takes about five (5) minutes per horse including herd settling. Should the events not be completed during daylight hours and lights are not available, the show committee may be liable to refund entry fees and cattle hire for events cancelled due to insufficient light, similarly, events may be cancelled due to excessive dust.

SHOW COMMITTEE

1. Every **APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL** of a recognised competition shall be in such form as may from time to time be prescribed by the NCHA and shall include:

   a. The **DATE AND VENUE** of the competition.

   b. **DETAILS OF THE CLASSES** in accordance with which cutting horses are to compete or are to be exhibited.

   c. A copy of any **SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS** which are intended to apply to the competition, as approved by the executive committee.

   d. All other **INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE REGULATIONS** and by the NCHA.

   e. Amount of **PRIZE MONEY** and distribution.

   f. Payment of the **AFFILIATION FEE**.

2. a. More than one (1) show will not be affiliated within a 300km road travel radius on the same day.

   A championship cutting will take precedence over a jackpot cutting, or if both shows are of the same criteria, the first approval form received in the office will be the show affiliated, should there be two (2) or more clubs wishing to affiliate on the same day. No show will be affiliated by the NCHA on the same date as any major show held by the NCHA.

   b. No date and schedule of events and nominated purses which has been fixed for holding an affiliated competition and which has been approved by the

NCHA shall be ALTERED OR CANCELLED without the majority consent of the NCHA Executive Committee unless it be by an act of God. Show committees are required to give entrants twenty-four (24) hours notification of any alteration or cancellation of a contest or event. Affiliates found to have acted in contravention of any of these directives may be fined $550.00 and/or subject to disciplinary action.

c. No affiliate can run a show outside their area without prior board approval.

d. It is recommended that show management advertise their enlisted judge/s prior to fourteen (14) days before the commencement of an affiliate event.

3. Within fourteen (14) days of completion of the competition, one (1) copy of the results, judges' sheets and show sheets must be sent to the Secretary of the NCHA and must contain full and correct particulars of all awards and prize money. Also, all levies pertaining to the said show must be paid within fourteen (14) days.

4. The entry fee payable in respect of each horse entered shall be paid at the same time of lodgement of the application for entry, except in the case of an age event where part of the entry fee may be lodged with entry and the balance later. **ALL ENTRY FEES AND CATTLE HIRE MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO COMPETING IN THE RELEVANT COMPETITION.**

   Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the show committee conducting the event. Any late entry accepted must work at the end of next available herd and will incur a penalty determined by the show committee. Scratching's will not change a competitor's place in the draw or alter the number of cattle in the herd.

5. The NCHA shall guarantee all entry fees paid by contestants to the show management presenting cutting horse contests, only provided –

   a. The contestants must be NCHA members in good standing.

   b. The Show must remit five and a half (5.5%) percent of all entry fees plus applicable levies per horse per event, as set by NCHA annually, to the NCHA within fourteen (14) days of completion of the said show. Failure to remit these levies within this period may result in the said show committee being disaffiliated with the NCHA.

c. That all entries have been received on an official entry form as provided and supplied by the organising affiliate or show committee and the subject entry form is duly signed and acknowledged by the contestant entering the event.

d. Automatic disciplinary action will be taken against any NCHA members causing implementation of standing rule 5. Such member may be disciplined, fined, placed on probation, or suspended from the NCHA.

e. 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 5 on the date of the offence. Failure to make full restitution, including the above-named penalties, within twenty-one (21) days of official written notice from the NCHA will cause all points for NCHA annual awards and certificates to be cancelled from the date of the offence until the date full restitution is received by NCHA.

f. A member or member's horses are banned from competing in NCHA affiliated cutting contests until any outstanding fees are settled.

6. If a prize winner is disqualified, the horses placed next in order of merit shall be moved into the higher places in the prize list according to their respective placing by the judge.

7. No affiliate conducting a recognised competition shall be responsible for any accident or injury that may be caused to or by an exhibit and it is a condition of entry that each exhibitor shall hold such affiliate harmless and shall indemnify such body against any legal proceeding arising from such accident or injury. An exhibitor must volunteer to take part and compete.

8. The show management is to appoint an Arena Director whose duties shall be:

a. to maintain complete control of the arena and see that the program runs as scheduled.

b. to ensure that contestants, turnback men and herd holders are ready to compete when called.

c. to note any violation of rules and forward a full report to the show management.

d. to ensure a risk management plan is completed and all incidents are recorded and given to the show management.

9. **ALL NCHA CHAMPIONSHIP CUTTING HORSE CONTESTS MUST BE VIDEO RECORDED.**
No complaints regarding judging will be considered for any shows that are not video recorded. This will assist the Director of Judges in making fair judgement of any protests concerning the judges' performance.

(Video Recording is optional at Jackpot cutting contests)

a. At all NCHA affiliated cutting horse contests the Adjusted Monitor System or Self Adjusted Monitor System may be used (refer Judges Casebook, page 132).

10. The show committee must draw for working order of horses or riders, before each go-round and final. If a re-draw is required one Director or one Cutters Representative must be present.

a. If a horse which was properly entered is left out of the draw, a redraw will not be held. To establish a working order for this entry, the secretary will draw a numbered token based on the number of entries in the class involved to include a token for the late entry. The entry which was left out of the draw shall work behind the entry drawn. Additional cattle will be provided, however original cattle changes are not affected.

11. The show management must determine how many horses will be worked in each group of cattle before the draw is done. The maximum number of cutters recommended is 15, however in no circumstances is it to exceed 17.

a. Herds are to be divided evenly with a minimum of 3 head of cattle per cutter. If there is an odd number of cutters in an event, the lesser number will be in the last herd. Exception: Dispensation of 2.5 head of cattle for jackpot shows.

b. Any competitor that is entered and has missed their draw for whatever reason must be accepted, if so requested. Payment of an additional entry fee is at the discretion of the committee. The competitor will work last in the first available group of cattle. Scratching's will not alter a competitor's place in the draw or alter the number of cattle in the herd.

c. Notice of intention to scratch a horse must be given to the show secretary at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the show, otherwise all fees will be payable. Show committees

may extend this time limit up to fourteen (14) days provided they advertise the fact on official entry forms and at least once in the NCHA Chatta.

d. It is mandatory that a rider drawn back-to-back should have his second draw automatically placed behind the horse drawn immediately following those two draws to facilitate the smooth running of the show.

e. All horses must be ridden in order of competition draw that is announced and posted prior to the commencement of the show, unless circumstances relating to rule 11 b apply. Riders may be substituted in Open and Non-Pro competitions after the draw has been done. In the case of Non-Pro classes all relevant Non Pro rules will apply and must be adhered to.

f. At all affiliated events the judge's score for each contestant will be publicly announced at the completion of the contestant's run and the judge's sheets (or copies) must be posted at the end of the contest (judges' sheets for age events will be posted at the end of each said go round).

g. If re-run cattle must be used for any events, the cattle charge for re-run cattle shall not exceed half the price charged for fresh cattle.

12. For any show with application for approval of $20,000 or more in prize money that is affiliated with the NCHA by either a private individual or an affiliate, (50) percent of the advertised prize money must be lodged in cash or bank guarantee, or an insurance bond in a trust fund with the NCHA with that event's identity prior to the seven (7) days period before the commencement of the show.

13. All persons wishing to implement incentive schemes must seek Board approval by presenting a detailed submission and guaranteed finance presented on letterhead by the guaranteeing entity. All incentive schemes must be sanctioned by the NCHA to enable advertising in the Chatta and a presence at NCHA shows.

14. In the event of conflict at a competition, the regulations of the NCHA will prevail.

15. The show committee must appoint a Cutters' Representative before the contest starts or hold a meeting before each contest starts for the purposes of electing a representative of the contestants or a liaison (if person is a member in good standing of the NCHA) to

work between contestants and show management.

16. Show management or NCHA office staff have the right to consult the NCHA Director of Judges at any time with regard to the Adjusted Monitor System or Self Adjusted Monitor System.

17. 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. Failure to make satisfactory accounting when called upon shall be a cause for a full and impartial hearing before the Board of Directors, with disciplinary action to be taken if necessary.

    Show secretaries must sight and record each contestant's current NCHA membership card before competition begins for that contestant. The card number is to be recorded on show sheets. If the contestant cannot produce a current card, the applicable day fee must be charged and collected by the show secretary. A fine may be imposed if this rule is not adhered to. If entries are taken and paid prior to the event, online resources are available on the NCHA website to ensure all competitors are financial.

    A copy of the horse's registration papers or the horse's registered NCHA number must be submitted to the secretary when entering approved shows. A fine may be assessed when the registration papers or NCHA numbers are not submitted. All unregistered horses must be shown under one name only.

18. If any circumstances occur which are not or which are alleged not to be provided for by these regulations, the NCHA may deal with matters and make such decision as it deems fit and its decision shall be final and binding upon all persons affected thereby.

19. Should an animal (cow or horse) be injured or debilitated; it must be attended to immediately. If it occurs during a run, the run must be stopped so that the animal may be dealt with.

    Removing a cow from the herd after the first horse has worked may be only done when it is in the best interest of human or animal welfare. Such decision to remove a cow shall be made by the show management or its representative. 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.

NCHA APPROVED CONTESTS

It is compulsory that any person riding a horse at any NCHA event anywhere on the grounds must be a financial member of the NCHA.

Under no circumstances are non-members to mount a horse at an approved NCHA event.

There are two (2) categories of NCHA approved contests. Points won in both categories are counted towards high point awards. A class must have two (2) or more entries competing (attempting to complete a two and a half (2.5) minute work) to count towards standings or awards.

1. **NCHA Championship Cutting Horse Contests**
   To qualify for this category, shows must meet all standing rules for approval and, in addition, must have an Open Cutting (minimum $50 added) and an Open Non-Professional Cutting (minimum $50 added). Other NCHA approved classes may be run with this type of contest.

   - One hundred (100) percent of the total entry fee (less 5.5% NCHA levy) must be added back to the stated (guaranteed) purse.

2. **Jackpot Cutting Horse Contests**
   Must include an Open & Open Non-Pro class. There is no restriction on which other jackpot classes are held or the number of classes held.

   - One hundred (100) percent of the total entry fee (less 5.5% NCHA levy) must be paid out as prize money.
   - Other NCHA approved classes may be run with this type of contest.
   - Jackpots may have a minimum guaranteed purse.
   - Jackpots must have a minimum entry fee of $10.

3. Show committees may hold a maximum of two shows at any venue on any one day. Any or all NCHA approved classes may be held once only at each of these shows.

4. To be NCHA approved, the signed application form must be received in the NCHA office no later than forty-two (42) days prior to the closing date of entry for the show involved. All approved shows must appear in at least one (1) NCHA Chatta. Early receipt of an approval application gives the contest more publicity in the NCHA Chatta and on the NCHA website. Late lodgement of the show application approval form will be accepted up to twenty-one (21) days prior to the show, with penalty fees to apply.

5. A show that is approved by the National Cutting Horse Association must use the Association's rules in their entirety. A show may be approved without naming a judge or judges. A show should designate an alternate judge in case the judge or one of the judges is unable to be present.

   a. If there are recognised overseas visiting judges asked to officiate at NCHA approved contests, their qualifications will be recognised if they are NCHA (USA) approved judges.

   b. At any NCHA approved jackpot or championship cutting, a maximum of five (5) judges may be utilised.

   c. Shows must use judges from the NCHA approved Judges List.

ONE JUDGE SYSTEM

- Up to and including $50 jackpot or $500 added or $500 minimum guarantee – **A Judge**
- Up to and including $100 jackpot or $2500 added or $2500 minimum guaranteed – **AA Judge**
- Up to and including $150 jackpot or $5000 added or $5000 minimum guaranteed - **AAA Judge**
- Can judge any cutting - **AAAA Judge**

TWO JUDGE SYSTEM

- Up to and including $150 jackpot or $5000 added or $5000 minimum guaranteed – **2 x AA Judges**
- Any class - **AA & AAA Judge together**

d. No person listed on the NCHA probation list will be permitted to judge.

e. All NCHA approved Championship cutting horse

contests must be filmed. This film must be retained by the show committee for sixty (60) days after the event at which filming occurred and shall be available to NCHA upon request. A video fee may be charged by the show committee.

f. All NCHA approved events must use official NCHA judges' cards and forward same to the association along with all completed NCHA forms, within fourteen (14) days.

6. Full Financial members, restricted, Youth and day competitors must be allowed to compete in any NCHA affiliated cutting horse contest for which they are eligible if they comply with all conditions of entry.

7. If any charge is to be made other than entry fee, it must be stated as cattle hire or office charge or video fee and be separated from the entry fee. This fee is to be charged to all contestants and stated on the affiliation form for publication in the Chatta and on the NCHA website. The office fee may not exceed the entry fee. In all cutting horse contests approved by the NCHA, five and one half (5.5) percent of the total entry fees paid plus the appropriate levy as determined by the NCHA, per horse, per event must be forwarded to the NCHA. No deduction, other than as specified above, shall be made. Failure to comply will cause approval of the show to be withdrawn.

8. National Cutting Horse Association competition must be open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, colour, conformation, appearance, or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only.

9. Approval may be made with the NCHA to run a restricted cutting contest, i.e., where entry is limited by age or sex of the horse, individual breed shows, mare, gelding, stallion, invitation, or any event deemed restricted by the NCHA Board of Directors. Points or money won in these classes will be designated towards NCHA lifetime earnings but not towards high point awards, except for High Point Mare, Stallion & Gelding.

   a. A show granted restricted cutting horse contest status must adhere to all NCHA approved contest rules (unless special exemption is granted by the NCHA Board of Directors).

   b. Recognised breed societies are allowed to run one (1) national championship show provided that the cutting horse events are judged under NCHA rules for judging cutting horse contests.

   c. The events must be affiliated with the NCHA and all NCHA levies will apply.

10. Payment of Prize Money at Approved Contests (Age Events Excluded) All NCHA approved contests will be paid out on the following sliding scale basis:

1	No contest						
2-3	1st only	100%					
4-6	2 places	60%	40%				
7-10	3 places	50%	30%	20%			
11-15	4 places	40%	30%	20%	10%		
16-20	5 places	39%	29%	18%	8%	6%	
21 +	6 places	38%	28%	17%	7%	6%	4%

All cutting horse events (except age and restricted events) shall be one go round only. Upon application to the NCHA, a qualifying go round may be held to facilitate the smooth running of a major show. Each horse must have the same rider throughout the contest except in cases of hardship or injury. Hardship and injury are to be determined by the show committee and Cutters Representative.

Definition of Entries - Entries as referred above relates to the number of horses listed in the draw at the start of competition. Any nomination listed prior to the draw and scratched prior to the draw is not considered an entry in the event.

11. An exhibitor may enter one or more horses, but a rider may ride only:

OPEN	No limit
NOVICE	No limit
YOUTH	2 Horses
NON-PRO	4 Horses
AMATEUR	4 Horses
ROOKIE	1 Horse
NOVICE/NONPRO	4 Horses
SNAFFLEBIT	2 Horses

In the event of a Non-Pro or Amateur riding more than one (1) horse in an event, only the points or money from the highest earning horse will count toward high point awards.

12. INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
All incentive schemes must seek Board approval by presenting a detailed submission and guaranteed finance by the company on their letterhead by the guaranteeing entity. All incentive schemes must be sanctioned by the NCHA to enable advertising in the Chatta and a presence at NCHA shows. No incentive program can suggest any form of affiliation with the NCHA without prior approval from the Board and acceptance of any terms and conditions imposed by the Board for that approval.

CONTESTANTS

1. All entry fees and cattle hire must be paid prior to competing in any contest. Show committees must enforce this rule.

2. All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their breed association and a copy of the registration papers or the horse's registered NCHA number must be submitted to the secretary when entering approved NCHA shows. Show management may assess a fine per occurrence when the registration papers or NCHA number are not submitted, and all unregistered horses must be shown under one name only (said name may not conflict with a registered horse's name) at all contests approved by the NCHA.

3. Owners and riders of horses in NCHA affiliated events must be either financial members or the nominee of a financial constituent membership except Rookies, Youth, Snaffle Bit, and international members who may compete on the relevant day fee.

   a. Day fee competitors are ineligible for year-end awards.

   b. Any member not producing a membership card will be charged with the relevant fine.

4. A current membership card must be produced to show secretaries before competing, the card number to be recorded on the show sheet. Secretaries may also sight membership information using online resources.

5. No contestant, NCHA member or other person shall engage in any form of misconduct, verbal harassment, or physical aggression toward show management, judges, NCHA employees, fellow contestants, or members of the public while at an affiliated show. Intoxication with liquor or drugs shall not be considered an excuse.

   The NCHA does not tolerate alcohol and drug-intoxicated members. Show management and/or the arena director have the right to bar an obviously intoxicated person from the arena. A person suspected of alcohol or drug use/intoxication may be asked to undertake a breath test before competing with a point zero five (.05) or above reading resulting in immediate disqualification. Show management has the right to immediately disqualify, refuse entry to and remove from the grounds any person who violates this rule. No entry

fees, cattle hire, camping, and gate charges etc. will be refunded and any prize money won by the offender, or any horse ridden by the offender may be forfeited. Any horse being ridden by the offender at the show shall be disqualified from further participation at that show in any event where the offender is the nominated rider. Refusal to comply with show management's requests regarding this rule will result in immediate removal by the police or security. Should the offender be a member of the NCHA, show management shall, as soon as is reasonably practical, report any infraction of this rule to the NCHA executive committee for referral to the disciplinary committee.

6. A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to himself/herself, or his/her horse, or due to sickness or death in his/her family, but entry fees or any part thereof will not be refunded if the date and time for scratchings has passed. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any contest he/she is participating in due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge or judges, show management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money he/she may have won in previous go rounds. Entry fees or any part thereof will not be refunded after a contest starts.

7. All contestants will work at the appointed time designated by the show management or be disqualified for that go round with no score.

    a. The next cutter in a class has a maximum of three (3) minutes from the time his/her name is announced to cross the timeline.

8. Upon consultation with the show secretary an entry may be substituted after the closing date of entry but prior to the draw being posted. However, after the draw has been posted there shall be no changes as per show committee rule 11e.

9. If a contestant refuses to compete in finals, any money won in previous go-rounds will be forfeited. In the event money has been distributed before 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.

10. Should any horse be injured at an NCHA sponsored event and the NCHA may be found to be negligent, the NCHA official vet must be utilized or the NCHA will hold no responsibility nor be liable for any compensation for vet costs incurred.

11. Mobile phones must not be used in the working arena.

12. A contestant shall not enter the show arena at any time during an approved or sponsored affiliated cutting horse contest with any kind of training device, tack or equipment not permitted by the rules for judging cutting horse contests, rule 16, page 105. The show management, 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.

    a. After the buzzer sounds, the cutter will discontinue working and ride his horse forward past the timeline before dismounting except to retrieve a lost article, or in extenuating circumstances. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action by the NCHA Board of Directors.

    b. 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 disciplinary action by the NCHA Board of Directors.

    c. All cutting horses must be ridden astride.

    d. Each contestant is limited to four helpers.

    e. In the event of bad light affecting competition, the Cutters' Representative, through show management shall have the right of appeal to the judge(s) to stop a contest. If both parties agree the light is sufficiently bad enough to hinder both the competition and judging, the contest or herd of cattle in question may be rescheduled or cancelled in its entirety. In the event of cancellation, all entry fees and cattle hire shall be refunded to the contestants - this rule will also apply to excessive dust.

13. The following provision regarding conduct shall apply to any cutting event.

    a. Training activities of any kind while on the show grounds other than in designated practice facilities are prohibited.

    b. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the show arena or show grounds is prohibited.

    c. A contestant shall not talk with the judge(s) beyond the exchange of normal greetings 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.

d. A contestant shall make no comment within a judge's hearing regarding any work taking place at a performance.

e. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed or brought into the arena while an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting horse contest is taking place.

f. A contestant shall not intimidate or attempt to intimidate the judge(s). Violation of this subsection will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors.

g. 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.

h. A contestant may not talk with a monitor(s) or the Director of Judges, beyond the exchange of normal greetings during a show. A contestant will make no comments within a monitor's hearing regarding any work taking place at a performance. A violation of subsection 1 and 2 of this rule will call for disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors.

i. Judges' sheets must not be removed, altered, or tampered with in any way. Any infraction of this rule will be considered a serious offence and will be reported to the NCHA for possible disciplinary action.

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

15. 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 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 must leave the show for any reason, he shall appoint a representative in his place for the duration of the show. Any representative elected or appointed must be a contestant.

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

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

Any member who is found guilty of any infringement of NCHA rules may be ineligible to represent the NCHA at any international event.

16. For a member to compete on a horse that they do not own at an NCHA sanctioned event (excluding Rookie, Youth and Snaffle Bit) they must be a member of the PCHTA (Professional Cutting Horse Trainers Association). Exemptions will be granted as deemed appropriate by the NCHA Board in consultation with the PCHTA accreditation committee.

    Examples may include:

    a. Exemption for international competitors

    b. Exemption for trainers who are aged 60 and over who have been training professionally for a minimum of 10 years. If this group of trainers are to instruct at any NCHA approved youth clinic they are required to have a blue card and current first aid certificate.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Zero Tolerance policy requires that any of the following acts should be reported.

i. 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.

ii. Using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face.

iii. Using any object held in the rider's hand to hit a horse.

iv. Any act which the general public would perceive to be a violation of 13 b) of this Zero Tolerance Policy. a. This includes such 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.

If show management or judge at any NCHA approved or sponsored event discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of

a horse, they should immediately bar the responsible party and 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 committee for investigation and consideration.

1st offence – warning, 2nd offence – probation with fine, 3rd offence- period of suspension. The incident to be recorded in writing on the Cutters' Representative form.

Official practice areas are required to post a sign containing standing Rule 13 b) of this Zero Tolerance Policy, no smaller than 600mm square, at the entrance to such areas.

a. **Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited. Inhumane treatment includes the showing of a crippled, lame, or injured horse or a horse with any health abnormality which could result in that horse's undue discomfort or distress. Abuse includes excessive jerking, spurring whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to a horse. Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse, a horse in the show arena or on the showground which could also endanger the safety of other persons or animals will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner as provided by the NCHA rules.**

   If show management at any NCHA approved or sponsored event discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, it may immediately bar the responsible party and horse from further participation in the event. The decision of show management as to inhumane treatment shall be based upon consultation with a veterinarian.

   If show management determines, in its sole discretion, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action and a veterinarian is not available, show management shall consult with the judge(s) of the event before taking any action allowed by this rule.

b. NCHA Medication Policy
   To remain true to the ideals of fair play and for the preservation of horse welfare, it is appropriate to state the NCHA Rules relating to the welfare of horses in competition, and particularly the use of medications. As with other horse sports the welfare of the horse is of paramount importance.

- Any horses competing or entered for sale at events managed by the NCHA may be tested for medication residues.
- At other shows holding more than one age event, at least one horse from any age event may be tested. Random testing of horses at any NCHA managed show may be undertaken without notification.
- All testing will be by blood sample with the blood testing providing a determination of medication levels i.e., not a screening test. Tamperproof testing kits will be used. Collection of samples for testing is to be undertaken by a veterinarian under instruction from the NCHA management. Sampling will be taken immediately on exit of the nominated horse/s from the competition arena, or in the case of sale horses, immediately prior to entry into, or exit from the sale arena.
- A registered laboratory will perform the test.
- No person shall cause to be administered internally or externally to a horse, either before or during an approved event, any medication or substance which could affect its performance or appearance at that event, except for those permitted therapeutic medications, the use of which is provided for in the Permitted Medication clause.
- Any horse found to have a prohibited medication residue will be referred to the NCHA Medication Control Committee. This Committee consists of six people, being NCHA general manager, two NCHA directors, two NCHA endorsed veterinarians, one NCHA member/trainer.
- The NCHA Medication Control Committee will determine whether an offence has been committed and what penalty shall be imposed. The cost of medication tests will be borne by the NCHA except where such a test is deemed to be a Rule violation, in which case the costs will be borne by the owner. Where inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse is found to have occurred or any medication administration is in violation of the Rule, the Board of Directors shall be notified.
- Within the definition of this Rule, certain substances may be used without restriction (Unrestricted Class). These include
  - antibiotics, except procaine penicillin
  - antifungals, antiprotozoals, anthelmintics

- anti-ulcer medications
- amino acids, vitamins, electrolytes
- topical ointments and creams not containing corticosteroids, analgesics, local anesthetics, or irritants
- preventative or restorative oral joint therapeutics
- altrenogest
- acepromazine (not permitted in sale horses)

Any other medications that may be administered to horses prior to entry to a competition or sale must be given time to clear metabolites from the horse's system, i.e. they must not be administered inside the effective withholding time.

PERMITTED MEDICATIONS

Permitted Medications, and only those listed, may be administered by a licensed veterinarian, trainer, or individual acting under the owner's direction, to a horse prior to or during competition or sale within the defined limitations. Notification of the use of these medications is not mandatory. The responsibility rests with the aforesaid person/s to comply with the dosage limits for these medications. Failure to comply with the stated dose and frequency of administration will result in a high risk of exceeding therapeutic dose levels. All horses whose medication levels exceed maximum permitted plasma concentrations will be referred to the NCHA Medication Control Committee for review and disciplinary action.

1. Medication must not be given within 6 hours of competition.

2. Only one non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication is permitted. It is a violation to concurrently medicate with more than one NSAID.

3. The following are Permitted Medications:

   PHENYLBUTAZONE - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 15.0 micrograms per milliliter. Each 24 hours, no more than 4.45 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 2.0 grams, which equals 2 x 1.0-gram sachets, 10 x 200 milligram units of paste, or 10 ml of 200mg/ml injectable solution. Where phenylbutazone is orally administered, half the maximum daily dose should be given at 12-hour intervals. Phenylbutazone should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

   FLUNIXIN MEGLUMINE - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 1.0 microgram per milliliter.

Each 24 hours, no more than 1.0 milligram per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 500 milligrams, which equals 10 ml of 50mg/ml injectable solution. Flunixin should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

KETOPROFEN - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 0.25 micrograms per milliliter. Each 24 hours, no more than 2.0 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 1.0 gram, which equals 10 ml of a 100 mg/ml injectable solution. Ketoprofen should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

MELOXICAM – Each 24 hours no more than 1.2 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 5.4 gram, which equals 9 ml of 30 milligram units' oral paste or 13.5 ml of a 20 mg/ml injectable solution. Where meloxicam is orally administered, half the maximum daily dose should be given at 12-hour intervals.

EMERGENCY MEDICATION

Any acutely ill or injured horse may be treated by a licensed veterinarian with the approval of show management, for any condition that would not prevent the horse from competing following treatment.

THE TREATED HORSE MUST BE KEPT OUT OF COMPETITION NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER MEDICATION

A veterinary report must be supplied by the attending veterinarian and lodged with show management within twelve hours of attendance to the horse. The report must include the following details:

Identification of the horse

Date and time of treatment

Diagnosis of the injury or illness

Identification of all medications used, including dose, route of administration, date, and time of last dose.

Identification and signature of attending veterinarian.

The report is to be countersigned by show management with the time of lodgment recorded on the report. Any horse under medical treatment for an acute illness or injury prior to or during competition may be refused further entry on NCHA veterinary advice.

Application for any horse treated under emergency medication provisions to compete within the 24-hour exclusion period may be made to show management. The decision to permit re-entry into competition will be made by show management on review of the veterinary report and assessment of the status of the horse.

Should a medication test identify levels exceeding permissible plasma concentration or inconsistent with stated medication usage the owner of the horse will be required to prove that the medication was administered in a therapeutic dosage and no closer than 24 hours prior to competition.

These same permissions apply to horses requiring emergency treatment prior to an NCHA sale where the horse is deemed suitable to enter the sale ring following veterinary attendance.

ON THE SPOT FINES

1. Training equipment (rings, tie-downs etc.) applied to a horse in the contest area, warm-up area or loping pen Fine: $150
2. Failure to adhere to Standing Rule; 16 b) with regards to correct attire at all times as required by this rule. Fine: $150
3. The use of offensive language in the contest arena, loping pen or practice pen. Fine: $150
4. Smoking in the contest arena. Fine: $150
5. Consumption of alcohol in the contest arena, warm-up area, loping pen, or practice pen/mechanical cow area. Fine: $150
6. The use of a mobile phone in the contest arena (forward of the judges stand) Fine: $150
7. Excessive pulling, jerking, or spurring of your horse at an affiliated NCHA event. Fine: $500
8. Any abuse of an animal on ground which causes an animal's mouth, nose, or sides to bleed. Fine: $500
9. Slapping or hitting an animal forward of the wither. Fine: $500.

Employers, please be aware, you are responsible for persons in your direct control.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The NCHA fully supports the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA).

a. **Help Horses**

i. Their condition and fitness must be equal to the amount of work they will be asked to perform. Under POCTA it is defined that an act of cruelty is "Any act or omission as a consequence of which the animal is unreasonably, unnecessarily or unjustifiably overworked, overloaded, overdriven, overridden, or overused".

ii. The feet of help horses must be properly trimmed or shod.

iii. There must be provision of adequate water at appropriate times in the arena.

iv. Close attention must be paid to the duration of time for which help horses are used. This time must be appropriate to the condition and fitness of the horse and weather conditions.

v. Where possible, help horses should be removed from the arena and unsaddled rather than be tied continually to the arena fence.

b. **Practice Pen Area**
This area must be closely controlled as far as overuse of both horses and cattle are concerned. Water must be available as appropriate in these areas.

c. **Loping Areas**
The loping area within a cutting pen must be restricted to cutting competitors only and where other loping areas exist, further restriction to competitors in the current or next event only. Loping areas must not be overcrowded and behaviour that could result in injury to horses or riders must be prohibited. Local clubs must enforce this policy.

d. **Spurs & Bits**
The use of bits is covered by rule 16. (Refer page 105.) Notwithstanding, the sale or display of inappropriate bits at any show is prohibited. Under POCTA Section 17, "No person shall have in their possession or custody, any spur or any other similar appliance which has sharpened rowels". This ruling must be rigorously enforced.

e. **Training Equipment**
At no time at an NCHA approved event shall any unacceptable training equipment be used. Any headpiece which includes but is not restricted to chain (curb chains are acceptable) or metal parts/wire (excluding normal bits) shall not be used. Tie downs are to be plastic, or leather covered and cord a minimum of 8mm.

Affiliate Show Secretaries are given an Incidents Report form to enable incidents to be documented. The form is accessible online.

f. **Cattle Welfare**
The following Board recommendations must be implemented by organising committees:

i. Minimum fat score, strong store condition.

ii. Minimum Age - should be of age where they are tractable to cut.

iii. Cows and calves should not be used in the same herd as each other.

iv. Female cattle more than 24 weeks pregnant or obviously springing are not recommended.

v. Obviously lame or injured cattle should be removed from the herd entering the arena, and if necessary, before the first horse is worked. Settlers and/or show management to be responsible.

vi. Cattle should be settled before working to ensure they are tractable & comfortable with horses.

vii. Heat - Mid 30s should be looking for shade, preferably shade cloth. Sprinklers to be used with caution as they increase humidity and can overheat cattle in the wrong circumstances.

viii. Water must be available in holding yards. Hay in racks is recommended for cattle being held overnight.

ix. The use of dogs to work cattle in yards is strictly prohibited.

x. Cattle to be handled by competent stockman without whips and poly pipe.

xi. Cattle must have two sound eyes (Pink eye scars are acceptable).

xii. In the case of an animal being injured and having to be removed for the arena, transport and covering screen are to be available for removal of the injured or stressed animal to stop public and animal distress.

A system has been implemented to deal with valid complaints in a non-biased and professional manner.

1. All complaints to be in writing to the Board
2. Evidence (photograph or video or credible witness/s)
3. The NCHA Disciplinary Committee to adjudicate

4. The accused must be provided an opportunity to present their case

5. Fines 1st Offence $1,000, 2nd Offence $2500, 3rd Offence Suspension.

NON-PRO REGULATIONS

1. Riders of horses entered in any classification of NCHA Non-Professional events shall be restricted to holders of National Cutting Horse Association Non-Professional Cards.

1a. A non-professional in this association is the holder of current non pro status. Non pro status must be applied for annually (or otherwise) when renewing membership, or upon the attainment of a new membership. Only those eligible for non pro status will be approved as such.

Individuals who train cutting horse, or riders of cutting horses, for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered as professionals.

UPDATED 20.11.2025

A non pro in this association is a person who does not receive direct or indirect remuneration for the training of horses, or horse riders, on cattle, mechanical cows, or any variation of those (bison etc.). Partners, children and/or cohabitants of professional trainers (those ineligible for non pro status) are not considered recipients of remuneration for training of horses as such. NOTE – individuals who receive direct or indirect remuneration for the training of horses, or horse riders on cattle, mechanical cows or any variation of these (bison etc.) not as professional cutting horse trainers (i.e. for campdrafting, cow horse etc.) will be considered as non-professionals by this association with open non pro status only. A non pro with open non pro status is eligible to show in open events, open non pro age events. A non pro with open non pro status is ineligible in limited non pro events.

2. All present or future ownership rights to any horse being exhibited in NCHA Non-Professional cutting horse classes must be owned by the contestant showing the horse or by the contestant's spouse, spouse's immediate family, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians. **De facto relationships must be advised to the NCHA in writing.**

3. Proof of ownership is required and may by requested by show management of any horse ridden in NCHA Non-Professional classes; said proof to be exhibited to show management or its official representative prior to the beginning of the class. The original registration certificate for registered horses or notarized copy thereof showing current ownership in compliance with section 2 above, or notarized evidence of ownership containing a description of any unregistered horse, attested by the Executive Director of NCHA and made in favour of any person qualifying under section 2 above, shall be deemed as proper proof of ownership (non-conclusive) under this standing rule. If 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 Executive Committee, either probation or suspension, whichever in their opinion fits the infraction.

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 bona fide permanent basis; permanent shall mean to own with intent to retain ownership and not present intent to transfer ownership.
   A Non Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which (1) the Non Professional or any third party is to have any express or implied present or future interest in the

ownership of the horse for the purpose of showing the horse at NCHA contests; (2) any part of the winnings, profit 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.

A Non-Professional may not show a horse concerning which there is an agreement, express or implied, that the horse will be transferred to another person in the future for the purpose of showing the horse in NCHA contests. The Executive Committee, the Non-Professional 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. For any horse three years old or older, computed on the basis that a horse reached one year of age on August 1 of the year following the foaling and adds an additional year on each subsequent August 1, the seller must notify the NCHA if a horse returns to their ownership or their immediate family's ownership at any time and shall give full disclosure including, but not limited to, methods of procurement, all transfer records, cancelled checks and deposit slips if so directed by the Executive Committee. All parties to a transaction in violation of these NCHA rules are subject to disciplinary action, up to a maximum of three (3) year suspension, by the disciplinary committee. Any horse received as a gift must be reported in writing to the NCHA by the recipient within thirty (30) days of receipt.

A horse which is gifted to someone must be gifted in its entirety and may not be re-gifted to the original owner for a period of twelve months. The NCHA office must be officially notified in writing (separate to the transfer) and the transfer will be permitted upon written approval from the Director of Non-Pros or their appointed delegate.

5. a. Riders of cutting horses may be classified as Non-Professionals. 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.

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.

b. 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.

c. 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, his or her spouse, spouses' immediate family, children, parents, siblings, grandparents, and guardians.

6. Non-Professional Card. Every rider, regardless of age, competing in an NCHA Non-Professional contest must possess a Non-Professional Card, issued by the NCHA. This card must be available for inspection at any show entered. Application for a Non-Professional Card shall be made on a form provided by the association at no cost and there shall be no charge for said card.

   a. All applications for Non-Professional Cards and all requests for renewal thereof shall be presented to the NCHA Office for approval. Cards will be issued by the NCHA on an annual basis.

   b. All Non-Professional Card Holders will be reviewed annually at the time application for renewal is made. The application is to be on a form supplied by the association and returned along with the applicant's annual dues and processing fee as provided above.

7. Any person who has shown, trained, or assisted in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered a Professional by this association, except for those who have been granted a change of status, from Professional to Non-Professional. A competitor with a change of status to Non-Professional may only compete in Open Non-Professional classes.

8. If a member who holds an NCHA Non-Professional Card publicly exhibits in any contest, whether approved or unapproved, a cutting horse not owned by the member or by the member's spouse, spouse's immediate family, children, parents, siblings, grandparents and guardians, the said card can be revoked. Penalties for ownership rule violations will be loss of Non-Professional status and 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.

   Consideration for exemptions to the rule may be considered by the Board.

   a. Upon notification in writing to the NCHA and after receiving from them a permit authorising the same, the holder of an NCHA Non-Professional Card will be

permitted to show a horse he/she does not own but intends to purchase, in a maximum of three (3) NCHA approved Open and Novice classes only, provided the horse and shows are named with exact dates. Only one such permit will be granted for a rider for a given horse at any one time and points won will not count toward any NCHA earnings, awards, titles, or certificates. A permit will be issued for a nominal fee and no permits will be granted for any event directly sponsored by the NCHA.

b. Rookies and Snaffle Bit classes are exempt from the Non-Pro ownership rule (excluding age events, i.e. Snaffle Bit Futurity, where Non Pro rules apply).

9. A Non-Professional Card may be revoked at any time by direction of the Board of Directors of the NCHA, however the holder of a card so revoked shall have the right of appeal and a subsequent hearing before the said Board. The burden of proof of eligibility shall be upon the applicant or cardholder.

   a. Any Non-Professional Card revoked by the Board of Directors must be surrendered immediately to the association. If a person whose Non-Professional Card has been revoked enters a class for Non-Professional riders, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

10. A person who has not shown or ridden professionally for three (3) years may be granted a Non-Professional Card upon application to and approval by the Board of Directors of the NCHA. Any member who has trained cutting horses professionally and who has won $50,000 or more in lifetime earnings (excluding Non-Professional earnings) is ineligible to apply for Non-Professional status.

11. Any owner who shall permit his horse to be entered and compete in contests for Non-Professional riders, where the said rider is ineligible, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors of the NCHA.

12. NON-PRO DISPENSATION

   a. Any Non-Pro, upon application to the Board, may receive dispensation to work for a recognised cutting horse trainer and establishment, worldwide. This dispensation would allow this Non-Pro to work for a minimum period of three months and a maximum of two years. Each applicant is entitled to two years dispensation either concurrently or with a break between (suggested twelve-month break). After

completion of this term, the applicant must inform the Board as to whether he/she intends to declare him/herself a professional. Should he/she fail to inform the Board he/she will automatically lose his/her Non-Pro status. The applicant must keep the Board informed as to all circumstances pertaining to his/her employment or conditions of work i.e., change of employer due to either voluntary change and/or forced change due to circumstances arising.

No applicant will receive more than twenty-four months dispensation. During the duration of his/her dispensation the applicant will not be allowed to ride or show in any Non-Pro event or Rookie class. He/she may ride or show any horse in Open and/or Novice classes and Youth classes if applicable.

b. A Non-Pro may also apply to the Board for dispensation to work as a Professional trainer for a period of twelve months to assess their viability as a Professional trainer. After completion of his/her term, the applicant may re-apply to the Board for a Non-Pro Card, and, if granted, they will have Open Non-Pro status. No breaks will be allowed during this dispensation, and no further dispensations will be allowed.

AMATEUR REGULATIONS

1. A Non-Pro with Amateur status in this association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration for the training or preparation of a horse astride.

Updated 08/08/2025

2. A member of this association shall be disqualified from being classed as an Amateur under 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 is married to (or has a co-habitable relationship with) or has been married to (or has had a co-habitable relationship with) a person who is engaged in or who has been engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified, because of the activities then occurring, as a professional cutting horse trainer.

Updated 08/08/2025

   c. The member has resided with a person who is engaged in or has in the last three years been

engaged in activities that would require the person to be classified, because of the activities then occurring, as a professional.

d. The member resides with or on the premises of a parent, stepparent or foster parent of the member who is a professional.

e. The member is directly or indirectly employed by a professional and performs the duties of employment on the premises of a horse training operation astride a horse.

f. The member has been an apprentice cutting horse trainer at any time or has ever in their life been a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses (the 15-year exemption does not apply to this member).

g. The member has received more than $75,000 in lifetime NCHA earnings.

3. **Amateur 3-year exemption**
An applicant, after a period of (3) three years may be granted Amateur status if:

a. the applicant is no longer married to or in a co-habitable relationship with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified as a professional horse person.

b. the applicant has not resided with or on the premises of a parent, stepparent or foster parent who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified as a professional horse person.

c. the applicant has LIFETIME EARNINGS IN ANY DISCIPLINE of less than $15,000 and no longer rides or trains horses or riders in any equine discipline for remuneration, directly or indirectly. In consideration of the application 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 Executive Committee upon

recommendation of the Non-Pro/Amateur Review Committee to be final.

4. Amateur competitors who have made the NCHA Non-Pro Hall of Fame will be able to have their Amateur status reinstated, upon making application, after having reached 60 years of age, providing their lifetime earnings do not exceed $150,000. They will therefore again be eligible to compete in Amateur classes.

5. A member whose Amateur status is revoked due to their relationship with a member who is granted Non-Pro dispensation shall automatically return to Amateur status on revocation of said Non Pro dispensation.

YOUTH DIVISION

1. Any competitor eighteen (18) years and under as at the first day of the new point score year is eligible for Youth membership.

2. A Youth membership allows a competitor to show in Youth classes only. Youth must pay full or constituent membership to compete in Novice, Open, Non-Pro, Amateur and Rookie classes or can compete in the Rookie by paying a day fee or a restricted membership.

3. Points shall be awarded to winners in NCHA Youth cutting horse contests who are financial members.

   a. If there is to be one undivided class, the age group is to be eighteen (18) years and under.

   b. If there are to be two (2) classes, the age division must be:

      i. Thirteen (13) years and under,

      ii. Fourteen (14) years through to eighteen (18) years.

4. Prizemoney may be awarded for Youth cutting, however for the purpose of high point awards, points will be calculated on the following basis:

No. Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	½					
2-3	1					
4-6	2	1				
7-10	3	2	1			
11-15	4	3	2	1		
16-20	5	4	3	2	1	
21 +	6	5	4	3	2	1

5. An Open Youth class containing both Senior and Junior Youth shall be deemed to be two separate competitions for the purpose of points allocation. However, if there is only one competitor in either division, one half point will be allocated to that competitor.

6. A record of points shall be maintained in the rider's name by the NCHA. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the youth having accumulated the greatest number of points in NCHA Youth cutting horse contests in the different divisions will be named and duly honoured by the NCHA as Youth division champions.

    a. Any Youth who has accumulated 100 or more points in his/her lifetime will cease to be eligible for Rookies classes.

7. Only members of the NCHA shall be eligible to receive any awards offered by the NCHA in the Youth division.

8. It is recommended that, whenever possible, adults be used as turnback men and herd holders at NCHA Youth cutting horse contests. It is the obligation of the show management to furnish his/her holders unless the contestants select their own.

9. It is recommended that show committees conducting an affiliated cutting horse contests include a Youth cutting horse contest.

10. Stallions may be barred from NCHA Youth cutting horse contests if this information is forwarded by the association running the competition to the NCHA at the time application for approval is made.

11. Any child under seven (7) years of age cannot ride or be in charge of a horse at any NCHA affiliated event. Junior Youth will not be permitted to ride or be in charge of stallions at any NCHA affiliated event.

12. Points for the annual NCHA Youth championships can only be gained in Youth contests.

13. A contestant may ride two horses per contest, however only the points from the highest scoring horse will apply for high point awards. Regardless of age, married contestants are ineligible for competition in youth classes.

14. Adults must be appointed as the Cutters' Representative for Youth classes.

15. All Junior Youth are required to wear helmets at NCHA affiliated shows.

16. ***A youth may enter an NCHA affiliated youth event with an unnamed 'slot', for one (1) or two (2) horses at the time of entering a competition.***

    All slots or any changes to named entries must be done by 5pm the evening before the event is set to start.

    Failing to name your slot(s) by 5pm the evening before will result in your entry fee being forfeited and scratched from the draw.

SNAFFLE BIT

Points won in a Snaffle Bit class will accumulate to determine a competitor's eligibility for that class but will not count towards lifetime earnings or the status of the rider. Money and points earned in Snaffle Bit classes (excluding age events) will count toward class eligibility. Once a horse and rider combination which is eligible to compete in Snaffle Bit classes competes in an Open/ Non-Pro/Amateur or Novice class, that horse and rider combination is no longer eligible to compete in a Snaffle Bit class. Points earned whilst competing on a day fee will be included for eligibility purposes. The burden of proof of eligibility will be on the competitor. A competitor may borrow a horse and pay a day fee to compete. A competitor can show a maximum of two horses in this class, however only the points from the highest earning horse will count towards high point awards. Twisted wire snaffles, gag snaffles or shank snaffles shall not be used. Snaffle bits are to be a minimum of 10mm (3/8") and have a smooth single jointed mouthpiece. Bosals and hackamores may be used. They shall be of rope or braided rawhide and have no metal parts.

GRASS ROOTS

Grass Roots Cutting is a format for a weekend Show event aimed to give new and inexperienced weekend cutters a fun and affordable entryway to the sport. Grass Roots events will complement the existing NCHA Championship and Jackpot Shows or be run as stand-alone shows, with lower cost and more flexibility for show producers. An awards and recognition program has been introduced for Grass Roots events. The Grass Roots events will make it easier for affiliates to create events tailored to their unique situations. It also gives new people and current members who are just cutting for fun a better experience and encouragement while being rewarded for their efforts.

Rules / Eligibility for Grass Roots Events

1. To be eligible to compete, a competitor must be a financial NCHA member or take out a day membership.
2. First year's NCHA membership may be purchased at half price; subsequent annual memberships will be full price.
3. The competition will be split into two separate events – Cutting and Snaffle Bit, which will be judged separately.
4. To be eligible you must NOT have won 3 NCHA cutting events in any class OR won $500 or more in any NCHA cutting classes. If you win 3 events or exceed $500 in winnings you may remain in the class until the end of the points year.
5. A competitor's run will consist of cutting two cows, with two minutes working time per run.
6. The event will be judged under the same rules as all NCHA events.
7. Dress code and all other NCHA rules and policies apply as per NCHA rule book.
8. One horse, one rider, however a horse may be entered in both classes with the same or 2 separate riders.
9. As per Rookies classes, the rider does not have to own the horse.
10. On payment of a second entry fee, at the time of initial entry submission, you may enter the same horse twice in the same event, however only your highest score will count towards placings and points.
11. A 1A or above NCHA judge must be engaged to judge the event, with the judge providing feedback after the completion of the event to the competitor, if requested, to assist in improvement.
12. Points will be allocated as per NCHA Rulebook.
13. Once a Grass Roots competitor achieves earnings of $500 or they win 3 events, they will be awarded an achievement badge.
14. If there is a tie for end of year point scores, the following will be used to determine the winner –
    a. Cumulative dollars earned.
    b. Total number of shows attended.

1. The National Championships are open to all horses and riders of good financial standing in the NCHA.
2. The National Finals (Championships) will be held annually at a date that the NCHA decides upon.
    a. The point score Year will run from the first show after the National Finals to the completion of the National Finals the following year. The AGM will be held at the National Finals. In the event of National Finals not being run, the AGM will be at the end of the point score year (which is the time that the National Finals was scheduled to be run).
3. The National Championships will be the final show for the point score year for the purposes of determining high point awards.
4. No show will be granted approval by the NCHA at the same time as the National Championships are held.
5. The National Championships will stage a full program of NCHA approved events.
6. Points shall be allocated by the NCHA at the rate of one (1) point for each $1 won in prize money at all approved contests throughout the point's year except youth classes.
7. **HIGH POINT AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS NIGHT.**
   High point awards presented at the NCHA annual awards ceremony are:
    a. Open Horse of the Year
    b. Open Non-Pro of the Year
    c. $15,000 Novice Horse of the Year
    d. $5,000 Novice Horse of the Year
    e. Novice/Non-Pro of the Year
    f. $15,000 Non-Pro of the Year
    g. $7,500 Non-Pro of the Year
    h. Amateur of the Year
    i. Rookie of the Year
    j. Senior Youth of the Year
    k. Junior Youth of the Year

l. Snaffle Bit of the Year

m. Grass Roots of the Year

Runner-up trophies will be presented in each of the above divisions.

8. **ADDITIONAL AWARDS**
High Point Mare, Stallion & Gelding - Money won in ALL Open cutting horse competitions plus earnings from restricted events for mares or stallions or geldings.

UPDATED 1/8/2024

9. **LIFETIME AWARDS**
For all certificates and Hall of Fame eligibility, LIFETIME EARNINGS (LTE) include Open earnings, Non-Pro earnings and restricted earnings, and exclude age event earnings, except for Certificate of Ability which includes Open, Non Pro, age and restricted earnings.
For all Non-Pro awards/certificates and Non-Pro Hall of Fame eligibility, lifetime earnings (LTE) include Non Pro earnings only including Non Pro age and restricted earnings.

Certificate of Ability	$ 2,000 LTE
Certificate of Merit	$ 4,000 LTE
Superior Award	$15,000 LTE
Cutting Horse Champion	$20,000 LTE
Supreme Cutting Horse Champion	$30,000 LTE
NCHA Horses' Hall of Fame	$40,000 LTE*
Non-Pro Bronze Award	$ 5,000 LTE
Non-Pro Silver Award	$10,000 LTE
Non-Pro Gold Award	$15,000 LTE
Non-Pro Hall of Fame	$75,000 LTE
Riders' Hall of Fame	***$400,000 LTE****

- Horses may also qualify for the Hall of Fame by Triple Crown championship (NCHA Futurity, Derby, Classic or Class/Challenge) or $125,000 age event earnings.
- Riders may also qualify for the Riders Hall of Fame by 3 NCHA Futurity championships or 3 NCHA Derby championships or 2 NCHA Futurity and 2 NCHA Derby championships.

10. **ANNUAL AWARDS**
Certificates of achievement will be awarded to the top ten (10) in each category each year, i.e. Open, Open Non-Pro, $15,000 Novice, $5,000 Novice, Novice Non-Pro, $15,000 Non-Pro, $7,500 Non-Pro, Amateur, Rookie, and Youth (Senior and Junior), Snaffle Bit and Grass Roots.

11. **AREA CHAMPION POINTS SYSTEM**

Awards will also be presented for Area champions in each area at the end of year. Categories will be Open, Open Non-Pro, Novice, Novice Non-Pro, $15,000 Non-Pro, $7,500 Non-Pro, Amateur, Rookies, Youth (Senior and Junior), Snaffle Bit and Grass Roots.

Each event must be held at a minimum of two shows in each area in the current point score year to be eligible for awards.

Point score year for Area points systems will be the same as the national high point awards system and for the purpose of this system, the country will be divided into 10 Areas. 1 - WA, 2 - NT, 3 - NTH QLD, 4 - CTRL QLD, 5 - STH QLD & NTH NSW, 6 - CTRL NSW, 7 - VIC, 8 - TAS, 9 – SA, 10 – STH NSW.

A Member may compete in any area however points will only be tabulated for the area in which they were earned; A member may be the Area champion in more than one area Points will only be allocated towards the event in which they were earned. Points will be calculated on the following basis:

No. Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
2-3	1					
4-6	2	1				
7-10	3	2	1			
11-15	4	3	2	1		
16-20	5	4	3	2	1	
21 +	6	5	4	3	2	1

12. **NCHA OFFICIAL TROPHY**

Trophies to be presented to the NCHA Futurity, Derby, Classic/Challenge, Non-Pro Futurity, Non Pro Derby & Non Pro Classic/Challenge Champions and Horse of the Year.

NCHA APPROVED AGE EVENTS

1. Application may be made to the NCHA to stage an affiliated age event. All major age events affiliated by the NCHA, commencing with the NCHA Futurity in May/June, must be held prior to November 1st each year (unless special circumstances prevail). For the

purpose of this rule, a major age event shall be one with a minimum $10,000 added to the open futurity (and a guaranteed purse of $15,000) and $5,000 added to the non pro futurity (and a guaranteed purse of $10,000). An open and non pro derby and classic challenge too must be offered, with separate amateur division finals where applicable with regard to total entrants. Affiliates are encouraged to conduct limited contests within age events.

No other show will be affiliated on the same dates as a major age event, except under special circumstances and only deemed in no direct conflict whatsoever with said major age event. It is strongly encouraged that affiliates refrain from conducting weekend classes, aside from open, open non pro, amateur and youth, at major age events.

Other minor age events may be conducted, provided normal affiliation requirements are met. Minor age events may include stand-alone age events (ie. an open and non pro derby), or any combination of age events with or without weekend classes a part of the program. Minor age events must ensure a minimum of $5,000 added to the open division of said age event and a minimum of $3,000 added to the non pro division. Any minor age event futurity must be held prior to November 1st.

2. Prior to approval being given for the running of all NCHA affiliated age/restricted events a specified minimum guaranteed purse must be advertised. This purse must stand as advertised and cannot be altered. Show committees may deduct a maximum of 15% from the total entry fee for administration purposes (this includes the NCHA 5.5% levy). All age/restricted events will pay the minimum guaranteed purse or 100% of the total entry fee plus all advertised added money (less up to 15% advertised deduction), whichever is the greater.

3. Five and a half percent (5.5%) of entries plus all applicable levies per horse must be paid to the NCHA for each age event affiliated with the NCHA.

4. Age events shall be for horses from three (3) years of age. The classification of age events is:

   Futurity - 3-year-old
   Derby/Maturity - 4-year-old
   Classic Challenge - 5-, 6- and 7-year-old
   Seven Up - 7 years of age and older
   Snaffle Bit Futurity – 3-year-old

The words Futurity, Derby and Classic Challenge may only be used by an affiliate if major or minor age event criteria is met. All other age events will be deemed age restricted events (ie. 3yo Open class, 4yo Non-Pro class) and shall be advertised as such only.

Snaffle Bit Futurity rider eligibility is $20,000. At the commencement of the year in which a Snaffle Bit Futurity is held, entrants must have less than $20,000 in NCHA lifetime earnings.

For these events the year will be from January 1st to December 31st (unless special circumstances prevail).

a. **IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES**
A photocopy of the registration certificate of registered horses or a notarised statement of age & description by a licensed veterinarian for unregistered horses must be forwarded to the NCHA office in accordance with the conditions of entry for the NCHA Futurity and Non-Pro Futurity. Failure to comply will cause all fees to be forfeited and the entry to be disqualified. At the time of their nomination for the NCHA Futurity or Non-Pro Futurity, coloured photographs showing all marks of identification must be forwarded to the NCHA for unregistered horses. A horse is not eligible to participate in NCHA affiliated aged event if its age, as determined by examination of its teeth, exceeds the age shown on its registration certificate on for registered horses or the notarised statement of age and description required for unregistered horses, such determination by dentition examination to be made in accordance with the official guide for determining the age of the horse as currently published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

b. **SUBSTITUTION**
In any NCHA affiliated age event, if a veterinary certificate is received stating that a horse entered will be unable to work, the owner will be allowed to substitute another horse by paying one half (1/2) again as much as has been paid on the original entry. No substitution will be allowed after the beginning of the event's first go round.

5. Any cutting futurity horse which competes in an organised cutting horse competition (NCHA Affiliate and unaffiliated) or any cattle working competition prior to the running of the NCHA Futurity will be deemed ineligible to compete in the NCHA Open, Non-Pro,

Updated 08/08/2025

Amateur Futurity and Snafflebit Futurity.

6. All major age events must use a minimum of three (3) judges. One (1) must hold a AAAA rating and the others must hold a AAA or AA rating. One (1) judge (senior most) must be appointed as the monitor judge.

   a. Any major age event (one that holds a futurity with a minimum guaranteed purse of $15,000 or greater) produced or affiliated by the NCHA must have its assigned judges agreed upon by the association's chairperson of judging. The show committee shall work in consultation with the chairperson to ensure the judges assigned to adjudicate any major age event have no upheld minor or major protests, or significant conduct violations, within a twelve-month period preceding the appointment where possible.

   b. Only those members on the most current NCHA official herd settlers' list may settle herds at NCHA produced events and major age events (those which hold a futurity with a minimum guaranteed purse of $15,000 or greater). The official herd settlers' list will be on record with the NCHA office and must be posted clearly within the show contest arena by the show committee responsible for the event at which it is applicable. From time to time, only the current members of the official herd settlers' list may vote to include new members or remove current members. This will only be achieved upon consultation with all current members and a subsequent 75% majority vote in favour of a proposed amendment to the list."

7. Show committees may place a limit on the number of horses allowed to be ridden by one rider in age or restricted events in their terms and conditions. Each horse must have the same rider throughout the event, except in cases of hardship or injury, to be determined by show committee and the cutters representative.

8. A rider's eligibility to enter the limited open and non pro events and Snafflebit futurity will be based of the first day of the NCHA points year in which the contest is held. Limited open riders cannot have one more than $100,000 total lifetime earnings and limited non pro riders and Snafflebit futurity riders cannot have won more than $25,000 total lifetime earnings.

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9. At any NCHA event, unless otherwise stated in the terms and conditions of entry, should there be a tie for first place there will be Co-Champions of the event. The prizemoney for the tied places will be added and

divided equally between the Co-Champions. All other prizes (for example trophy saddles, buckles etc), will be awarded to the co-champion with the highest aggregate over the qualifying rounds and final. If there is still a tie, then the awards will be decided by the toss of a coin. The NCHA will supply a duplicate buckle and trophy only where applicable.

If there are three or more tied for first place, then a runoff will be conducted. The tied competitors will draw for order of work in the same herd as the final.

10. All age and restricted events must be affiliated with the NCHA. Any NCHA members who competes or rides in an unaffiliated age event or restricted event with prize money of $500.00 or more may be disciplined, fined, placed on probation, or suspended from the NCHA.

11. All affiliate age and restricted events must use the NCHA rules, other than those rules printed on the official conditions of entry forms.

12. No age/restricted event will be affiliated by the NCHA. on the same date as any other affiliated age or restricted event.

13. All age events and restricted events run directly by the NCHA will use three (3) head of cattle per competitor in go-rounds and four (4) head of cattle per competitor in the final.

14. For all other age and restricted events it is recommended that a minimum of three (3) head of cattle per competitor are used in go- rounds and four (4) head per cutter in the final.

15. All age events must adhere to the following conditions:

    For 1-14 entries – 2 complete go-rounds (no final). Pay sliding scale on aggregate (refer to page 22)

    For 15-24 Entries - 2 Go-Rounds & top 8 to clean slate final. Pay 8 places (38%, 24%, 15%, 8%, 6%, 4%, 3%, 2%)

    For 25-50 entries - 2 Go-rounds & top 10 to clean slate final. Pay 10 places (37%, 24%, 14%, 7%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2.5%, 2%, 1.5%)

    For a 12-horse final, where allowed by conditions of entry, the following payout applies: -

    1st - 36%, 2nd- 23%, 3rd- 13%, 4th- 6%, 5th- 5%, 6th- 4%, 7th- 3.5%, 8th - 3%, 9th- 2.5%, 10th- 1.5%, 11th- 1.3%, 12th- 1.2%

For 51-74 Entries - 2 Go-rounds & top 15 to clean slate Final. Pay 15 places (36%, 23%, 13%, 6.5%, 3.5%, 3%, 2.5%, 2.25%, 2%, 1.75%, 1.5%, 1.4%, 1.3%, 1.2%, 1.1%)

For 75 – 149 Entries – 2 Go-rounds & top 20 to advance to a clean slate final. Pay 20 places as per the Cadusch system.

NOTE: the Cadusch system is a method by which the guaranteed first place prizemoney is deducted from the total purse and the balance paid out to a specified number of places, determined by a mathematical formula.

For 150 or more Entries – 2 Go-rounds & top 25 to advance to a clean slate final. Pay 25 places as per the Cadusch system.

Pay on Cadush System, refer to NCHA office. When using the Cadush System, if no guaranteed 1st place

amount, place 35% for first round. If go-round

money is to be paid pay four (4) places (40%, 30%, 20%, 10%)

Definition of Entries - Entries as referred above.

relates to the number of horses listed in the draw at the start of competition. Any nomination listed prior to the

draw and scratched prior to the draw are not considered an entry in the event.

16. Only the cumulative score will be posted in the arena. No individual scores will be available anywhere on the show grounds or on the internet, except a copy of the official judges' cards which will be posted on the show grounds the following day.

17. Show management has the right to create a second go-round cut off point at their discretion, providing that the cut off score or percentage dropped is clearly stated prior to the commencement of the competition.

18. Should go-round money be paid; it must be added or sponsored money. Under no circumstances can it be deducted from the entry fee or guaranteed purse which must be paid in full in the finals.

19. Affiliate's conducting major age events must provide two (2) practice pens which are a minimum of 80' square or 100' round and two (2) mechanical cows. All surfaces must be as per NCHA rule book Contest Arena Regulations point 5. Practice pens at minor age events are optional, although it is recommended mechanical

cow(s) be offered for competitors at a minimum.

20. Draws and programs for shows must be provided to the NCHA for inclusion on the website.

21. It is highly recommended that show committees pay prize money within forty-eight (48) hours.

22. All show committees must forward a copy of the video for all aged and restricted events to the NCHA office with their completed

    show paperwork.

23. Riders may show no more than four (4) horses plus one (1) gelding or horse purchased through the NCHA Sale in Futurities and Derbies, and no more than six (6) horses plus one (1) gelding or horse purchased through the NCHA Sale in Classic Challenges.

24. Should a competitor riding the same horse qualify for two finals at the same show and chooses to withdraw from one final, the contestant will be ineligible to compete in the second final unless the contestant (horse or rider) produces a veterinary certificate or medical doctor's certificate for the first withdrawal to be accepted. A further certificate will be required for the contestant to be cleared to compete in the second final.

JUDGES

1. Each judge must sign his/her score card and the show management shall post same in a conspicuous place immediately following each go-round and final. 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.

2. a. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest and one (1) or two (2) 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/her scores is counted in a go-round, all of his/her scores must be counted except as provided herein: where five (5) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest, the highest and the lowest scores for each horse may be discarded and the accumulated

scores of the remaining judges used to compute the go-round. This rule shall also apply to finals.

b. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one (1) go-round or with finals and one (1) or more judges become unable to continue between the go-rounds or finals the 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.

3. a. A judge may not judge any member of his/her immediate family if they are living in the same household. This includes parents, children, spouse/ de facto, spouse's/de facto's parents, daughter in law, son in law, grandparent, grandchild, stepchildren. However, under exceptional circumstances, this rule may be over-ridden by approval of the NCHA Executive Committee.

b. 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 the said judge is officiating either in full or in part.

A judge may not judge any individual rider or horse owned by him/her, who has had training from or given training to the said judge within the thirty (30) day period (or a seven (7) day period for cut tings with less than $1000 added, or jackpots of $50 or less) immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which the said judge us 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.

4. Active members of the association over the age of eighteen (18) may be added to the NCHA approved Judges List upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements. Any judge may be required, and all new judges sixty (60) years of age and over will be required, to pass a physical examination given by a physician approved by the Association including tests for vision and hearing. Application for NCHA approval as a judge shall be made on a form provided by the association

and available at no charge. Each application must be endorsed by two current members of the association who are not members of the applicant's family.

5. Any person seeking approval as an NCHA judge shall have been a financial member of the association continuously for a three (3) year minimum period immediately preceding the application, including youth or family membership and shall have no record of suspension, probation, or reprimand by the NCHA for the two (2) year period immediately preceding the application. Any person seeking approval as an NCHA judge must attend a NCHA judge's seminar. Only those applicants attending and making passing scores on all phases of NCHA's testing procedures will be considered for approval as an NCHA judge.

6. For a judge to maintain or advance in rating, he or she must fulfil the required number of shows for that rating each year. A judge will be lowered one (1) rating for failure to maintain the required number of shows each year.

   a. All judges who judge an NCHA approved or sponsored aged event during the year will receive credit for four (4) shows.

7. All Judges must attend an NCHA judge's seminar every two (2) years. Any judge failing to make passing scores on all phases of NCHA's testing procedures will be deleted from the association's Approved Judges List. Any judge so deleted may be reinstated at their current level by attending a judge's clinic within a twelve (12) month period and passing said testing procedures at their appropriate level. Failure to sit the test within the twelve (12) month period will result in a reduction of one (1) rating per year until such time as they sit and pass the test.

8. NCHA approved judges will be classified based on experience and judging record as follows:

   a. "AAAA" Judge – This person must have judged at least ten (10) approved or sponsored contest within the last five (5) years with no valid protest against said judge. To maintain this rating a judge must officiate at a minimum of one (1) NCHA approved or sponsored show each year. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of one rating per year or removal from the NCHA Judges List. AAAA judges are required to achieve a score equal to at least eighty percent (80%) of the test points available at annual

NCHA judge's seminars. A seventy five percent (75%) pass mark is required in both the practical and written sections.

b. "AAA" Judge - This person must have judged at least six (6) approved or sponsored contests within the past (3) years. To maintain this rating a judge must officiate at a minimum of one (1) NCHA approved or sponsored show each year. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of one rating per year or removal from the NCHA Judges List. AAA judges are required to achieve a score equal to at least seventy five percent (75%) of the test points available at annual NCHA judge's seminars. A 70% pass mark is required in both the practical and written sections.

c. "AA" Judge - This person must have judged at least four (4) NCHA approved or sponsored contests within the past three (3) years. To maintain this rating a judge must officiate at a minimum of one (1) NCHA approved or sponsored show each year. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of one rating per year or removal from the NCHA Judges List. AA Judges are required to achieve a score equal to at least seventy percent (70%) of the test points available at annual NCHA judge's seminars. A 65% pass mark is required in both the practical and written sections.

d. "A" Judge – This person must officiate at a minimum of two (2) NCHA approved or sponsored shows every two (2) years from the date of first approval. A judge may officiate only at any NCHA approved or sponsored event having an added purse of $500.00 or less regardless of whether there is a co-judge or not. A Judges are required to achieve a score equal to at least sixty percent (60%) of the test points available at annual NCHA judge's seminars. A 50% pass mark is required in both the practical and written sections.

e. ONE JUDGE SYSTEM
"AAAA" Judge may judge any cutting
"A" Judge - Up to and including $500 added or $500 min guaranteed or $50 jackpot
"AA" Judge - Up to and including $2500 added or $2500 min guaranteed or $100 jackpot
"AAA" Judge - Up to and including $5000 added or $5000 min guaranteed or $150 jackpot

f. TWO JUDGE SYSTEM
Two "AA" Judges - Up to and incl. $5000 added or $5000 min guaranteed or $150 jackpot.

"AA" & "AAA" - May judge any cutting.

g. The recommended fees for NCHA approved judges are: -
"AAAA" - $400 per day; "AAA" - $300 per day; "AA" - $250 per day; "A" - $200 per day

9. A Judge may be removed from the NCHA approved Judges List or may be dropped to a lower classification for cause:

a. Any contestant may protest a judge's decision upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a written statement requesting a review of the judge's performance. Said statement must be submitted within seven (7) days of the final date of the show involved and must be accompanied by a cashier's cheque or money order in the amount of $55.00 and made payable to the National Cutting Horse Association of Australia.

b. Upon receipt of such a statement, the NCHA Director of Judges will request the show sponsor to immediately forward the tape or film of the class involved to the NCHA.

c. The tape, film, judges' sheets, and disputes committee forms containing the alleged errors will then be reviewed by a committee appointed by the NCHA Board of Directors.

d. 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 committee appointed by the NCHA Board of Directors will be averaged to obtain the official placing. Major penalties will be assessed only when charged by those persons reviewing the protest.

e. The maximum number of places used for grading purposes will be six (6). For six (6) places the points allocated for each place will be: 1st - 40; 2nd - 25; 3rd - 15; 4th - 10; 5th - 6 and 6th - 4. In cases where lesser numbers of places are paid in accordance with the optional pay out systems the points will be pro-rated as follows: Four (4) places, 1st - 45; 2nd - 30; 3rd - 17; 4th -8; Three (3) places, 1st 50; 2nd - 35; 3rd - 15; Two (2) places, 1st - 60 and 2nd - 40.

f. 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 judge's 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 the spread between first and second places in the official and second official placing is one and one-half (1.5) points or more, then a Judge must place the same horse first to receive any credit for that horse. 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.

g. If the review finds that a judge wrongly applied a single rule on three (3) occasions or has wrongly applied any combination of the 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 wrongly applied during the class, a minor protest will be affirmed against the judge. Two (2) minor protests within a two (2) year period will constitute a major protest. If the review also 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: AAA - 75-85; AA - 65-74; A - 55-64. Any judge scoring less than 55 points will be removed from the NCHA Approved Judges List.

h. All affirmed protests will be recorded on the record of the judge involved. Any judge whose record reflects two (2) major affirmed protests will be dropped one (1) Judge classification. AAA and AA judges may clear a major protest from their record by judging three (3) additional NCHA approved events without a protest. A judges may clear a major protest from their record by judging three (3) additional NCHA approved events without protest. A judge whose record reflects a major protest may not advance in classification.

i. Where protests are upheld, the $55.00 fee will be returned to the contestant; where denied, one-half

(50%) will be sent to the show sponsor and one-half (50%) will be retained by NCHA.

j. Decisions of the reviewing body with respect to any protest filed pursuant to this rule are final and may not be appealed.

k. Protests may be made by active members of the association only.

l. In the event an NCHA approved judge is suspended by the National Cutting Horse Association of Australia for any reason, the judge's approved status shall be cancelled, and all rights and privileges forfeited.

10. A judge (or judges) must present, in writing, any grievance that he/she may have against contestants or shows to an officer, Director, or duly elected or appointed contestants' representative of the NCHA, and his/her case will be reviewed by the appropriate committee. If any of the above-named officials witness a grievance against a judge, they must report this immediately to the association's Executive Director. Any grievance must be filed within seven (7) days of the final date of the show involved.

11. A judge shall conduct himself/herself in a manner fitting and proper to the one afforded the honour of officiating at any NCHA approved or sponsored contest. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any NCHA contest, including the use of abusive language, showing favouritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a horse performing in the contest, or any other action unbecoming to one in his/her position, either on the grounds or elsewhere, during the entire show, will make the judge subject to disciplinary action.

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 to additional disciplinary action.

b. A judge should not appear on the show grounds before the stated time for commencement 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, until the entire show or contest is completed.

c. Under no circumstances will a published judge be permitted to enter the contest for which said judge

was approved.

d. A judge shall not discuss with any contestant previous scores, events, or related happenings 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) and (d) of this rule will cause such judge to be disciplined, fined, placed on probation, or suspended from the NCHA.

f. A judge shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a contestant. The penalty for violating this subsection will cause such judge to be disciplined, fined placed on probation or suspended from the NCHA.

g. No mobile phones (whether on or off) are permitted in the judges' stands.

CONDUCT AND PROTESTS

1. Any contestant may protest a judge's decision upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a written statement covering the errors made by the judge or judges. Said statement must be submitted within seven (7) days of the final date of the show involved and must be accompanied by a cashier's cheque or money order in the amount of $55.00 made payable to the National Cutting Horse Association of Australia.

   a. No complaint against any judge will be dealt with unless accompanied by visual evidence in the form of a quality video of the entire event, or other conclusive evidence. This will be accompanied by the appropriate protest fee.

   b. The tape, film, judges' sheets, and disputes committee forms containing the alleged error or errors will then be reviewed by a committee appointed by the NCHA Board of Directors.

   c. If the committee finds that a judge has wrongly applied a single rule on three (3) occasions or has wrongly applied any combination or rules on five (5) occasions while judging the 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 minor affirmed protest will be recorded against the judge.

d. Where protests are upheld the $55.00 fee will be returned to the contestant; where denied, one half (50%) will be sent to the show sponsor and one-half (50%) will be retained by NCHA.

2. Any person 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 Committee, together with a cashier's cheque in the amount of $55.00 made payable to the National Cutting Horse Association of Australia. A complaint must be filed with the NCHA Executive Committee within seven (7) days of the final date of the show involved. Upon receipt, all complaints will be referred to the appropriate committee for investigation and consideration. If the committee determines, after investigation, that no further action is warranted, the complainant will be notified, and no further action will be taken on the matter. If the committee determines, after investigation, that there are grounds for possible disciplinary action, the Executive Committee shall be notified, and the matter will be scheduled for a hearing before the NCHA Executive Committee or Disciplinary Committee.

   a. Complaints submitted through the NCHA Confidential Contest Report by show management or by judges shall be handled in the same manner as outlined above, except the $55.00 deposit is not required.

3. The Board of Directors may take action, in accordance with its constitution, to reprimand, fine, suspend or expel any member or deregister any horse of which the member is the registered owner in the records of the association, if it considers such member to be guilty of a breach of any of the disciplinary provisions as mentioned in the rules of the association or whose conduct in any respect shall be deemed prejudicial to the interest of the association.

   a. When a member is disciplined or suspended, or a non-member is denied membership privileges, the name of such member or non-member will be published in the official publication of the NCHA.

   b. Any suspended member of the NCHA will not be allowed to participate in an NCHA approved cutting horse contest as an owner of a horse or as a rider, or to act as agent, or be astride or handle any horse at an approved NCHA affiliated event; and in the event such suspended member enters an approved show

during the period of this suspension either as owner, rider, or agent, an additional six (6) months will be added to his/her suspension. 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 the NCHA Chatta), or for giving a worthless cheque 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 fourteen (14) days written notice of the amount due, and the intention of the association to suspend or withhold privileges. Any suspension and denial of privileges under this rule shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due to the association.

c. Any member who is found guilty of any infringement of NCHA rules may be ineligible to represent the NCHA at any international event.

d. Any member suspended from the NCHA cannot register himself or herself or their agent acting on their behalf at any official NCHA auction sales.

4. Every person who is suspended by the Australian Quarter Horse Association for unsportsmanlike conduct at a show or contest shall stand as suspended by the National Cutting Horse Association upon official notice to this association from the Australian Quarter Horse Association of any such disciplinary action.

a. The National Cutting Horse Association may honour the disciplinary actions of its affiliate organisations when supplied with satisfactory evidence that the person so disciplined has been given a full impartial hearing by the affiliate organisation involved; however, any action taken by an affiliate will not limit any authority or jurisdiction of the National Cutting Horse Association.

b. Any member of the NCHA who threatens or inflicts, bodily harm or injury to another person based upon that person's actions, conduct or decisions while acting in any official capacity for the NCHA or any NCHA Sponsored or approved event shall be subject to disciplinary action by the NCHA.

c. No person shall make a derogatory remark, nor take, or threaten to take, adverse action against any NCHA sponsor, its agents, 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 the rule.

d. 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 Tamworth, New South Wales.

5. 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 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 Australia Post.

MECHANICAL COW RULES

1. Mechanical cows used at shows must be operated in a yard, pen, or arena.
2. When the mechanical cow is in operation the gate into the pen must be closed.
3. The pen must not be adjacent to or adjoin the main cutting arena.
4. The pen must be totally enclosed by hessian, canvas or a material that blocks the view of the mechanical cow from horses or cattle outside of the pen.
5. Only one horse may be in the mechanical cow pen during operation.
6. The mechanical cow pen must have a regulation cutting surface.
7. All NCHA practice pen rules and regulations will apply to mechanical cow pens pertaining to abuse of animals and rider conduct.
8. Shows may charge for the use of the mechanical cow

or may subcontract the operation to a contractor, providing the contractor has his/ her own insurance.

9. No mechanical cow devices can be used at any NCHA affiliated show, or activity, without applying to the NCHA office. Applications will only be approved if accompanied by a risk management plan and details of who will be responsible for the mechanical cow operation.

10. Absolutely no privately owned or hired mechanical cows, without NCHA approval, can be used for the purpose of training or schooling a horse at any NCHA affiliated shows or activities. An on-the-spot fine of $1100 will be enforced at all shows and activities for breach of this rule.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Social media must be used appropriately. NCHA members may share their positive experiences of Cutting but must not use social media to breach any of their expectations and requirements as a participant in the sport of Cutting.

NCHA members must not make any public comment that is critical of the performance of a judge, competitor, official or employee/officer/volunteer/member/affiliate of the NCHA or on any matter that is, or is likely to be, the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action; or otherwise make any public comment that would likely be detrimental to the best interests, image and welfare of the competition or Cutting industry.

Social media refers to any form of online or interactive application or other form or medium that enables users to create, share and/or upload content, including SMS, MMS, email and such platforms as Facebook, WhatsApp, Myspace, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, blogs, podcasts, message boards and websites.

RULINGS

The NCHA Board of Directors have passed the following adjustments to the NCHA rule book.

SHOW COMMITTEE

Addition to standing rule 2 b) - Affiliates found to have acted in contravention of any of these directives may be fined $550.00 and/ or subject to disciplinary action.

Additional standing rule 2 d) - It is recommended that show management advertise their enlisted judge/s prior to

fourteen (14) days before the commencement of an affiliate event.

NCHA APPROVED CONTESTS
Replacement of standing rule 5 b) - b) At any NCHA approved jackpot or championship cutting, a maximum of five (5) judges may be utilised.

CONTESTANTS
Additional standing rule 16 - 16. For a member to compete on a horse that they do not own at an NCHA sanctioned event (excluding Rookie, Youth and Snaffle Bit) they must be a member of the PCHTA (Professional Cutting Horse Trainers Association). Exemptions will be granted as deemed appropriate by the NCHA Board in consultation with the PCHTA accreditation committee.

Examples may include:

a. Exemption for international competitors

b. Exemption for trainers who are aged 60 and over who have been training professionally for a minimum of 10 years. If this group of trainers are to instruct at any NCHA approved youth clinic they are required to have a blue card and current first aid certificate.

YOUTH DIVISION

Additional standing rule 13 a) –

Additional rule

16. A youth may enter an NCHA affiliated youth event with an unnamed 'slot', for one (1) or two (2) horses at the time of entering a competition.

    All slots or any changes to named entries must be done by 5pm the evening before the event is set to start.

    Failing to name your slot(s) by 5pm the evening before will result in your entry fee being forfeited and scratched from the draw.

NCHA APPROVED AGE EVENTS
Additional standing rule 6 a) - Any major age event (one that holds a futurity with a minimum guaranteed purse of $15,000 or greater) produced or affiliated by the NCHA must have its assigned judges agreed upon by the association's chairperson of judging. The show committee shall work in consultation with the chairperson and the judging committee to ensure the judges assigned to adjudicate any major age event have no upheld minor or

major protests, or significant conduct violations, within a twelve-month period preceding the appointment where possible.

Additional standing rule 6 b) - Only those members on the most current NCHA official herd settlers' list may settle herds at NCHA produced events and major age events (those which hold a futurity with a minimum guaranteed purse of $15,000 or greater). The official herd settlers' list will be on record with the NCHA office and must be posted clearly within the show contest arena by the show committee responsible for the event at which it is applicable. From time to time, only the current members of the official herd settlers' list may vote to include new members or remove current members. This will only be achieved upon consultation with all current members and a subsequent 75% majority vote in favour of a proposed amendment to the list.

CASEBOOK

CASEBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Casebook is to provide for a more uniform interpretation and application of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests as found in the NCHA Rule Book. It expresses the official interpretation of the National Cutting Horse Association Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests.

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/her 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/her 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.

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OFFICIAL JUDGES CARD

NCHA AUSTRALIA

Show: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Class: _____ **Go Round:** _____ **Class pays** _____ **places.**

Run Content:

Herd Work: Driving a cow (+)(√+)(√)(√-)(-)

Controlling the cow: Working in center of arena (+)(√+)(√)(√-)(-)

Degree of Difficulty: (+)(√+)(√)(√-)(-)

Eye Appeal: (+)(√+)(√)(√-)(-)

Amount of Courage: (+)(V+)(V)(V-)(-)

Time Worked: (+)(√+)(√)(√-)(-)

Loose Reins: (-) (only)

Horse Charging: (-) (only)

Forced Off a Cow: (-) (only)

Excessive Herdholder Help: (-) (only)

Any Empty Run Content Box Indicates Average.

Penalties:

One Point
(A) Miss-Loss of working advantage - 11
(a)-1/2 Miss-Loss of working advantage - 11
(B) Reining or visibly cueing - 8
(C) Noise directed toward cattle - 5a
(D) Toe, foot or stirrup on shoulder - 8d
(E) Hold on too long on a cut - 8a
(F) Working out of position - 11
(G) Hand too far forward - 8

Three Points
(A) Hot quit - 13
(B) Cattle picked up or scattered - 5b
(C) Second hand on the reins - 8b
(D) Spur in the shoulder - 8c
(E) Pawing or biting cattle - 12
(F) Failure to make a deep cut - 1
(G) Back Fence - 6

Five Points
(A) Horse quitting a cow - 14
(B) Losing a cow - 9
(C) Changing cattle after a specific commitment - 10
(D) 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 leaving working area before time expires, or inhumane treatment to the horse.

HORSE	SCORE	PENALTIES			RUN CONTENT										
		1 PT	3 PTS	5 PTS	Herd Work	Cow Control	Degree of Difficulty	Eye Appeal	Courage	Time Worked	Cow Score	Loose Reins	Charging	Forced Off	Herd Help

Divisions within the penalty box represent 1st, 2nd or 3rd cow worked.

NCHA Membership No. Judge's Signature 2024

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JUDGING RULE 1

Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show its 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) A horse will be given credit for its ability to enter the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought out.

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/she begins to cut his/her second cow, another volunteer steps out and the Cutter cuts it. He/she works that cow. The Cutter then rides deep into the herd for his/her 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/she 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 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 herd and starts a significant portion of the cattle out on his/her right side. When the cattle are in front of the Cutter, he/she steps to make his/her 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/her horse. It is necessary, however, for the Cutter to actually get behind some cattle before Rule 1 is satisfied.

EXAMPLE 4.
Cutters A's horse walks quietly into the herd and remains quiet while Cutter A makes his/her cut.
Cutter B's horse walks quietly into the herd but is obviously nervous and moves excessively while
Cutter B is making his/her cut.
RULING:
Cutter A shall receive more credit for his/her cut than Cutter B.

EXAMPLE 5.
While making a cut, Cutter A makes several moves with a cow before he/she 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/her cut than Cutter A. In this case the Judge is not penalizing Cutter A; he/she is, however, giving more credit for the job done by Cutter B.
NOTE: While making a cut, no credit shall be given to 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 centre of the arena, and credit will be given for same. Additional credit will be given to 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/her 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 given more credit for his/her work than Cutter B. In this case, the Judge is not penalizing Cutter B; he/she is, however, giving 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 centre of the arena. Cutter A then cuts his/her second cow very near the back fence and begins working there. Cutter B cuts his/her second cow very near the centre 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/her cut and traffic has cleared, Cutter A begins his/her work. Cutter B begins his/her work and continues to drive his/her stock additional distance from the herd.
RULING:
Cutter A is given credit for a good clean cut. Cutter B will receive more credit for driving his/her stock additional distance from the herd, showing his/her 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 recognised.

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/her 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, run content will be lowered.

JUDGING RULE 4

Credit will be given for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the centre 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 centre of the arena.
RULING:
Cutter B shall receive more credit for his/her 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 centre of the arena.
Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. He holds his first cow very near the centre of the arena. He cuts his second cow and is unable to contain it near the centre 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/her work than Cutter B. Cutter B has committed no rule infractions; however, the point value of his/her 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 centre 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 centre 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 centre 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 given to 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/her rider creates disturbance at any time throughout his/her working period (2.5 minutes) will be penalised.

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/she will be penalized three (3) points. The entire cow must enter the working area of horse.

c) The Judge shall stop any work because of training or abuse of the horse by the contestant or disturbance of the cattle. Any contestant failing to stop immediately will be penalized $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/she is forced to legally quit his/her first (2) cows because his/her horse runs into the herd to cause one or more cows to enter the working area of the horse.
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/her third cow when the buzzer sounds. The quits in his/her run are legal; however, each time he/she quits working, his/her 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.

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/she does not jerk or excessively spur his horse.
b) The Cutter's horse is not working properly. The Cutter spurs his horse in the shoulder aggressively and then jerks it to a stop.

RULING:
In (a) assess a five (5) point penalty for losing a cow and a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter stops his/her horse. In (b) the judge shall stop the work.

EXAMPLE 11:
While working, at no fault of the Cutter, additional cattle leave the herd and join the cow being worked.

a) The Cutter quits the cow being worked while that cow is turning into him.
b) The Cutter picks up his horse and reins until 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, addition 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 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 comes close enough to the herd to cause one (1) or more cattle to leave the herd and enter the working area of the horse.

RULING:

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 the cow 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.

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 out ran the Cutter to a place on the back fence. The cow turns within three feet of the back fence and goes back to the centre 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/she 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 large penalty of (five (5) points) should be assessed.
NOTE: The outer limits of the designated back fence shall include any boards or their 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 is it 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.

EXAMPLES 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 being worked 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/her horse quitting a cow.

JUDGING RULE 8

While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse, 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) Spurring behind the shoulder shall not be considered a visible cue. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed each time a horse is spurred 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.

EXAMPLES:

The Cutter has ample slack in his reins. After cutting cleanly, he begins to work, holding his rein hand above the saddle horn. He does not move his hand from side to side or forward and back during his work. He repeats this procedure on his second cow and the buzzer sounds before he can cut a third cow.

RULING:

No penalty.

NOTE: A Cutter may hold his hand above the saddle horn so long as he keeps his hand still, provided that his bridle reins are long enough to prevent his bit from being bumped during his run.

EXAMPLE 2:
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 if 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/her horse as much as necessary to make a cut. Clean, pretty cuts shall receive credit. NOTE: Releasing the cutting horse indicates that the Cutter is ready to begin working. Additional reining shall be penalized.

EXAMPLE 3:
The Cutter makes a cut and while waiting for the cow to begin movement:
a) shakes his/her rein hand causing movement of the bridle reins:
b) feeds out additional slack to the bridle reins.
RULING:
In (a) penalize the Cutter one (1) point for each time there are repeats of this activity. If he/she cuts three (3) cows and shakes his/her reins each time, the total penalty shall be three (3) points. In (b) no penalty.

EXAMPLE 4:
The Cutter is working with his/her hand held low. His/her reins are adjusted short enough so that the bit is bumped two (2) different time 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 5:
The Cutter is working and:

a) during his/her run the rider moves his/her hand very slightly in a turn;
b) during his/her run the rider's hand moves sufficiently for the Judge to believe that he/she is reining his/her horse in the turn;
c) while going across the arena he/she moves his/her

hand toward the cow being worked to hold his/her horse out from the herd;

d) during his/her run the rider pushes his/her hand forward to encourage the horse to move along with a cow;

e) as his/her 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 6:

While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and begins driving if 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 7:

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 8:

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 9:

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 10:
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 turnback horses. 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/her horse until he/she has stepped out of the herd. Almost simultaneously the Cutter releases his/her horse and the cow is moved by the turnback horses.

RULING:
In (a) and (c) no penalty.
In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 11:
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 12:
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 (d) assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 13:
After quitting a cow legally, the Cutter uses two hands on

the bridle reins to turn his/her horse around.
RULING:
Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 14:
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 15:
The Cutter's reins have become entangled.
a) The rider quits a cow legally and before entering the body of the herd uses the second hand to straighten out the reins.
b) While riding through the herd, the rider places a second hand on the reins to straighten them.
c) The rider turns to make a cut, then stops his/her horse within the body of the herd and uses the second hand to straighten his/her reins.

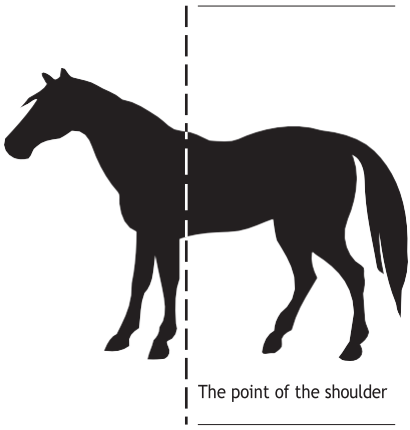
RULING:
In (a), (b) and (c) no penalty.

EXAMPLE 16:
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 17:
During the course of a run as the horse makes a turn, the Cutter:
a) spurs the horse in the shoulder.
b) attempts to spur 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: Spurring 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-manoeuvres his horse and returns to the herd.
RULING:
Assess a five (5) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 2:
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.
In (b) no penalty.

EXAMPLE 3:
The cow being worked is making a strong attempt to return to the herd.
a) The Cutter quits the cow while his/her horse has the working advantage, but the cow is turning toward the horse.
b) The Cutter quits the cow after he/she has lost 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 13).
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.
NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the small penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8b, that concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

EXAMPLE 4:
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) then turns and rides to these same cattle; starts them back around and makes his cut.

RULING:
In (a) and (b) no penalty.

EXAMPLE 5:
While working a cow, the cow out-manoeuvres 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 hose. For a loss to occur during the work, the cow must return to the herd.

JUDGING RULE 10

If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.

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 it 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 centre 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 a flow of cattle. That cow stops, thereby forming a group of cattle; the Cutter then moves toward the 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/her cut;
b) the cow goes to the back fence with the other cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the middle of the arena and works it;
c) the cow goes back into the herd with the group of cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the centre 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 each time the Cutter reins his horse (Rule 8).
In (b) penalize the Cutter one (1) point each time he/she reins his/her horse to reseparate 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/her horse (Rule 8).
In (d) assess a five (5) point penalty for a loss (Rule 9).

EXAMPLE 8:
The Cutter is working a cow. Another cow that has previously escaped the turnback horses decides to return to the herd. As the returning cow approaches the Cutter;

a) his/her horse changes to the returning cow;
b) the Cutter anticipates that a change might occur and reins his/her horse to prevent it. The horse's attention is momentarily diverted toward the returning cow, but he/she does not change cattle;
c) his/her horse switches its attention and actually makes a move with the other cow. The Cutter reins the horse back to the original cow;
d) the Cutter does not cue his/her horse and the horse does not switch to the returning cow.

RULING:
In (a) assess a five (5) point penalty.
In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8).
In (c) assess a five (5) point penalty for the change and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of six (6) points.
In (d) give credit to the Cutter. The amount of credit given 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, his horse abruptly attempts to change to a different cow.

a) The Cutter had not released his/her horse and immediately reined it back.
b) The Cutter had dropped his/her hand indicating his/her 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 penalised (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)

JUDGING RULES

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 on 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.

a) 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.

b) 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 its mouth and:
a) attempts to bite the cow but does not make contact;
b) bites the cow.
RULING:
In (a) no penalty.
In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty.
NOTE: No penalty should be assessed to 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 this 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 behaviour would definitely detract from the run and cannot have a positive influence on the point value awarded for that run.

EXAMPLE 4:
During a run, while the Cutter is moving across the arena, his/her horse kicks out with one or both hind legs, or playfully jumps into the air slinging his head and hopping up behind.

RULING:
No penalty; however, these types of behaviour 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.

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 obviously turned:
a) away from his/her horse
b) toward his/her horse and not stopped
c) toward the opposite end of the arena
d) backs away
RULING:
In (a), (c) and (d) no penalty. In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty.

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.

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: A cow shall be considered stopped when it is no longer moving forward. It is not necessary for all four feet to be on the ground. A Cutter may quit a cow, after the cow has come to a stop, as long as the cow is not turning into this horse.

EXAMPLE 5:
A Cutter is working a cow near the centre of the pen. The cow stops while facing the Cutter's horse. As the Cutter is quitting, the cow:
a) picks up a foot;
b) begins to turn 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/her horse, a hot quit will be called; however, if the Cutter waits until the cow has travelled a sufficient distance to clearly show the Judge the animal is moving away from his/her horse, a hot quit will not be charged.

EXAMPLE 7:
The Cutter is working a cow that is travelling 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.

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/her reins to signify that he/she is quitting the cow. In the Judge's opinion the cow was turned away when the Cutter

picked up his/her horse, but by the time the horse actually stopped, the cow had turned back toward the Cutter.
RULING:
No penalty.
NOTE: The Judge shall consider that a Cutter has quit a cow when he picks up on his/her reins or places his/her free hand on his/her horse's neck, whether the horse stops instantly or not.

EXAMPLE 10:
The cow being worked stops, and the Cutter's horse stops. Both cow and horse and completely still. The Cutter picks up his/her horse so that it is reasonable to assume that he/she 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/her 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/her.
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 horse. After the cow has moved back between the Cutter and his/her turnback horse, the Cutter quits the cow while it is turning toward him/her.
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/her 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/her quit, by picking up his/her hand or reaching for the horse's neck:

a) he/she realizes that the quit is hot; he/she immediately puts his/her hand down. In the next move the cow turns away and the Cutter stops his/her horse.
b) the Cutter is uncertain if the quit is clean; he/she immediately puts his/her hand down 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.
In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining, plus a three (3) point penalty for a hot quit. Total penalty of four (4) points.

JUDGING RULE 14

If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed.

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/her horse quits a cow. The Cutter reins and re-starts his/her horse. The Cutter continues his/her 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.

JUDGING RULE 15

If a horse clears the herd with two (2) 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/she selects the cow he/she 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/she picks up additional cattle. The Cutter quits his/her cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.
b) at no fault of the Cutter, he/she picks up additional

cattle. The Cutter quits his/her cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.

RULING:

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle (Rule 5b).

In (b) no penalty.

EXAMPLE 3:

The Cutter has a cow separated far enough from a group that he/she is able to release his/her 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/her 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/her 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/her. After clearly committing to one of these cows, the cow he/she committed to, turns and runs past the turnback horses and the other cow(s) remain. The Cutter:

a) stops his/her horse and returns to the herd to make another cut.
b) positions his/her horse and waits for the remaining cow(s) and begins to work.
c) holds his/her horse and waits for his/her original cow to be returned to the working area and then beings 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 arena; at that point in time, the Cutter may begin to work any cow in front of him/her 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/She commits to a cow in a group of cattle, his/her horse does not:

a) respond to the Cutter and the cow returns to the herd with the group of cattle
b) respond to the Cutter immediately, but he/she 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/her. As these cattle come around, the Cutter moves toward the cattle so that it is reasonable to assume that he/she is attempting to cut one of them. The cattle all trot past him/her; he/she then returns to the herd and drives some more cattle out and makes his/her 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/her, he/she 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. 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 nylon string, nylon straps or leather straps.

Decorative knots, rawhide balls or tassels are not permitted on curb devices. Breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal. Chaps and spurs may be worn. Chinks (any leggings not reaching the boot) are not permitted attire in the Contest Arena. A competing horse's tail cannot be tied in any manner that would restrict movement of the tail. Stock saddles will not be permitted in the Main Arena during any NCHA produced shows including the NCHA Futurity, Victorian Futurity, NCHA National Finals, EQUITANA Cutting and RAS Sydney Royal Cutting with the exception of Snafflebit events. Any rider found to be contravening this dress code will be subject to the following: 1st offence - warning, 2nd offence - fine of $250 and 3rd offence - period of suspension. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he/she shall be disqualified. A Judge has the right to have a contestant report to him/her if he/she is suspicious of any infraction of Rule.

Horses in the Snaffle Bit class may be ridden with a bridle having a snaffle bit only and shall have no noseband. Twisted wire snaffles shall not be used. Snaffle bits are to be a minimum of 10mm (3/8") and have a smooth single jointed mouthpiece. Bosals and Hackamores may be used. They shall be of rope or braided rawhide and have no metal parts.

a) All horses must comply with Rule 16 while in the arena.

b) Any person in the arena after the start of an NCHA approved or sponsored event must wear western attire, including hats. Men must wear long-sleeved shirts with collars and buttons or snaps completely down the shirt front. T-shirts and slip over knits are not permissible. Women must wear long sleeved shirts with a collar. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Long sleeves must be worn rolled down. In extreme weather, show management with the consent of the Judge, may allow deviation from the dress requirements with regard to hats and/or sleeve length at outdoor shows outside of the working area only. Under no circumstances will 'hoodies', football jerseys or 'sloppy joe's' be allowed within the Main Show Arena. Any rider found to be contravening this dress code will be subject to the following: 1st offence - warning, 2nd offence - fine of $250 and 3rd offence - period of suspension.

c) Rule 16 shall become effective one (1) hour prior to the published starting time of championship and jackpot cuttings. At limited aged events and other special events approved by the NCHA, Rule 16 shall become effective three (3) hours prior to the published starting time each day and shall remain in effect until one hour after each day's performance is concluded.

d) Rule 16 may be set aside by show management for an official practice session provided that the practice session ends at least one hour prior to the start of any performance. If show management is to designate practice areas, two (2) hours notice must be given to all contestants.

e) Contestants are limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers.

f) If an Officer, Director, or duly elected or appointed contestant's representative of the NCHA witnesses a violation of Standing Rule 16, they must report the violation immediately to the Association Executive Director.

g) Violations of Rule 16 b, c, d & h shall result in disciplinary action as determined by the NCHA Board of Directors.

EXAMPLE 1:
During a work, the Judge suspects that the hackamore being used 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. The illegal equipment must be reported to the Representative by the Judge and the Representative must report it to the NCHA.
NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Representative to report the use of devices not permitted by NCHA rules on the NCHA Confidential Contest Report to the NCHA office. The Cutter may be suspended for one year.

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. (Rerun shall not be granted for equipment failure).

JUDGING RULE 17

When a contestant is thrown from a horse or a horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

EXAMPLE 1:
While working a cow, the Cutter falls from his/her horse one minute into the work. The Cutter remounts and continues to work.
RULING:
An automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

EXAMPLE 2:
While working a cow, the Cutter's horse falls to the ground. The Cutter gets up and leads his/her 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/her horse to quit working or leave the working area before his/her allotted time is up 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/her time.
RULING:
The run shall be scored zero (0).

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

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

JUDGING RULE 19:

A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the Judge or Judges' opinion 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 gate 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 re-run, he/she may immediately make a request for the same to the Contestant's Representative 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 re-run 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.

EXAMPLES 1:
A Cutter is working his/her 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/she wants to work again immediately or at the end of his/her 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 thee (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 re-run 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/her run because he/she 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 have 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 have assessed a three (3) point or a five (5) point major penalty, the Cutter shall be granted a re-run.
NOTE: If the Judge's stands are equipped with intercoms, the secretary shall ask each Judge whether he/she 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 thee (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 2.5 minutes.

a) The run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction when the Judge realised that the Cutter has worked for longer than 2.5 minutes
b) The Judge had called a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) penalty before he/she realised that the cutter had worked for longer that 2.5 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 2.5 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 Judges 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 each Judge has 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/she has called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction unless:

a) human life is in danger
b) he/she is applying Rule 5 c.

EXAMPLE 8:
In a contest using two or more Judges, if a Judge terminates a run for the purpose of granting a re-run and 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 have assessed a three (3) or five (5) point 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/her 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 fraction.
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 the Judges were unanimous 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/she 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 score card 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) 1/2 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 – spur 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 score If horse turns tail (7)
60 score If horse fall 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/her line of vision.
RULING:
In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13).
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 themself, "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.

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 centre 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 riding with a loose rein throughout a performance (Rule 3).
e) For setting up a cow and holding it in a working

position as near the centre of the arena as possible (Rule 4).

NOTE: A herdholder'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/her 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 give credit to the Cutter under Rules 1a, 2 and 4. After assisting the Cutter in making a cut, the herdholder 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 herdholder 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/her full potential. Therefore, Judges will begin reducing run content when excessive help from herdholders 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. Herdholders should keep in mind they are jeopardising 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 herdholders gets behind the cattle so that it is obvious to the Judge that the herdholders 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 herdholders 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 herdholders and is able to drive the cattle out on his/her own to make a cut.
RULING:
Credit should be given and the run content increased.

d) In re-run cattle, the Cutter walks his/her horse to the back edge of the herd and stops. While the Cutter is sitting still the herdholder 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 herdholder moves

out from behind the cattle and allows the cutter to move up and make his/her cut.

RULING:

The run content of the run will be reduced.

e) After the cut is made, the herdholder does not move his/her horse to a position on the arena wall, but stops in a position several feet off the wall. The herdholder is not moving but it is obvious to the Judge that the cow being worked is being influenced by the presence of the herdholder's horse.

RULING:

The run content of the run will be reduced.

f) As the cutter leaves the arena wall with a cow, the herdholder on the opposite side believes the Cutter's path may cause the herd to split. He/She rides his/her horse out into the arena to a position that will prevent this from happening.

RULING:

No reduction in run content. The herdholder has the right to position himself/herself so that the herd will not scatter

g) While a Cutter is working, the herdholder is sitting in the corner. As the Cutter and cow approach the corner, the herdholder:

i. Remains in position but moves his/her horse slightly.

ii. Comes out of the corner in an obvious attempt to stop or turn the cow.

RULING:

i. No reduction in run content.

ii. 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.

i. As the cow approaches the side, with the Cutter in working position, the herdholder moves his/her horse up to turn the cow away.

ii. The Cutter has lost control of the cow and is out of position when the herdholder turns the cow away.

RULING:

i. No reduction in run content.

ii. 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 herdholder moves

his/her 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 given for a Cutter coming off the fence with a cow and then establishing a working position near the centre of the arena before quitting the cow.
NOTE: Coming off the fence in an attempt to set up a cow in the centre of the arena before quitting and staying on a tough cow are high risk situations. If a rule infraction occurs in these situation, 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 given credit for his/her willingness to exhibit his/her horse actually working cattle. Obvious stalling in the herd or reluctance to cut a cow to allow time to run off the clock shall have a negative influence on the total point value of the run.
NOTES:
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) Guidelines 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 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/her 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/her first cow, it becomes evident to the Judge that the Cutter has started a spectacular run. The degree of difficulty is high. The eye appeal of the run is high. The Cutter is demonstrating a high degree of courage. The Cutter cuts a tough second cow and begins to work it. He 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/her horse to aid him/her in his/her recovery. He/She is able to quit the cow legally. He/She cuts a tough third cow and holds the cow in 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/her 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/She holds both cows very near the centre of the arena. Both of the cows worked by the Cutter are slow and neither makes much effort to return to the herd. Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. He/She holds his/her first cow very near the centre of the arena. He/She cuts his/her 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 fulfils the requirements of Rule 4 by holding his/her cattle near the centre of the arena. Cutter B must receive a higher score because the degree of difficulty of his/her 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 then Cutter A's. The style of his/her 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/her 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 form his/her horse. He/She stays on that cow and is able to establish a working position on the cow near the centre 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/her 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 centre 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 centre of the arena after coming off the fence.

EXAMPLE 8:
Cutter A has a run that is high in degree of difficulty, but low in eye appeal. Cutter B has a run that is high in eye appeal, but low in degree of difficulty. Cutter C has a run that has a moderate degree of difficulty and a moderate amount of eye appeal.
RULING:
Cutter C shall be placed the highest. His/Her run is more complete. It has a degree of difficulty with eye appeal. Cutter A shall be placed between C and B. The degree of difficulty is more valuable to the point value of a run than is eye appeal.

EXAMPLE 9:
In the Judge's opinion, Cutter A and Cutter B have similar runs. The degree of difficulty, the amount of eye appeal, the amount of courage are each very similar. Cutter A actually spends more time working cattle during the 2 1/2 minute period than Cutter B did.
RULING:
Cutter A shall receive more credit then Cutter B.

SAMS (Self Adjusted Monitor System)

It is imperative that the system be announced prior to the start of the show.

1. 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/her score.

2. 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.

If the judge wishes to review the penalty, he/she 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/she records his/her score with the "R", he/she circles the penalty to indicate where the review will be made.

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/her in case he/she needs to aid his/her decision making process. If the Judge, after reviewing the video tape, decides that his/her score must be lowered based on the penalty review, he does the following:

a. He/She leaves the original mark for the horse and circle in place. He/She does not erase the original or alter it in any way.
b. Next to the original score and circle he/she 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/her Judge's sheet or the back of his/her score sheet to record the "adjusted" score and initial the change. Under no circumstances should the Judge use another piece of paper or any other means to indicate a change of score. If the Judge does not change the original score, he/she shall initial it within the circle. The Judge then turns his/her 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"

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 rule book to determine in favour 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. 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/her card in the normal fashion.

6. 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.

7. Two or three judges—no "R" is called:
If during any run one Judge calls a major penalty (3 or 5 points) and the other Judges do not call a review, then all Judges must look at that particular situation, separately with no communication among them. It is the Show Secretary's responsibility to review each Judge's score card to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points). They may agree there is, or is not, a penalty. The purpose is that all Judges reviewed the situation.
This is to better help the judges and also the contestants.

8. The NCHA does not allow the use of the "self review"

system where more than three Judges are being used. The NCHA has trained and qualified a number of "field monitors" available at an affordable cost to monitor large shows. With three or more Judges, the system has difficulty because of the many review situations created and the time factor involved. A "field" or "staff" monitor can be used with much greater efficiency.

The "SAMS" is a positive step toward better NCHA Judging and more accurate placing of horses. The goal of the NCHA Judging system has been and remains the proper purse distribution based on credits and penalties.

If you have any questions about the system or its use, please contact the NCHA office, and we will attempt to answer all inquiries.

In order for the Judge to use the Self Adjusted Monitor System, show management 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 Adjusted Monitor System

The Adjusted Monitor System (AMS) is a system that has been designed to make Judging equally fair for each contestant. The AMS is required to be used with five Judges, and may be used with a 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 differences. 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/she 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/she wishes, and if he/she requests any clarification of the rule in question, then it is given to him/her 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/her score or leave his/her 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/her score, an affidavit is signed by the Judge signifying the penalty, and the score is adjusted by the amount of that penalty from a _____ to a _____.

EXAMPLE:
Go Round_____

Group of Cattle_____

I wish to change from a _____ to a _____.
(horse's name)
[ ] three-point penalty
[ ] five-point penalty

_____
_____

Signature Date

i. Monitor(s) will be given the authority to educate a Judge after he/she has signed his/her penalty slip and made his/her decision on a call when there is and 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. 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. Scores of 195 and below, in a go-round, will not be reviewed.

10. All reviews with Judges will be taped.

11. A Judge Evaluation sheet will accompany each set of

cattle. This will allow monitors an up-to-date record in case they have to give a Judge a warning.

12. Monitors will abide by all rules set forth in the criteria for Judge evaluation.

13. Judge monitor responses will be issued to each Judge at the completion of the show. Exit interviews may be conducted.

14. Once the scores are adjusted, show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.

SOME POINTS ON SHOWING AND JUDGING THE CUTTING HORSE

The following questions and answers are included in this Rule Book as an aid to a clearer understanding of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses. The opinions expressed are based on surveys and Judging Clinics conducted by the National Cutting Horse Association and have the endorsement of the Association's Executive Committee.

1. *What is the desired number of cattle to work?*
The number of cattle to cut in the two and one-half minute time limit is not over three head on fresh cattle. If a cutter can do as much on two head as another can do on three, the cutter working the two head should have the higher score because he/she has not spent as much time in the herd.

2. *Approaching the herd.*
A horse should never be set down hard approaching the herd. Walking or trotting to the herd is acceptable provided the horse is taken up very easily before getting close enough to disturb the cattle. The horse should display no hesitation, weaving or reluctance to approach and enter the herd.

3. *Entering and working the herd.*
The true cutting horse enters the herd with ease, concentrating on the job to be done; not looking over the fence or biting; alert, but quiet, making no unnecessary movements that might disturb the cattle. Here are some specific points on herd work;

a) How far should a horse go into the herd to cut a cow? He should go deep enough to show his/her ability to get one out.

b) Is it all right to enter the middle of the herd on either side and to the middle or back side and get the one wanted? Yes.

c) Is it all right to go behind the herd and bring out the one wanted? Yes.

4. *When should a horse be turned loose?*
A rider entering the herd may have a light-rein contact with the horse, and maintain this contact while he/she is in the herd and while he/she is in the process of cutting the animal free from the remaining cattle. When the animal has been cut, he/she should let his/her horse alone, and the horse should be given enough slack so that it would be obvious to the Judge that the horse was on his/her own.

5. *Bringing the cow from the herd.*
The cutting horse should stay a reasonable distance from the cow if possible, showing a great deal of expression but no illness toward the animal being cut. Illness is defined as biting, trying to bite, pawing, kicking or charging. Facial expression and ear position should not be considered as a sign of illness. He/She should be on his/her toes, making counter movements to the cow regardless of the distance separating them. The horse should not rush or push cattle excessively in bringing one from the herd unless the cow turns around and tries to get back at the edge of the herd. The horse should bring a cow a sufficient distance from the herd toward the centre of the arena, so the herd will not be disturbed while working, and set the cow up.

6. *When is a cow set up (in working position)?*
The cow should be in the middle of the arena or as near this point as possible with the horse making movements to counteract movements of the cow. This does not mean that the horse would be moving while the cow is standing still. When the cow moves, the horse should make faster moves so that he/she will hold the cow, not only from returning to the herd but also from going from side to side (wall to wall), without excessive help from his/her turnback riders.

7. *When is a horse out of position?*
The loss of working advantage (being out of position) is not determined by the distance that a horse goes by a cow; it is determined by the response of the horse to the action of the cow. A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow moving cow. The horse which can maintain working advantage over a cow which presents a

severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged the horse which immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

8. *Picking up cattle.*
No penalty shall be assessed for cattle that leave the herd so long as it is not caused by the contesting horse.

9. *What is not a satisfactory way of quitting a cow?*
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.

LOPING PEN RULES

(TO BE POSTED AT EVERY ENTRANCE TO A LOPING AREA)

1. Horses not entered in the current cutting class are prohibited from the enclosed loping pen or area where horses enter into the competition ring. No more than 17 horses can be in the loping pen at one time (This does not apply to help horses).

2. No horse can carry two or more persons at any time in the loping pen or competition arena.

3. Horses can not be lead from another horse in the loping area.

4. When entering the loping pen yield to all horses in motion.

5. Enter the stream of horse traffic from the outside in the same direction as the group and look around before leaving the group to avoid contact with another horse.

6. Stay to the inside of the group if you wish to go slow, stay to the outside if you wish to go fast.

7. Never stop in traffic. Dry work should be done in an area where there is no traffic.

8. Riders must be in control of their horse at all times.

9. Helmets must be worn by persons under the age of 18 if they are not a member of the NCHA or competing at the show.

10. All lopers must follow NCHA attire rules while in the loping pen.

11. Do not weave in and out of traffic and avoid contact with other horses. Maintain a constant speed in your position.

12. Change directions and maintain the flow in one direction when asked. Always ask when you wish to change direction.

13. Apply boots and groom in areas with no traffic.

14. If you must tie your horse, tie them to a secure fence, not panels. Do not tie stallions, kicking or biting horses in the loping pen in the traffic area.

15. Yield to all vehicles, pedestrians or horses wishing to enter or exit the loping area.

16. Maintain NCHA animal welfare rules while in the loping area.

17. Keep a good sense of humour and be courteous to everyone in the loping area.

18. Do not ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

19. Adjust stirrup lengths to suit the person riding the horse

20. All horses must be ridden in approved NCHA equipment while in the loping area.

LOPING PEN - Guidelines for Event Management
It is strongly recommended that show committees and event managers have a system of monitoring the Loping Pen Rules at all shows.

The Loping Pen is the workplace for many who attend cutting shows and activities. It is the duty of every show committee or employer to provide a safe place of work. This can be achieved by placing a person at the entry gate of the loping pen (this can be a competitor or an employee of a Trainer who is a member of the NCHA).

The Loping Pen must be free of dangerous objects, have a level, dust free, sand or soft surface, with safe fences that have secured rails for tying horses. The area must be free of pot holes, rocks and slippery surfaces. If the show is held after dark, the loping pen must have lighting adequate to luminate the entire area.

Loping Pens should have water points in or near to the area. Loping Pens should be large enough to allow ample space for horses to lope, trot or walk in a circle as well as have an area for dry work. There should also be an adequate area for tying up horses and for grooming purposes.

The number of horses allowed in the Loping Pen at any one time is determined by the number of horses in the herd that is being judged (17 is the maximum numbers in any herd). Horses in the next herd of cattle can be allowed in the loping area if sufficient room is provided. This means enough room that horses can move freely without coming into contact with other horses. Horses that have been shown in the herd being judged are encouraged to leave the loping area to provide room for horses in the next herd.

Horses that are not entered in the cutting events (other than help horses) must not enter the loping area during the competition times. Green or recently broken horses should not enter the Loping Pen. Inexperienced riders must not ride in the Loping Pen. Anyone under the age of 18 who is not entered in the cutting competitions of the show must wear a riding helmet. No one under the age of 5 years old should ride a horse in the Loping Pen or Arena.

The Loping Pen is the workplace for many of our members and non members. The space is designed for show horses not for joy riding or learning to ride. It is a place of business and should be treated as such. The number of persons on foot should be restricted to competitors and unattended children should not enter the area. Any item or object that might frighten a horse should be removed or covered. Remember, a safe workplace is the right of every worker and the duty of every employer to provide.

NON-PROFESSIONAL CASEBOOK

NON PROFESSIONAL CASEBOOK

Rule 1
Riders of horses entered in any classification of NCHA Non Professional contests shall be restricted to holders of National Cutting Horse Association Non Professional cards (See Rule 16.)

EXAMPLES 1:
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.

EXAMPLE 2:
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.

Rule 2
Any horse exhibited in NCHA Non Professional Cutting Horse Contests must be owned by the contestant showing the horse or by the contestant's spouse, spouse's immediate family, children, parents, sibling, grandparents and guardians.

EXAMPLES:
My brother owns a real nice horse that he is not riding. May I ride him in the Non Pro? *YES*

May parents ride horses registered to children? *YES*.

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

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. Unless you are a youth, Rookie or $3500 Non Pro.*

I have a 25-year-old son. May we both ride the same horse in Non-Pro classes? *YES.*

I am 60 and hold a Non-Pro card. May I show my 38 year old daughter's horse in the Open and Open Novice classes? *YES.*

I recently purchased a mare to show in Non-Pro 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.*

Rule 3

Proof of ownership is required and may be requested by show management on any horse ridden in NCHA Non Professional 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 notarized copy thereof showing current ownership in compliance with Section 2 above, or a notarized evidence of ownership containing a description of any unregistered horse, attested by the Executive Director of NCHA and made in favour of any person qualifying under Section 2 above, shall be deemed as proper 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 Executive Committee, either probation or suspension, whichever in their opinion fits the infraction.

EXAMPLES 1:
I just bought a horse, but the breed association has not processed the papers yet. May I show him in the Non-Pro? *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?
NO. All unregistered horses must have a notarized 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 attested to by the Executive Director.

What is needed to describe an unregistered horse?
The NCHA would prefer 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.

Rule 4
The Non Professional Committee or designated members of this committee shall have the right to review in detail any transaction regarding the purchase, gift or sale of a horse by the holder of an NCHA Non Professional card. There shall be an automatic review of any age horse that is repurchased, given back, or resold. For any horse three years old or older, computed on the basis that a horse reaches one year of age on August 1st of the year following foaling and adds an additional year on each subsequent August 1st, the seller must notify the NCHA if a horse returns to their ownership or their immediate family's ownership at any time and shall give full disclosure including, but not limited to, methods of procurement, all transfer records, cancelled checks, and deposit slips if so directed by the Executive Committee. Any change of ownership of a horse after competition in an NCHA Non Professional event must be reported by the seller within thirty (30) days, along with the name of the purchaser to the NCHA office. A maximum of ninety (90) days for formal transfer of Non Professional purchased horses. All parties to a transaction in violation of these NCHA rules are subject to disciplinary action as specified in Standing Rule 8, by the Executive Committee.

EXAMPLES:
May I give or receive a horse?
YES. Provided the gift is not 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. Non Pro members have a moral obligation to themselves and the NCHA to see that all transactions are at arm's length with no strings. 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 a possible three (3) year suspension.

May a Non-Pro 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*.

I sold a four year old in January that I had ridden in Non Pro Futurities as a three year old. I would like to buy that horse back now that he is a six year old. How must I document this deal with the NCHA?

The [original] seller must notify the NCHA within 30 days that the horse is returning to their ownership.

Rule 5
Riders of cutting horses may be classified as Non Professional.

Rule 5(A)
5. a. Riders of cutting horses may be classified as Non-Professionals. 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.

NOTES:
1. This Association does not consider that professional cutting horse trainers' spouses or spouses of any equine trainer who do not teach riders or train horses receive indirect remuneration.

2. Employees on a horse training operation may be considered non professionals by this Association provided they do not teach riders or train horses.

3. An NCHA Non Professional must individually pay all fees and other costs in connection with cutting horses after reaching twenty-one (21) years of age unless these costs are paid by the Non Professional's spouse or minor child. Such costs for a Non Professional under twenty-one (21) years of age may be paid by the individuals' parents or legal guardian.

4. Premium money won shall not be considered remuneration so long as all winnings for those over twenty-one (21) years of age are returned to the individual Non Professional or to that person's spouse, minor child or his or her parents.

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, his or her spouse or minor child, or his or her parents.

EXAMPLES:

1. 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 instalment payments, provided a fixed amount is stated and paid.
d) show a horse owned by your father, mother, son or daughter, spouse or spouse's immediate family, sibling, grandparents or guardians in any NCHA approved cutting competition, except Non-Professional, provided you pay all entry fees and expenses
e) receive compensation for judging cutting horse contests and other horse show classes
f) board horses in your barn and provide cattle for training; however, you may not ride the boarder's horse in any arena, pen or pasture where cattle are present
g) endorse products publicly

h) while under 21 years of age have your entry fees and expenses paid by your parents or legal guardian

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
d) if over 21 years of age have your entry fees and expenses paid by anyone other than yourself, your spouse or minor child.

Rule 8a

NCHA Non Professional card holders may ride horses in partnerships in the Youth class, $5000 Non Pro, Rookies and special events which have been granted exemption from Non Professional ownership requirements by the Executive Director with no penalty, provided the Non Professional card holder pays all entry fees and expenses. Non Professional card holders whose earnings exceed $10,000 may ride horses in partnership provided only 1 member of the syndicate shows the said horse and must be nominated as the designated rider at the beginning of the point score year provided the Non Professional card holder pays all entry fees and expenses.

I have won less than $5,000. Can I show a horse I own in partnership in the Non Pro Futurity or the Open Non Pro Class?

YES. Members who have won less than $5,000 can show a horse owned in partnership in any Non Pro event.

Rule 8b

Upon notification in writing to the NCHA and after receiving from them a permit authorising

the same, the holder of an NCHA Non Professional Card will be permitted to show a horse he/she does not own but intends to purchase, in a maximum of three (3) NCHA Approved Open and Novice Classes Only, provided the horse and shows are named with exact dates and there is no violation of Standing Rule 5a (Page 136). Only one such permit will be granted to a rider for a given horse at any one time and points won will not count toward any NCHA Earnings, Annual Award, Title or Certificate. A Permit will be issued for a fee of $20, and no permits will be granted for any event directly sponsored by the NCHA.

EXAMPLES:
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.

Can I get a permit to show a horse in an aged event?
NO. These permits are for approved NCHA contests only and do not include aged events.

Do I have to pay my own expenses and entry fees while trying this horse?
YES. There may be no violation of Standing Rule 5a.

EXAMPLES:
May I show the permit horse in the Non-Pro?
NO. The permit horse must be shown in the Open or appropriate Novice Class.

Rule 12 – Non Pro Dispensation

Any Non Pro, upon application to the Board, may receive dispensation to work for a recognised cutting horse trainer and establishment, world wide. This dispensation would allow this Non Pro to work for a minimum period of three months and a maximum of two years. Each applicant is entitled to two years dispensation either concurrently or with a break between. (Suggest twelve month break). After completion of his/her term, the applicant must inform the Board as to whether he/she intends to declare himself/herself a professional. Should he/she fail to inform the

Board he/she will automatically lose their Non Pro status. The applicant must keep the Board informed as to all circumstances pertaining to his/her employment or conditions of work i.e. change of employer due to either voluntary change and/or forced change due to circumstances arising. No applicant will receive more than twenty-four months dispensation.
During the duration of his/her dispensation the applicant will not be allowed to ride or show in any Non Pro event or Rookie class. He/she may ride or show any horse in Open and/or Novice classes and Youth classes if applicable.

EXAMPLES:

What can I do with a Non Pro dispensation?

The intent of this is to give a person the opportunity to train horses for a period of time so that they might determine if this is to become their career. The rule is not intended to penalize anyone who thought that they might train horses professionally but later decided that it was not for them. In the past this individual would have been a Professional for life.

Rule 12 (B) Rule 12

A Non Pro may also apply to the Board for dispensation to work as a Professional Trainer for a period of twelve months to assess their viability as a Professional Trainer. After completion of his/her term, the applicant may reapply to the Board for a Non Pro Card, and if granted, they will have Open Non Pro Status. No breaks will be allowed during this dispensation, and no further dispensations will be allowed.

As an apprentice trainer you may:

a) train for the public;
b) work for other trainers;
c) show horses owned by any member in all classes except the Non-Pro, Youth or Limited Non-Pro.

At the end of a year, what if I forget to tell the NCHA that I don't want to be a trainer?

You are totally responsible for letting the NCHA know your intent. If you do not reapply for a non-pro card, you automatically become a trainer for life.

Amendments to NCHA Drug Rules - How Do They Affect Members?

NCHA Drug Policy

- All horses winning age events managed by NCHA will be drug tested.

- At other shows holding more than one age event, at least one horse from any age event will be tested.

- All testing will be by blood sample with the blood testing providing a determination of drug levels i.e. not a screening test.

- A registered laboratory will perform the test

- A veterinarian must gazette all drugs prescribed and administered to a horse up to 10 days before competition. This information must include a statement that the horse is fit for competition, the reason a drug has been given, the drugs used, dose & time of last dose administration. All of this is MANDATORY.

- Any horse found to have a swab in the absence of a veterinary certificate will be referred to the NCHA Drug Committee.

- The NCHA Drug Committee will determine whether an offence has been committed and what penalty shall be imposed.

What does this mean to you

1. There is no limitation on medication if all treatments are gazetted and appropriate veterinary documentation is supplied to the NCHA prior to competition.

2. Any dispute or concerns about the ability of a horse, so certified, to enter for competition would require a second veterinary opinion.

3. The intent of the current drug rules is to allow for treatment of minor ailments, with declaration, but not to permit the indiscriminate use of potent medications for pain masking or performance enhancement.

4. If the veterinary declaration does not support the medications found in the horse or if the levels of drug detected grossly exceed prescribed doses, then you are in contravention of the rules.

5. Veterinary examinations with prescription of medication greater than ten (10) days prior to competition do not constitute a pre-competition assessment of suitability of a horse to compete, especially if a horse has been prescribed anti inflammatory or analgesic medication.

What has prompted changes to the drug policy

A lack of a standard declaration form has meant that in some instances there has not been an appreciation of the detail required when gazetting treatment of a competitor horse.

Similarly, treatment has been often notified but no declaration as to the horse's fitness to compete been made as per requirements.

The situation has arisen where medication has been prescribed and declared but found to be in excess of prescribed dose. In some instances this might be attributed to a perception that if a horse has been treated for a particular problem and declared suitable for competition , then the horse has the right to enter the competition with active levels of any medication prescribed at the initial examination , even though that examination may have been several days prior to the event.

There have been occasions when medications of inappropriate potency have been prescribed

A recognition of animal welfare concerns with regard to the administration of powerful analgesics and also with regard to overexercising of horses pre-competition.

What are the changes to NCHA drug policy

Consideration has been given to the need to control substance abuse without compromising the ability for a trainer to present a horse for competition that has required some medical attention leading up to the event. In arriving at a position that supports this premise it is obvious that a"no drugs" policy as per Rules of Racing for thoroughbreds and standard breeds is inappropriate. Therefore gazetting of all medication usage is designed to allow for appropriate medication.

In order to assist owners and trainers the Drug Committee has compiled a list of "approved medications" which may be suitable by a veterinarian for treatment of a horse prior to competition. In formulating this list consideration has been given to potency of drugs, various conditions which may warrant treatment, efficacy of medications for specific conditions.

In advertising an "approved drugs list" it is implicit that all pre-competition use of any of these drugs is only on the basis of approval and declaration by a veterinarian and that this declaration is made on an approved NCHA Veterinary Declaration form . Any departure from this will be considered to be a case of unapproved medication and a direct contravention of the rules.

There are numerous medications which are not on the "approved medications" list that may be prescribed by a veterinarian. All drug usage must be declared. It will be at the discretion of the NCHA Drug Committee whether a horse so declared may be entered for competition. This does not imply that all horses treated with drugs only from the "approved list" and so declared will automatically have right of entry to competition. Any horse under medical treatment prior to competition may be refused entry into competition on NCHA veterinary advice.

NCHA APPROVED MEDICATIONS

• ANTI-BIOTICS
no restrictions

• ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES
Phenylbutazone
Ketoprofen
Meclofenamic Acid
Hyaluronic Acid
Pentosan Polysulphate
Carprofen
Copper Indomethacin
DMSO [dimethyl sulfoxide]

• CORTISONES
Triamcinolone
Methyl prednisolone
Prednisolone
Dexamethasone
Flumethasone

- HORMONES

Oral Progestins
Depot Progesterone

- SEDATIVES

Acepromazine
Reserpine

- NON-SPECIFIC

Ranitidine
Clenbuterol

How do the new rules affect you

1. You MUST not enter a horse for competition without an NCHA Veterinary Declaration if the horse has been under treatment for a medical condition within 10 days of competition.

2. You should advise your vet of the list of approved medications BEFORE any treatment is undertaken. Any departure from this list may seriously compromise your horse's clearance to compete. This does not prevent your vet from prescribing any medication deemed necessary to treat a particular condition. However, for minor ailments, you should adhere to the approved list of medications.

3. You must understand that any departure from declared drug usage by dose, time of administration, drug used invalidates your declaration and a positive swab revealing this occurrence will be treated in the same manner as illicit drug administration.

4. Whereas current drug rules have a clause allowing for a positive swab to be assessed in light of the detected level in relation to effect on performance, this opportunity for interpretation is unlikely to prevail for drug residues detected that are not on the approved drug list.

5. Any positive swab for drugs detected in an undeclared situation will be dealt with by the NCHA Drug Committee as a matter of urgency.

6. On any given day of competition the dosage of a drug used and declared should not exceed recommended drug dosage. These levels should correlate with laboratory detection levels.

NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

OFFICIAL

VETERINARY DECLARATION FOR COMPETITION ENTRY

The NCHA Rule Book states that a Veterinarian must gazette all drugs that have been prescribed and administered to a horse up to 10 days prior to a competition. This information must include a statement that the horse is, in the opinion of the attending Veterinarian, fit for competition, the reason for drug administration, the drug(s) administered, their dose and routes of administration and the time and date of last drug dosage for each drug used. THIS IS MANDATORY. Accordingly, you are requested to complete the form in all sections.

HORSE NAME _____

OWNER _____

ATTENDING VET _____ **PHONE NO** _____

Reason for medication _____

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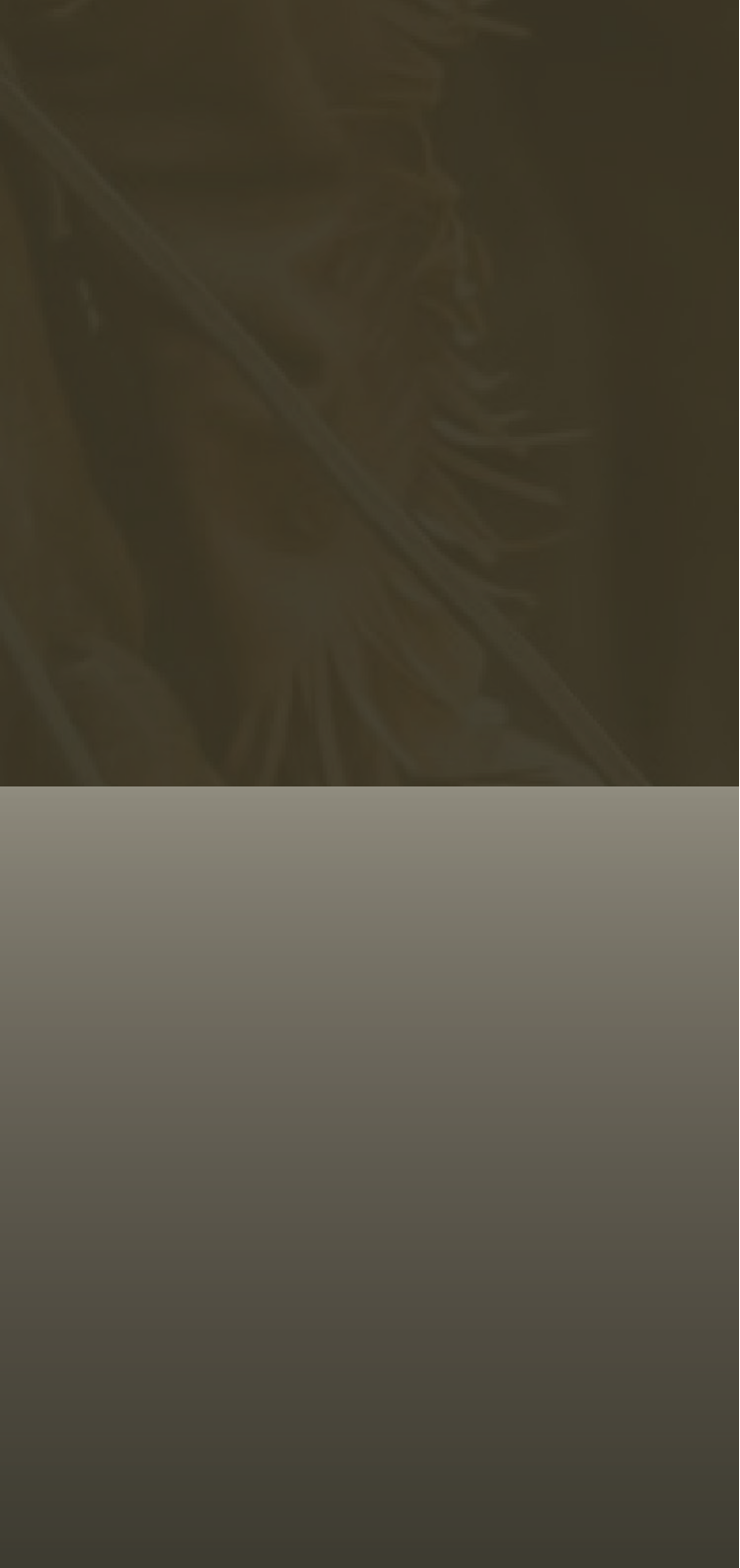

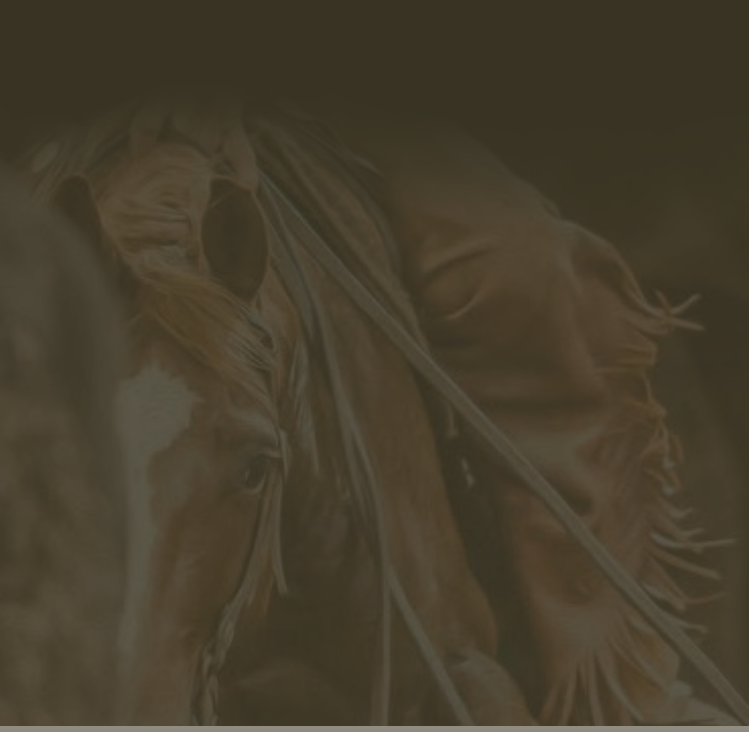

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