

Non-Professional Committee
2026 NCHA Convention Agenda
June 19, 2026 • 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Sonoma C/D
South Point Hotel • Las Vegas, Nevada



1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Mission Statement
3. Amateur incentives
 - Amateur side pot similar to gelding, senior.
 - Combination/Crossover entry Ama/NP Limited/Intermediate
4. Upcoming Amateur/Non Pro Joint Meeting at Convention (7am Saturday)
 - Update on Numbering system and other options- Task Force (Ora and Jay)
 - Exception rules – Amateur and Non Pro
 - Rulebook difficulty
5. Ways to increase Non Pro entries.
6. Family Horse Rule
7. Horse Leasing (parameters, feasibility)
8. NP Endorsing products, remuneration definition.
 - Difficulties with defining and enforcing
 - Social Media, Influencers, etc.
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
12. Adjournment

Is Amateur status and Non Pro status the same?

While all Amateurs are automatically also Non Pros, not all Non Pros are eligible to be Amateurs. Non Pro status has fewer restrictions. Amateur has all of the restrictions of Non Pro PLUS a few more.

Non Pros AND Amateurs CAN:

- Share expenses while hauling, i.e., gas, lodging, food, etc.
- Accept a horse as a gift from anyone provided there is no pre-arranged agreement to return the horse to its prior owner, as long as it is reported to NCHA.
- Buy a horse based on installment payments, provided a fixed amount is stated and paid. A copy of the written sales agreement must be provided to NCHA and needs to state the name of the horse, the sale price, payment dates, amounts and the date of final payment.
- Receive compensation for judging cutting horse contests and other horse show classes.
- Board horses in their barn and provide cattle for training as long as they do NOT work any boarders' horses on cattle in any arena, pen or pasture, or on a cutting device.
- Endorse products publicly as long as they receive no remuneration, pay all of their own expenses and keep any logo(s) modest.
- Win monies by showing as long as all winnings are returned to the individual Non-Pro/Amateur who competed on the horse.
- Show a horse owned by a corporation, business or partnership as long as they and/or family members are the owner.

Non-Pros CAN NOT:

- Be a Hall of Fame trainer in any discipline.
- Show, train or assist in training **cutting horses or cutting horse riders** under any circumstance or in any capacity
 - For remuneration (pay).
 - In exchange for any goods or services (i.e., feed, rent, cattle use, veterinary bills, transportation for self or horse, etc.).
- Show, train or assist in training horses **astride** in **any cattle/cow horse equine discipline** for direct or indirect remuneration.
- Have been an apprentice **cutting horse** trainer.
- Transfer a horse to another person for the sole purpose of sharing expenses.
- Have any portion of their expenses paid by another party, except under the family rule.
- Ride horses they or an immediate family member do not own **in competition** unless it is:
 - In RIDER classes with earnings limit less than \$2,000. (Includes the \$2,000 Limit rider, \$1,500, Never Won a Buckle, etc.) If they are eligible, they may show a horse they do not own as long as the owner is also a member.
 - In YOUTH classes – Youth members that also hold Non Pro and/or Amateur status may show a horse they do not own in youth classes as long as the owner is also a member.

Amateurs CAN NOT do or have done all of the above section PLUS:

- Have EVER ridden or trained horses or riders in **any discipline** astride for remuneration of any kind.
- Have assisted in training horses or riders in **any discipline** astride for remuneration of any kind.
- Have been an apprentice trainer at any time in **any discipline**.
- Be married or have been married to or lived with a professional trainer in any discipline.
- Have lived or currently live on the premises of a training operation.
- Have lived or currently live with a person who is classified as a trainer in any discipline.
- Have been directly or indirectly employed by a professional trainer or work at a horse training operation of any kind.
- Have any portion of their expenses paid by another party, except under the family rule.
- Ride horses you or a family member do not own outside the arena.

EXCEPTIONS

NCHA Rules contain several exception rules that may allow a member to obtain Non-Pro or Amateur status under certain limited circumstances. Please consult the NCHA rules for the details of these exception rules. If you believe that you may qualify for Non-Pro or Amateur status under one of these exception rules and would like to apply, please contact the NCHA office to obtain an application form for the exception that you are seeking. For complete rules relating to Amateur and/or Non Pro status please refer to the online version of the NCHA Official Guide to Rules and Regulations at www.nchacutting.com

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

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	TRIPS TO HERD				UNIQUE HORSE/RIDER			
	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	TRIPS TO HERD				UNIQUE HORSE/RIDER			
	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%