

**Amateur Committee**  
**2026 NCHA Convention Agenda**  
**June 20, 2026 • 8:30 am – 10:30 am**  
**Brunswick**  
**South Point Hotel • Las Vegas, Nevada**



1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Mission Statement
3. \$250,000 Unlimited Amateur Cap
4. Family Horse Rule
5. Amateur Exceptions
6. Amateur Hall of Fame
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

AMATEUR COMMITTEE  
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### \$250,000 Unlimited Amateur Cap

The Amateur Committee believes it is time to revisit the current rule requiring exhibitors to choose between remaining in Unlimited Amateur or moving up and showing exclusively in the Non-Pro, with the exception of Non-Pro classes offering less than \$10,000 in added money.

Since the Non-Pro division has eliminated its earnings cap, we feel it is appropriate to re-evaluate this rule and determine whether it should be removed entirely or maintained as is with a clear, final decision.

As it stands, the rule limits participation in the Non-Pro and places unnecessary restrictions on our Amateur competitors. At most shows, exhibitors would likely choose to enter both Amateur and Non-Pro classes if given the opportunity. However, because they are required to choose, many opt to remain in the Unlimited Amateur division, restricting their overall participation.

The primary argument in favor of eliminating this rule is that it would provide exhibitors with greater flexibility and allow them to compete in multiple appropriate classes, ultimately benefiting both participation and the growth of the program.

The Committee would like input on whether to:

- Eliminate the rule and allow full cross-entry between Amateur and Non-Pro classes, or
- Maintain the current structure and require exhibitors to continue choosing between divisions.
- Pros and Cons and review data to support the change.

### **CURRENT RULE:**

**UNLIMITED AMATEUR** - Open to qualified Amateur contestants who are either:

1) Under the age of 60 and have a lifetime Limited Age Non-Pro earnings (approved classes) of less than \$250,000. For purposes of this rule, Limited Age Non-Pro earnings include qualified winnings in the Limited Age Non-Pro competition in all approved Limited Age Event shows EXCEPT monies won at shows with

less than \$10,000 in added money held in the 2015 point year or later. An Unlimited Amateur competitor who reaches \$250,000 or more in lifetime Non-Pro Limited Age event earnings can continue to compete in Limited Age Non-Pro classes until the beginning of the next point year. At that point, the Unlimited Amateur competitor must make a choice: to remain an Unlimited Amateur and compete exclusively as an Unlimited Amateur or to compete as a Non-Pro. At the beginning of the next point year if the Unlimited Amateur competitor enters a Limited Age Non-Pro event and competes on any horse, regardless of whether or not they win any money, they will forfeit their Unlimited Amateur status and can no longer compete in Amateur contests.

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

Rule History:

2013 – Cap \$100,000

2021 – Cap \$250,000

## Family Horse Rule Proposal:

### History of Family Horse

2015 - current family rule (same as AQHA) was recommended by 4 committees, including the Amateur committee after the 2014 Convention, the EC passed the recommendations, and the AQHA family rule was adopted for the 2015 point year. 2009 – 2014, the rule allowed for spouse, grandparents, and siblings for a child to age 21 in limited age classes and age 29 on weekends. 2008 – 1990's the rule allowed for spouse and parent/child to age 21

### CURRENT STANDING RULE 51.a.4.

If a member who holds an NCHA Non-Professional and/or Amateur card publicly exhibits in any contest, whether approved or unapproved, a cutting horse not owned by the member or by the member's Immediate Family as defined herein, the member will be subject to disciplinary actions as provided in this rule, in addition to potential disciplinary actions under Rule 50.d.4. For purposes of this rule "Immediate Family" shall mean the member's spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparents, grandchild, step-parent, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, spouse's parent, spouse's step-parent, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step sibling's spouse, sibling's child, sibling's step-child, half-sibling's child, half-sibling's step-child, step-sibling's child, step-sibling's step-child, parent's sibling, parent's half-sibling, parent's step-sibling, parent's sibling's child, parent's sibling's stepchild, parent's half sibling's child, parent's half sibling's stepchild, parent's step sibling's child, parent's step sibling's stepchild, legal ward or legal guardian. Any member who owns a horse that he/she wants his or her immediate family to show pursuant to this rule is responsible for completing the forms prescribed by the NCHA relating to a family-owned horse and filing those forms with the NCHA prior to the show in which any qualified family member will show that horse. The horse owner is also responsible for updating their family-owned horse information with the NCHA to be sure it is accurate and up to date. A member showing a horse owned by an immediate family member under this rule may have his or her entry fees and expenses paid by an immediate family member. Penalties for ownership rule violations may include immediate loss of Non-Professional/Amateur status of the member, up to three (3) years suspension from the NCHA, up to a maximum of \$10,000 fine. Also, any other member found guilty of aiding and abetting the rule violator will be subject to the same penalties, depending on the severity of the incident.

## Purpose for consideration of change:

To narrow and clarify eligibility by redefining “family,” focusing on direct, vertical relationships (parents, children, grandparents, etc.) and removing broader horizontal relationships (e.g., siblings)

- Replace the term “*immediate family*” with “*family eligibility rule*”.
- Limit eligible family members to a clearly defined, linear family relationship.
- Goal: improve fairness, enforceability, and clarity while reducing abuse of the rule.

## Definition of Immediate Family

For purposes of this rule, “Immediate Family” means the members:

Proposed Replacement – Family Eligibility Rule (Rule 51.a.4 revision)

## Family Eligibility Rule

The following persons would qualify as “Family” under the proposed rule:

- Spouse, including a legally recognized common-law spouse
- Biological or adoptive parents
- Current spouse of a parent (step-parent)
- Biological or adoptive children
- Children of the Member’s current spouse (stepchildren)
- Biological or adoptive grandparents
- Biological or adoptive great-grandparents
- Biological or adoptive grandchildren
- Biological or adoptive great-grandchildren
- Any person who shares legal parentage of a child with the Member (co-parent)
- Legal guardian
- Legal ward

The following relationships that are included under the current rule would NO LONGER qualify as “Family” under the proposed rule:

- Siblings
- Half-siblings
- Step-siblings
- Parents of a spouse
- Step-parents of a spouse
- Spouses of siblings
- Spouses of half-siblings
- Spouses of step-siblings
- Children of siblings
- Stepchildren of siblings
- Children of half-siblings
- Stepchildren of half-siblings
- Children of step-siblings
- Stepchildren of step-siblings
- Siblings of a parent
- Half-siblings of a parent
- Step-siblings of a parent
- Children of a parent's sibling
- Stepchildren of a parent's sibling
- Children of a parent's half-sibling
- Stepchildren of a parent's half-sibling
- Children of a parent's step-sibling
- Stepchildren of a parent's step-sibling

No other persons or relationships shall be considered Family for purposes of this rule.

#### **Filing Requirement**

If a member wishes for an immediate family member to show a horse they own, the horse owner must:

- a. Complete the NCHA Family-Owned Horse form, and
- b. File the form with NCHA prior to the show.

The horse owner is responsible for ensuring that the information is accurate and current at all times.

#### **Expenses**

A member showing a horse owned by an immediate family member may have entry fees and related expenses paid by that family member.

#### **Penalties for Violation**

Violation of this rule may result in:

- a. Loss of Non-Professional or Amateur status,
- b. Suspension from NCHA for up to three (3) years, and/or
- c. Fines of up to \$10,000.

Any other member found to aid or abet a violation may be subject to the same penalties, depending on severity.

## REFERENCE SHEET FOR FAMILY OWNED HORSE RULE

The following chart is to assist in the application of the NCHA's new Family Owned Horse Rule. Under Rule 51.a.4, "immediate family" includes the following:

spouse	<b>husband or wife</b>
child	<b>son or daughter</b>
child's spouse	<b>son-in-law or daughter-in-law</b>
stepchild	<b>step son or step daughter</b>
parent	<b>dad or mom</b>
grandparents	<b>grandpa or grandma</b>
grandchild	<b>grandkids</b>
step-parent	<b>step dad or step mom</b>
sibling	<b>brother or sister</b>
half-sibling	<b>half brother or half sister</b>
step-sibling	<b>step brother or step sister</b>
spouse's parent	<b>father-in-law or mother-in-law</b>
spouse's stepparent	<b>step father-in-law or step mother-in-law</b>
sibling's spouse	<b>brother-in-law or sister-in-law</b>
half-sibling's spouse	<b>half brother-in-law or half sister-in-law</b>
sibling's child	<b>nephew or niece</b>
sibling's stepchild	<b>step nephew or step niece</b>
step-sibling's child	<b>step nephew or step niece</b>
step-sibling's stepchild	<b>step nephew or step niece</b>
parent's siblings	<b>uncle or aunt</b>
parent's half-sibling	<b>half uncle or half aunt</b>
parent's stepsibling	<b>step uncle or step aunt</b>
parent's sibling's child	<b>cousin</b>
parent's sibling's stepchild	<b>step cousin</b>
parent's half-sibling's child	<b>half cousin</b>
parent's half sibling's stepchild	<b>half cousin</b>
parent's stepsibling child	<b>step cousin</b>
parent's stepsibling's stepchild	<b>step cousin</b>
legal ward or legal guardian	<b>Legal document from the courts</b>

The relationship of the rider to the owner of the participating horse must be evidenced by submitting appropriate legal documentation (i.e. copies of marriage and/or birth certificate) to NCHA's Show Department prior to the show in which the horse is being ridden.

IMMEDIATE FAMILY (SELF / SPOUSE)	TRIPS TO HERD				UNIQUE HORSE/RIDER			
	AM		NP		AM		NP	
2025 SUPER STAKES	679	83.7%	233	71.7%	311	85.0%	139	73.9%
2025 SUMMER	566	81.4%	189	71.6%	370	80.6%	181	72.4%
2025 FUTURITY	420	80.5%	205	73.5%	271	78.8%	205	73.5%
2026 SUPER STAKES	643	84.3%	257	75.6%	444	82.4%	241	76.3%

  

CHILDREN / PARENTS	AM		NP		AM		NP	
2025 SUPER STAKES	112	13.8%	71	21.8%	45	12.3%	38	20.2%
2025 SUMMER	114	16.4%	63	23.9%	78	17.0%	58	23.2%
2025 FUTURITY	86	16.5%	62	22.2%	62	18.0%	62	22.2%
2026 SUPER STAKES	108	14.2%	65	19.1%	87	16.1%	60	19.0%

  

OTHER NOT 1ST LEVEL	AM		NP		AM		NP	
2025 SUPER STAKES	20	2.5%	21	6.5%	10	2.7%	11	5.9%
2025 SUMMER	15	2.2%	12	4.5%	11	2.4%	11	4.4%
2025 FUTURITY	16	3.1%	12	4.3%	11	3.2%	12	4.3%
2026 SUPER STAKES	12	1.6%	18	5.3%	8	1.5%	15	4.7%

## **EXCEPTIONS:**

The Amateur exceptions were created a long time ago, when riders didn't have as many options to compete. Back then, those exceptions helped people find a place to show.

But now, things are different. We have a full Non-Pro leveling system with Limited Non-Pro, Intermediate Non-Pro, and Non-Pro. Those divisions already give every rider a place to compete based on their earnings and experience.

So today, this isn't about whether someone can show—they absolutely can. The question is just: where do they belong?

Right now, we have two different systems. One is simple and automatic, based on earnings. The other uses exceptions, applications, and committee decisions. That makes things more complicated and less consistent.

The Amateur division is supposed to have clear, straightforward rules. When we add exceptions, it makes it harder to understand and harder to apply fairly.

Removing these exceptions doesn't take anything away from anyone. It just means everyone is placed into the system we already have—the one that's designed to be fair and easy to follow.

At the end of the day, the leveling system already does what these exceptions were meant to do—just in a better and more consistent way.

This change keeps things simple, fair, and up to date

### **1. Remove all Amateur Exceptions**

- Amateur – 5 years/\$35,000 Exception (for previous trainer's spouses, children, and Lopers)
- Amateur – 3 year/\$15,000 Exception (for previous trainers in disciplines other than cutting or cow horse)
- Amateur – 5 year/\$15,000 Senior Rollover Exception (for previous trainer's spouses over age 60)

Active Members Showing with Exceptions

AGE RANGE		TRAINER SPOUSE	TRAINER CHILD	LOPER	REINSTATED NP	AM EXCEPT	NP EXCEPT	UA EXCEPT
5	25	1	39	36	0	14	0	1
26	40	24	17	55	1	63	18	9
41	59	45	5	11	1	90	71	13
60	80	40	1	3	0	88	44	12
81	9999	1	0	0	0	6	1	0
	UNK	6	0	3	0	2	4	0
	TOTAL	117	62	108	2	263	138	35

## Hall of Fame Amateur Proposal: (Will need a Task Force)

- Purpose: to introduce a discussion about creating an Amateur Hall of Fame, similar to the Open and Non-Pro divisions.
- Recognized as a complex, multi-year initiative requiring further study and eligibility thresholds.
- Discussion at the convention to gather membership feedback rather than immediate adoption.
- Amateur has in place today, the Amateur Rider of the Year award. Since all Amateurs are Non-Pro as of today, there are Amateurs in the Non-Pro Hall of Fame.
- **AMATEUR RIDER OF THE YEAR** Each year, NCHA will recognize the Amateur winning the most money in NCHA-approved Amateur classes regardless of the number of horses shown during the point year. This award is strictly based on money earned. 1. Eligibility: Open to all Amateur riders showing during the point year. 2. Calculation: Sum of all monies earned in all approved classes at: a. NCHA approved Championship Shows during the point year in the following classes: i. Unlimited Amateur ii. \$75,000 Amateur iii. \$25,000 Amateur 3. b. NCHA approved Limited Age Events (including sub-classes) – monies earned at the NCHA Futurity from the previous year will be counted for this award. **AWARD:** Top Amateur will receive a buckle. **AMATEUR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Each year, NCHA will recognize the highest money-earning Rookie Amateur in two categories: a. NCHA Approved Championship Shows, b. NCHA Approved Limited Age Events 1. Eligibility: Open to all Amateur riders that had less than \$5,000 in Lifetime earnings at the beginning of the point year. 2. Calculation: Sum of all monies earned in all approved classes on all horses shown at: a. Championship Show Rookie - includes monies earned in any of the Unlimited Amateur, \$75,000 Amateur or \$25,000 Amateur classes at NCHA approved Championship shows during the current point year. b. Limited Age Event Rookie - includes monies earned in approved Amateur classes (NOT including sub-classes) at all NCHA-approved Limited Age Events. Monies earned at the NCHA Futurity count in the same point year as the calendar year of the event. **AWARD:** Top Amateur in each category will receive a \$1,000 check and buckle.

**Proposal to the NCHA Amateur Committee**  
**Recommendation to Establish an NCHA Amateur Hall of Fame**

*Dear Members of the NCHA Amateur Committee,*

**NCHA Mission Statement** *The NCHA promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its western heritage. By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure, which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor. NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members, and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals."*

In the interest of "accommodating everyone from, the beginner to the advanced competitor" and recognizing that all members of our association are important, I feel that it is time to add an Amateur Hall of Fame. We have four divisions: Open, Non Pro, Amateur, and Youth. Three divisions already have Halls of Fame, The Amateur does not. Why not?

The heart and soul of the NCHA is its members and their horses and I truly feel that all membership divisions should have equal access to their Halls of Fame. Having an Amateur Hall of Fame will not detract from nor affect the stature of members in the existing Halls of Fame.

Thank you for your attention,

Fiina Ugrin Jolley

Member 3820501, Director Region 2

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**Fiina Ugrin Jolley**  
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# Proposal to the NCHA Amateur Committee

## Recommendation to Establish an NCHA Amateur Hall of Fame

Dear Members of the NCHA Amateur Committee,

I am writing to respectfully propose the creation of an **NCHA Amateur Hall of Fame**, structured similarly to the existing Non-Pro Hall of Fame, but tailored to reflect the unique realities, goals, and contributions of Amateur competitors.

The National Cutting Horse Association has long recognized excellence through its Open and Non-Pro Hall of Fame programs. Those honors celebrate achievement at the highest levels of competition and provide milestones that inspire participation. However, there remains a meaningful segment of NCHA membership that does not currently have a Hall of Fame goal designed specifically for them: the Amateur competitor.

### **Why an Amateur Hall of Fame Matters**

- Part-time competitors balancing careers, families, and ranch responsibilities
- Long-term supporters of trainers, breeders, horse owners, and local affiliates
- Passionate participants who sustain entry numbers at weekend and aged-event shows
- Members who may never compete heavily enough to realistically reach Non-Pro Hall of Fame earnings

For many Amateur riders, the Non-Pro Hall of Fame is admired, but often out of reach due to time, financial limitations, or the demands of competing against full-time and higher-volume Non-Pro campaigns.

An Amateur Hall of Fame would create a meaningful and attainable long-term goal for this membership base, while still requiring dedication, consistency, and success.

### **Why Amateur and Non-Pro Are Different**

#### **Non-Pro Division**

- Includes highly competitive riders campaigning at elite levels
- Often larger show schedules, aged-event participation, and higher annual earnings potential
- Designed as the premier owner/rider division

#### **Amateur Division**

- Often serves members with careers outside the horse industry
- Lower show volume due to time constraints
- Focuses on participation, growth, and long-term grassroots involvement
- Provides a more level competitive environment for true part-time competitors

Because of these differences, measuring Amateur achievement by Non-Pro Hall of Fame standards does not accurately reflect the Amateur competitor's path or accomplishments.

### **Recommended Structure**

I would respectfully suggest modeling the Amateur Hall of Fame after the existing Non-Pro Hall of Fame framework, but with an adjusted earnings threshold more aligned with Amateur opportunity levels.

### **Proposed Lifetime Earnings Benchmark:**

- \$150,000 Amateur Lifetime Earnings

### **Key Points:**

- Earnings counted only in approved Amateur classes/divisions
- Lifetime cumulative earnings
- Rider must remain in good standing with NCHA
- Existing Amateur earnings history could be grandfathered in

### **Benefits to NCHA Membership**

1. Improved Membership Retention
2. Increased Show Participation
3. Stronger Amateur Identity
4. Increased New Member Attraction

## 5. Recognition of Long-Term Loyalty

### **Closing Thought**

The Amateur division represents some of the most loyal, hardworking, and passionate members in the NCHA. Establishing an Amateur Hall of Fame would honor those riders, strengthen participation, and create a legacy goal that keeps members engaged for years to come.

The Open and Non-Pro Hall of Fame celebrate excellence at those levels. An Amateur Hall of Fame would not replace them—it would complete the ladder of recognition within our sport.

Thank you for your time, your service to the membership, and your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Moffatt  
Member 6573101

Non-Pro Rider Hall of Fame:

*Recipients must meet one of the following criteria:*

1. Win any two (2): NCHA Futurity, Super Stakes, or Derby Non- Pro, World Championship Non-Pro.
2. Win any three (3): Super Stakes Classic, 5/6-Year-old Classic Challenge, Reserve World Champion.
3. Win one in category 1, plus two in category 2.
4. Have lifetime earnings of \$500,000 including all non-pro money earned in any non-pro class (limited age or weekend combined) and any open money won to achieve those total lifetime earnings. This will exclude all amateur money.
5. Have in excess of \$150,000 in non-pro championship weekend earnings, excluding novice/non-pro classes.
6. Have combined earnings from category 4 and category 5 in excess of \$500,000.