

JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE  
2024 NCHA Convention Agenda  
June 22, 2024 \*\* 8:30 am – 10:30 am  
Room – Symphony II & III  
Nashville, Tennessee \*\* Loews Vanderbilt



1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Mission Statement
3. Judges Card
4. Realignment of the A's (Standing Rules 21-29, Standing Rule 6, pg. 32, SAMS pg. 164)
5. Judging Rule 11 – ½ point miss
6. Standing Rule 20 Revision – 1 to 2 ½ clock
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
10. Adjournment



## STANDING RULE 21

### Becoming an NCHA Judge

Any person applying to be a judge or designated a judge must demonstrate a high degree of integrity in all aspects of their conduct related in any way to involvement with the NCHA as a NCHA member, contestant, judge, or other conduct which reflects on the NCHA. The Director of Judges or the Judges Rule Committee, in its sole discretion of either, may determine that any conduct of a person is a basis to deny or revoke that person's privilege to serve as a judge. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Judges Code of Ethics. This determination may be made with or without notice or hearing, subject only to a review of the Executive Committee on such terms as the Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, may from time to time designate. Each NCHA judge applicant and approved NCHA judge is required to sign the Judges Code of Ethics. ~~All judges are required to sign the code and return it to the NCHA Office.~~ The Code of Ethics is available on the NCHA website, [nchacutting.com](http://nchacutting.com) in the Judges Section.

Active members of the Association over the age of 19 may be added to the NCHA Approved Judges List upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements:

1. **Application** – Applications for NCHA approval as a judge shall be made on a form provided by the Association.
2. **Endorsements** – Each application must be endorsed by one (1) current Director of the applicant's region, who is not a member of the applicant's family; and three (3) current NCHA approved judges. The necessary form and return envelope will be provided for the three (3) judges' use.
3. **Membership and Earnings** – Any person that seeks approval as an NCHA judge shall have been a member of the Association continuously for a minimum of **three (3)** ~~five (5)~~ years, including youth or family membership and shall have no record of suspension, probation, or reprimand by the NCHA for the three (3) year period immediately preceding the application
  - a. Applicants **residing in the United States or Canada** must have ~~been an active competitor during the past three (3) years and must have won a lifetime minimum of \$10,000 to become an NCHA Judge.~~ ~~2A judge of in approved NCHA cutting competitions.~~
  - b. Applicants **residing outside the United States or Canada** must have won a lifetime minimum of \$2,500 to become an NCHA cutting competitions.

4. **Testing** – All applications will be reviewed by the Director of Judges ~~and a Rules sub-committee~~. If **submitted** application is approved, applicant will be invited to attend an NCHA Judge Applicant Clinic / **Seminar** for testing purposes.
  - a. Judge Applicants must score eighty (80) on the written test and a minimum of seventy-five (75) on each of the live or video judging tests. If these scores are attained, applicants will receive an Approved NCHA Judge rating. Judge Applicant clinics will be held at any time there is a need. The Director of Judges must approve it and there will be a fee.
  - b. **Any Judge Applicant that fails the testing process two consecutive times may not reapply again within a five (3) year ~~ten (10)~~ period.**
  - c. **New NCHA Judge Applicants** ~~applying to be an NCHA judge~~ will test any time there is a need and approved by the Director of Judges. Either in an applicant seminar or the 6th box, depending on their lifetime earnings.
  - d. The Director of Judges is authorized to test and certify people on an individual basis, in the 6th box during a final or otherwise, who have won \$100,000 or more. These applicants will be approved as 2A until they successfully judge 6 shows or 6 credits without a valid protest, at which time they will be advanced to 3A.
5. **Physical Examination** – All new judges sixty (60) years old and older will be required to pass a physical examination given by a licensed physician which includes tests for vision and hearing.
6. **Membership Status** - No person listed on the NCHA suspension or probation list will be permitted to judge. In the event an NCHA Approved Judge is suspended by the NCHA for any reason, the judge's approved status shall be canceled, and all rights and privileges forfeited.

#### STANDING RULE 22 (was SR 26)

1. **Recertification** – All judges must complete NCHA Judge Recertification ~~Test~~ every other year to retain their approval as a judge. Recertification may occur at either a Judge Seminar or via distributed testing at the discretion of the Director of Judges. Any judge that fails to recertify ~~take the test, receive passing scores on all phases of the test or be recertified by the Director of Judges~~ will be reduced in rating for twelve months. 2A judges that do not ~~recertify~~ will be removed from the Association's Approved Judges List. Reinstatement **after removal** may only occur when said judge completes and passes the testing procedures at a future NCHA Seminar / Applicant Clinic or under authority of the Director of Judges. **In no case shall reinstatement occur**

before at least two years (24 months) have passed.

2. **Judging Requirement** – Judges must receive two (2) credits each year. A year under this section will begin on January 1 and conclude on December 31 of each year. If the minimum judging requirement is not met:
  - a. Judges with higher than 2A rating will be lowered one (1) rating.
  - b. 2A judges will be required to recertify via a workshop with their weekend monitor OR sitting in the 6<sup>th</sup> box of an NCHA produced show.
3. **Physical Exam** – Any approved judge at any time may be required to pass a physical examination given by a licensed physician approved by the Association which includes tests for vision and hearing.

#### Recertification Options:

Testing is mandatory (except as provided below) and will be conducted in one of the following formats:

- ~~c. In person testing conducted by the Director of Judges or~~
- ~~d. Clinical testing conducted the Director of Judges or~~
- ~~e. By a video clip and written test emailed to each NCHA Judge and returned to their assigned Monitor within 30 days of received to be graded.~~

All testing conducted under options (a) or (b) above must receive prior approval from the Judge's Rules Committee. Judging Judges that have judged an NCHA Monitored event with \$100,000 added or an NCHA Produced event within the current or past year, will be considered recertified with the Director of Judges' approval. Therefore, these specific judges will only need to provide the fee to NCHA to remain an active judge.

#### STANDING RULE 23 (was SR 25)

Judges will receive credits based on the type of shows judged:

1. Four (4) show credits will be given for judging a monitored NCHA approved or sponsored show.
2. Two (2) show credits will be given for judging a Limited Age Event that is not monitored by the NCHA.
3. One (1) show credit will be given for judging a:
  - a. Weekend Limited Age Event
  - b. Championship Show
  - c. Challenger Show
4. One (1) show credit will be given to Replacement or "fill in" judges that

abide by the Weekend Monitor System and report to their Weekend Monitor.

5. One (1) show credit may be given to a 2A judge for judging an unapproved cutting if the cutting is videoed and of acceptable quality for education. The judge will follow all rules associated with the weekend monitor program. The judge must notify the director of judges of their judging assignment. The judge will send all judge's sheets and videos to the judge's weekend monitor for approval and credit.

#### STANDING RULE 24 (was SR 23).

In multiple Judged shows where one (or more) judge(s) cannot continue judging, the following methodology will be used to assign final scores:

1. Shows with one go-round:
  - a. 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.
    - i. 2 judges – discard that judge's scores.
    - ii. 3 judges – discard that judge's scores. Add the remaining 2 judge's scores together to determine the total score.
    - iii. 5 judges – discard that judge's score. Drop the lowest score of the remaining 4 scores. Then add the remaining 3 scores to determine the total score.
2. Shows with more than one go-round or a go-round and a final:
  - a. If DURING a go-round or a final – use the same methodology as above.
  - b. If BETWEEN the go-round and the finals: Said judge or judges shall be replaced by the alternate judge named for the contest. In the event the alternate judge is unavailable, show management will replace the judge and must be approved by the Director of Judges.
    - i. ~~Second, by a judge acceptable to the majority of the contestants and to the show management.~~
3. ~~In all cases, each judge must score each horse individually. If any one of their scores is counted in a go-round, all of their scores must be counted except when five or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest wherein the highest and the lowest scores for each horse will be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the score.~~

## STANDING RULE 25 (Was SR 24).

### A judge may not judge:

1. Their relatives
  - a. During a Monitored Event – parents, children, spouse, spouse’s parents, relatives of either the judge or their spouse if that relative lives in the same household as the judge.
  - b. During a Self-Adjusting Monitor System Event (SAMS) – their parents, children, spouse, spouse’s parents or relatives.
2. Their employer or employees.
3. A horse that they **own or have** owned, exhibited, trained, managed, or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding any NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.
4. Any individual rider or horse owned by said rider, who has had training from or given training to said judge within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.

If such a horse, owner or rider is entered in a contest, the entry fee shall be refunded, and the entry not shown. A judge may be suspended from the list of approved judges for infraction of this Rule.

## STANDING RULE 26 (Was SR 25.b).

All NCHA approved events must use official NCHA judges’ cards and judges shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided. It is mandatory for judges to fill in **appropriate** run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:

Above Average	Average	Below Average
+	√+	√— —

*Any empty run content box indicates average, same as √*

Each judge must sign **and print their name on** their score card. There must not be any consultation between judges until after score cards are turned in; and after cards are turned in, there will be no changes.

## STANDING RULE 27.

### JUDGE RATING SYSTEM

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NCHA Approved Judges will be rated based upon their lifetime judging achievements **and Performance Review System**. **The Performance Review Top**

100 judge list will be re-aligned annually but is subject to update based on interim judge performance reviews.

#### 5A Rating Requirements & Judging

~~Lifetime credits divided by number of valid protests equals 50 or more AND  
Has been evaluated in a monitored aged event in the past 60 months AND~~

1. These are judges 1 – 50 on the Performance Review system list.
2. May Officiate / Judge
  - a. Any NCHA monitored event.
  - b. By themselves at any NCHA approved or sponsored event including non-monitored Limited Age Events where classes have up to \$3,000 added money. When added money is over \$1,000 per class, Director of Judges approval is required.

#### 4A Rating Requirements & Judging

~~Lifetime credits divided by number of valid protests equals 50 or more AND  
Has been evaluated in a monitored aged event in the past 60 months~~

1. These are judges 51 – 100 on the Performance Review system list.
2. May Officiate / Judge
  - a. Any NCHA monitored event.
  - b. By themselves at any NCHA approved or sponsored event including non-monitored Limited Age Events where classes have up to \$3,000 added money. When added money is over \$1,000 per class, Director of Judges approval is required.

#### 3A Rating Requirements

~~Lifetime credits divided by number of valid protests equals 49 or less and/or  
Has been evaluated in a monitored aged event in the past 60 months~~

1. Judges with more than \$100,000 in earnings must have six (6) or more credits without a valid protest. Judges with fewer than fifteen (15) credits are considered probationary. During that time, a valid protest will be reduced to a valid spot check.
2. Judges with less than \$100,000 in earnings must have twenty-five (25) or more credits.
3. May Officiate / Judge
  - a. **Together with** an approved 4A or 5A judge at a Championship (Weekend) event with up to \$3,000 added money per class.
  - b. By themselves at any NCHA approved or sponsored event **including non-monitored Limited Age Events** where classes have up to \$2,000 added



money per class. When added money is over \$1,000 per class, Director of Judges approval is required.

## 2A Rating Requirements

1. Type of 2A Judge
  - a. Newly appointed judges
    - i. All newly appointed judges enter the system as a 2A judge.
    - ii. All judges with fewer than fifteen (15) credits are considered probationary. During that time, a valid protest will be reduced to a valid spot check.
  - b. Existing judges
    - i. Judges that have been reduced to 2A because of valid protests will be re-evaluated after a twelve (12) month period.
2. May Officiate / Judge:
  - a. **Together with** an approved 3A, 4A or 5A judge at a Championship (Weekend) event with up to \$1,000 added money per class.
  - b. By themselves with up to \$999 added money in any class.
    - i. if they have earnings over \$50,000 and minimum fifteen (15) credits or
    - ii. if they have earnings less than \$49,999 and minimum twenty (20) credits
  - c. By themselves at any NCHA approved or sponsored event with up to **\$750** added money per class.
- ~~3. May NOT officiate:
  - a. ~~Any NCHA approved monitored or non-monitored Limited Age Event where the total added money for all classes is more than \$10,000.~~~~

## EVALUATION SYSTEM

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

1. Complaints and/or protests may be made by active members of the Association only.
2. Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may protest a judge's decision (from that class) upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges **a Judge Evaluation Form** **requesting with** an official protest. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the incident and must be accompanied by a cashier's check, money order, valid credit card number (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) or personal check in

the amount of **five hundred (\$500)** for **non-Monitored** Weekend Shows and **one thousand** dollars (**\$1000**) for LAE Monitored Events made payable to the NCHA.

- a. Upon receipt of **the official form** such as a statement, a Judges Evaluation Form or official protest, the judge's assigned Weekend Monitor will be asked to review the class. The NCHA Director of Judges may request the show sponsor to immediately forward the video of the class involved to NCHA if needed.
- b. The video of the class will then be reviewed by a monitor. **If** a monitor is unavailable, the Director of Judges may appoint a **5A** judge to participate in the review. The procedures for viewing videos were approved by the Executive Committee.
- c. **Review Process** - A total of one hundred (100) points will be assigned to each class reviewed. The judge's **grades score** for the protested classes will be based on points accumulated **by comparing the judge's placings in the class to the official key**, ~~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. **A score of 75 or higher must be maintained.**
  - i. **Non-Monitored Events** - The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the judge will be used to obtain the official key placing. **Penalties are only deemed "Major" when both persons reviewing the protest assess the same penalty.** ~~charge considered Major are only Major penalties will be assessed only when charged by both persons reviewing the protest. A score of 75 or higher must be maintained.~~
  - ii. **Monitored Event or LAE finals with 3 or more judges** - ~~When a protest is filed against the placing of a finals in a LAE cutting or Monitored Event with 3 or more judges,~~ **The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the actual placing of the horses in the class** will be used to obtain the official **key** placing. This key would then be **compared to** ~~placed against~~ the way the horses placed at the event. If the **system key results in a score of passes 75 or higher**, then the protest would not be valid against any of the judges. If the **system key results in a score less than 75 fails**, the **system key** would then be matched against each individual judge's score sheet to determine which judge passed or failed. ~~A score of 75 or higher must be maintained.~~
- d. The maximum number of places used for grading purposes will be six (6). For six places the points allocated for each place will be 1st - 40; 2nd -

25; 3rd -15; 4th -10; 5th - 6 and 6th - 4. For five (5) places the points allocated for each place will be: 1st - 43, 2nd - 28, 3rd - 16, 4th - 8, 5th - 5. In cases where lesser numbers of places are paid in accordance with the "Mandatory Payout Schedule for Classes with Added Money", the points will be prorated as follows: four places, 1st - 45; 2nd - 30; 3rd - 17; 4th - 8; three places, 1st - 50; 2nd - 32; 3rd - 18; two places, 1st - 60 and 2nd - 40.

- e. The judge's placing of horses in the protested class will be compared to the official **key placing** and awarded points as set forth in section d. If a judge places a horse higher than the official **key placing**, then the credit established by the official **key placing** will be earned. If a judge places a horse lower than the official **key placing**, then the credit established by the judge's placing will be earned. If a judge has ties, the points for the places involved will be averaged; however, no horse may receive more points than those allotted by the official **key placing**. If the official **key placing** has ties and the judge's placing does not, the judge will receive full credit for those placings.
- f. If a review **under the NCHA Evaluation system** finds that a judge has **failed to maintain the minimum 75% grade standard while judging an individual class, a major valid protest will be affirmed against the judge.** ~~Grade standards for NCHA Approved Judges is 75%.~~ In grading any show protests with 4 or more entries,
  - i. **Any 3A, 4A, or 5A judge who receives two (2) valid protests within a twelve-month period will be lowered one rating classification for a full twelve (12) months. A judge who has been dropped a rating because of valid protests would be re-evaluated at the end of twelve months. This judge may move up one rating at a time.**
  - ii. **2A judges with two (2) valid protests within a twelve-month period will be required to do a recertification workshop with their weekend monitor or set in the 6th box of NCHA produced shows. If the 2A judge fails recertification, that judge will be dropped from the judges list.**

Any judge who is removed from the Approved Judges List through either protest or conduct must repeat the entire process of attending an Applicant's Clinic and Judge's Seminar and receive passing scores on all testing procedures to regain a judge's card.

- g. All affirmed protests will be **logged recorded** on the record of the judge involved.
- h. Where protests are affirmed, the **five-hundred-dollar (\$500)** or one-

thousand-dollar (\$1000) fee will be returned to the contestant; where denied, the fee will be retained by NCHA.

- i. **Spot Checks – Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may request that the appropriate Weekend Monitor perform a Spot Check of a judge’s placings or penalties (from that class) by submitting a Judge Evaluation Form requesting a Spot Check.** Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the incident. **Upon receipt of the form by the** Judges Department, the appropriate Weekend Monitor will be requested to “Spot Check” the class or penalty in question. If the judge’s monitor **feels the complaint is valid**, the Director of Judges will be notified. If the Director of Judges **agrees that the spot check is valid, the judge will be notified, and it will be recorded on the judge’s record. Any judge receiving two (2) valid spot checks within a twelve-month period will be required to attend a judges’ seminar or workshop and is not eligible to judge** ~~Their card will be on hold until released by the Director of Judges. the workshop is completed.~~
  - j. If a judge receives a ~~major~~ **valid** protest, the Director of Judges has the right to request a review **of the judge’s performance at a subsequent show by their Weekend Monitor** ~~Monitors Committee which they judge. If that the review results in a need to evaluate a class through the protest system, the class will be evaluated based on the Non-Monitored Review process. When the score received in that process is less than 75, the judge in question will be processed according to dropped one judge classification as specified in~~ **Standing Rule 27 - Evaluation System 2.f.**
  - k. Decisions of the reviewing body with respect to any protest filed pursuant to this Rule are final and non-appealable.
3. All disciplinary actions listed in this rule are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his/her sole discretion, based on the severity of the violation in question.

#### STANDING RULE 28.

1. A judge (or judges) must present in writing any grievance they may have against contestants or shows to the Executive Director of the NCHA, without a filing fee, and the case will be reviewed by the appropriate committee. A complaint by a judge must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged rule violation.
2. All conduct complaints regarding an NCHA judge will be referred to the NCHA Director of Judges by submitting the complaint in writing to NCHA and must be postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered within seven (7) days of the

incident. Complaints by personnel in the NCHA Judges Department or Show management may submit a complaint without a fee. Other individuals must submit their complaint together with a money order, cashier's check, or personal check in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200) made payable to the NCHA.

- a. If, after review and investigation of the complaint, the Director of Judges is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, or that the judge has engaged in conduct which is inconsistent with the privilege and honor of being designated an NCHA judge, the Director of Judges may take such disciplinary action as he/she determines in his/her sole discretion is appropriate, based on the severity of the violation in question, including temporary or permanent revocation of all privileges to serve as an NCHA judge. Such disciplinary action shall be effective immediately, regardless of any appeal which may be ~~taken~~ **filed**. The judge shall be notified, in writing, of the action taken by the NCHA Director of Judges.
  - b. The decision of the NCHA Director of Judges will be final and binding unless a written notice of the judge's intention to appeal the decision is received in the NCHA office within twenty-one (21) days of the date on the letter notifying the judge of the disciplinary action taken. If a notice of appeal is received in the NCHA office within that timeframe, a hearing will be scheduled to determine whether a rule violation occurred; and if so, what disciplinary action, if any, should be taken against the judge. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Standing Rule 38.
3. Once an NCHA approved or sponsored cutting has commenced, Show Management is not authorized to dismiss a judge for any reason relating to the actual performance of their judging responsibilities. Show Management may, however, dismiss a judge for blatant personal misconduct while on show grounds, such as drunkenness, foul language, etc. A judge may be dismissed for any reason by the NCHA Director of Judges or the NCHA Executive Director if, in their opinion, it is in the best interest of the NCHA to do so.

#### STANDING RULE 29.

A judge shall conduct him or herself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any NCHA approved or sponsored contest.

1. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any NCHA contest, the use of abusive language, showing favoritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a horse performing in the contest, or any other action unbecoming to one in their position, either on the grounds or elsewhere, during the entire show will make the judge subject to disciplinary action. The penalty suggested for violating the above

stated provisions of this rule will be a minimum \$500 fine or a minimum ninety (90) day suspension from the Association, or both. *However, all disciplinary actions listed in this rule are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his/her sole discretion, based on the severity of the incident in question.*

## 2. Judging Requirements

- a. A judge who fails to judge after accepting an assignment will be subject to removal from the NCHA Approved Judges List as well as additional disciplinary action.
- b. Member / Judge Interaction
  - i. A judge should not appear on the show grounds before the stated time for entries to close except as may be required by show management.
  - ii. Judges shall not visit with owners, trainers, exhibitors, or agents beyond the exchange of normal greetings, verbally or by electronic or social media, until the entire show or contest is completed.
  - iii. Judges shall talk only with representatives of show management.
  - iv. Judges must appear in western attire and remain in western attire during the entire show.
  - v. A judge shall not discuss with any contestant previous scores, events, or related happenings, verbally or by electronic or social media, during a show or within thirty (30) days after a contest at which the judge has officiated.
- c. Number of Runs
  - i. Under no circumstances will a published judge be permitted to judge over 160 horses (counting approved or unapproved classes) per day. **Nor shall he/she be permitted to** or enter the contest for which said judge is approved.
  - ii. Note: This does not prohibit a judge **entered in the contest** from acting as a **substitute judge** in order to permit show management to comply with the 150 horses per day limitation imposed by Standing Rule 6.1.

Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show unless entries go over the 150-entry limit or it is approved by the Director of Judges.
- d. The penalty for violating sub-sections (b), and/or (c) **and/or (d)** of this rule shall be a minimum fine of \$500 or a minimum ninety (90) day suspension from the Association, or both, for an infraction of the above stated sub-sections.

3. A judge shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a contestant. The penalty for violating this sub-section will be a minimum six (6) month probation and/or six (6) months suspension from the Association.
4. A judge who fails to whistle out a contestant for excessive training or causing a disturbance to the herd, will be fined **three hundred** (\$300).

STANDING RULE 6.a (Page 32 "Approved Shows")

6.a Shows with ~~added purses of more than \$2,000~~ **classes which have over \$2,000 added money** must use a minimum of two (2) judges ~~from the appropriate NCHA approved Judge Classification~~ **unless using a judge with a 5A or 4A rating which may judge by themselves up to \$3,000.**

6.d All NCHA approved events must use official judges' cards **and the completed cards must be posted in a conspicuous place immediately following each go-round and finals. After the event, these cards must be forwarded** ~~same~~ to the Association along with the complete NCHA results forms within five (5) days of the conclusion of the **event show**. If show results are not forwarded to NCHA within five (5) days of the conclusion of the **event show**, Show Management will be fined \$250.

Judges shall indicate ~~penalties assed in the spaces provided.~~ It is mandatory for judges to ~~fill in run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:~~

Above Average \_\_\_\_\_ Average \_\_\_\_\_ Below Average \_\_\_\_\_  
+ ✓+ \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

*Any empty run content box indicates average, same as ✓*



## SELF ADJUSTED MONITOR SYSTEM (page 164)

... 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 all reviews in ~~a~~ that particular class before moving on to the next class. **However, if the next class occurs without a cattle change (i.e., consecutive classes held in the same herd like Junior Youth followed by Senior Youth), the judge must wait until the next cattle change to conduct any/all reviews.**

## GUIDELINES FOR WEEKEND MONITORS FOR US, CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN JUDGES (PAGE 166)

#3. Judges are required to communicate with the respective Field Monitor prior to mailing the **Video Media (DVD, USB, SD Card)** ~~DVDs~~ and judge sheets.

## REGULATIONS FOR APPROVAL LAE (4.b. page 127)

4. Use NCHA Approved Judges.
  - a. All events must be video recorded and held for thirty (30) days.
  - b. All approved events with \$100,000 added or more must use no fewer than five (5) ~~3A judges or 4A judges or~~ **5A judges**. These events will be monitored.

## JUDGING RULE 11

When a horse loses its working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position; it will be penalized ~~(a) ½ point,~~ (A) 1 point, or (F) 1 point.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS: Loss of working advantage is defined as:** When a horse goes by a cow to the degree that they lose their 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.

**EXAMPLE 1:** While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow by a horse's length. The cow turns, and it is necessary for the cutter to make a hard run before catching up to the cow.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (A)

**EXAMPLE 2:** While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow. The cow turns, the cutter regains their control and working advantage of the cow within a short distance.

**RULING:** ~~This is not an obvious miss but can effect run content . Assess a one-half (1/2) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (a)~~

**NOTE:** ~~If it is not obvious it is not a penalty~~ 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 their 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 their control and working advantage of the cow.

**RULING:** No penalty.

**NOTE:** A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow-moving cow. The horse that can maintain working advantage over a cow that presents a severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged a horse which immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

**EXAMPLE 4:** While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses its working advantage. The cutter reins the horse back and, after taking several steps, the horse regains its 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 its working advantage. The cow stops and turns away, the cutter quits without regaining its 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 their working advantage or being out of position by quitting a cow, even though the quit is legal under Rule 13.

**EXAMPLE 6:** While working, the cutter's horse is extremely long in one direction and extremely short in the other direction. The cutter continues to work in this manner.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point (F) penalty per cow, a minus (-) in controlling a cow and reduce run content accordingly.

**NOTE:** A judge should acknowledge that a loss of working advantage, a miss, and/or working out of position, can result in a minus (-) in run content.

**NOTE:** During a monitored, multiple judged event; If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties were not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one (1) point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).

**EXAMPLE 7:** A horse slips during a run to a point its stomach is on the arena floor but maintains its working position.

**RULING:** No penalty.

## STANDING RULE 20.

Each horse is allotted two and one half (2½) minutes to work during a run. The working time starts when the rider crosses the official timeline.

The rider will have 1-2½ minutes from the sound of the buzzer from the previous run to cross the timeline. As soon as the horse, owner and rider's name are called to the herd by the announcer (the "Rider Announcement"); the announcer will start the 1-2½ Minute Clock to let the rider know how much time the rider has to cross the official timeline and begin the rider's run. If the rider has helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 2½ minutes from the sound of the previous run's buzzer Rider Announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run; this will be referred to as the "continuous clock". If the rider has not helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has not drawn back-to-back in the working order, the rider will have 1 minute from the time of the sound of the previous run's buzzer Rider Announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run. This is referred to as the 1-2½ Minute Clock. If the rider preceding you loses a cow or gets whistled out by the judge, that riders time will continue to zero.

However, if the rider is prepared and the previous rider, along with their help, has left the working area, the rider can begin their run. It will be the responsibility of the announcer to keep up with riders, and their help, to start the clock as they normally do.

If the rider fails to cross the official timeline in the time allotted under the 1-2½ Minute Clock, a buzzer will sound, and one additional minute will be added to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock. This buzzer is the only warning that the rider will receive relating to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock. If the rider receives any additional buzzers relating to the 1- 2½ Minute Clock at any time during that show, it will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence (i.e.- second buzzer is a \$500 fine, third buzzer is an additional \$500 fine, etc.) All fines assessed under this rule must be paid prior to the rider's exhibiting a horse in any future NCHA-produced event. Any fines imposed at non NCHA produced events will be collected and paid to show management.

All NCHA monitored produced events will use the 1-2½ Minute Clock as described above. It will be required optional for all other NCHA sanctioned events to use the 1-2½ Minute Clock as described above.