

# 2026 NCHA SUPER STAKES / NCHA SUPER STAKES CLASSIC

## Entry Information and Rules

1. This event is hosted by the National Cutting Horse Association to be held in Fort Worth, TX at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. The NCHA reserves the right to limit/decline entries for any reason. (See Rule 18 in this document).
2. Membership: All owners named on horse papers and riders of entered horses must be members in good standing of the National Cutting Horse Association. Owner memberships can be either individuals or partnerships/businesses.
3. Events / Horse Age:
  - a. Super Stakes Derby: For four (4) year old (foals of 2022), all breeds. All horses must be enrolled in the Stallion and Foal Program.
  - b. Classic / Challenge: For five & six (5-6) year old (foals of 2021, 2020), all breeds. All horses must be enrolled in the Stallion and Foal Program.
4. Horse Limits / Disqualifications
  - a. Super Stakes Derby: A Rider may ride up to three (3) horses in the 4 year old levels.
    - i. One (1) horse – any sex
    - ii. Two (2) horses – any sex
    - iii. Three (3) horses – one must be an eligible Gelding and be entered in a gelding subclass. All riders who have a third horse are required to submit rider changes / additions before the first go-round begins.
  - b. Classic / Challenge: Riders may ride a maximum of four (4) horses in each of the 5/6 year old levels regardless of sex.
  - c. Disqualification for over limit riders
    - i. Open Levels: Any horse(s) **over the allowed number of entries** will be disqualified. The disqualified entry or entries will be determined by the latter placement in the draw.
    - ii. Non-Pro & Amateur Levels: **All horse(s)** will be disqualified in that level or subclass.
5. Divisions & Levels Offered
  - a. The show will be held in three divisions:
    - i. **Open** - Entry is made by horse. Owners may enter an unlimited number of horses in the Open Division. Once named, horse limits are imposed on the rider.

- ii. **Non-Pro** - Entry is made by rider. Horse limits are imposed on the rider.
  - iii. **Amateur** – Entry is made by rider. Horse limits are imposed on the rider.
- b. Within each division there are 3 levels based on RIDER eligibility:
  - i. Open
    - 1. Top Tier Open
    - 2. Intermediate Open – (Automatic Entry based on eligibility)
    - 3. Limited Open – Stand-Alone
  - ii. Non-Pro
    - 1. Top Tier Non-Pro
    - 2. Intermediate Non-Pro – (Automatic Entry based on eligibility)
    - 3. Limited Non-Pro – Stand-Alone
  - iii. Amateur – all 3 levels offered as Stand-Alone or as Combo (max 2 goes)
    - 1. Top Tier Amateur
    - 2. Intermediate Amateur
    - 3. Limited Amateur
- c. A horse may be entered in all three divisions but only one time per level.
- d. Entering multiple Levels within a division
  - i. OPEN & NON-PRO
    - 1. Open / Intermediate Open riders will enter the Open. If eligible, riders will also be automatically entered into the Intermediate Open.
    - 2. Limited Open riders can enter the Open as a second entry, but the entry will not be combined. They will ride twice into the herd.
  - ii. AMATEUR – Riders have two choices when entering more than one level.
    - 1. Entering Two Levels
      - a. Option 1 = **Separate Entries**. Entry can be made into two separate levels. The rider will ride twice into the herd. Example, Rider A enters the Amateur and the Limited Amateur separately. They receive 2 draws within the first go round and 2 separate scores. The horse will not be drawn twice in the same set.
      - b. Option 2 = **Combo Entry**. Entry can be made into a combo for the 2 levels where the rider receives only 1 draw within the first go and only 1 score for both levels. Example, Rider B enters the Amateur / Limited Amateur Combo. They receive 1 draw within the first go round and that 1 score counts for both levels.
    - 2. Entering Three Levels
      - a. Option 1 = **1 Separate Plus 2 Combo**. A horse cannot show more than twice in the same division. Entry can be made into one level separately and the other two as a combo. Example, Rider C enters the Intermediate Amateur separately and the Amateur / Limited Amateur Combo. They receive 2 goes in the division go round.

The score for the Intermediate Amateur stands alone and the score for the Amateur / Limited Amateur Combo counts for both the Amateur and the Limited Amateur.

- b. Option 2 = **All 3 as a Combo**. A rider only wants to ride to the herd 1 time but wants to enter all 3 levels. They enter the Amateur / Intermediate Amateur / Limited Amateur combo. Example, Rider D enter the triple level combo. They will receive only 1 draw for the division and that 1 score will count for all 3 levels.

- e. Subclasses

- i. Within all Divisions / Levels, there are additional subclasses based on additional criteria. See the Subclass section below.

## 6. Level Eligibility

- a. See NCHA Rule Book – Standing Rule 8 for Leveling Eligibility, Limits and Rollbacks.
- b. Ineligibility
  - i. Prior to the draw - all efforts will be made to identify ineligible entries prior to the draw. If a rider has attempted to compete in these classes and the horse or rider is found to be ineligible, disciplinary action may be taken.
  - ii. In all cases, including rider changes after the draw, the burden of proof of eligibility is on the rider.
  - iii. In the case where a rider competes in a level for which he/she is not eligible, they will be disqualified, no premium monies paid, and no refunds will be issued.

## 7. Entry Options / Slots

- a. Open Division Levels – a Horse **MUST** be named at the time of entry:
  - i. Entry must be made in the name of the Horse. A Horse **MUST** be named at time of entry. Horses with pending registration may enter as “pending” by providing Sire / Dam / Foaling Date and Sex.
  - ii. Open entries may be sold.
- b. Non-Pro Division – a Rider **MUST** be named at time of entry:
  - i. **Named Entry**: You may name your horse when you send in the first payment. Proof of horse ownership is required by NCHA standing rules and must accompany the entry.
  - ii. **Slot**: You may enter under your name (slot) or the name of an Immediate Family Member as referenced in Standing Rule 51.a.4.
- c. Amateur Division Levels – a Rider **MUST** be named at time of entry:
  - i. **Named Entry**: You may name your horse when you send in the first payment. Proof of horse ownership is required by NCHA standing rules and must accompany the entry.

- ii. **Slot:** You may enter under your name (slot) or the name of an Immediate Family Member as referenced in Standing Rule 51.a.4.
- d. Sub Classes:
  - i. Rules For all:
    - 1. Subclass entries must have a corresponding entry in the same Division / Level pairing.
    - 2. In the event there are less than three (3) entries at the start of the go round for any subclass, class will not be held, and entries will be refunded.
    - 3. Subclass entries may not be sold independently from the Division / Level pairing.
    - 4. There are no finals. Payout will be made according to the NCHA payout, to the highest advancing horses based on the NCHA mandatory payout scale.
  - ii. **\$10,000 Novice horse**
    - 1. This is for 4-year-old horses.
    - 2. Available only in the Open, Non-Pro and Amateur Top Tier levels.
    - 3. Limited to horses with lifetime earnings (monies won in all classes will count against a horse's eligibility total) of \$10,000 and less as of **February 16, 2026**. All Limited Age Events, Championship and Challenger shows processed by the office by **February 28, 2026** will determine horse's eligibility.
    - 4. By **February 28, 2026**, if a horse is known to be ineligible to compete in the \$10,000 novice class and has already entered, monies paid in will be refunded.
  - iii. **Senior**
    - 1. This sub class is available in all Divisions and Levels.
    - 2. Senior classes will be limited to riders who are 60 years of age or older at the time the class starts.
    - 3. Date of birth will be required at date of entry.
    - 4. Intermediate Open Senior / Intermediate Non-Pro Senior must be entered separately. ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC.
  - iv. **Youth**
    - 1. This sub class is available in the Non Pro and Amateur Divisions in all Levels.
    - 2. Youth classes will be limited to riders who are 18 years of age or younger at the time the class starts.
    - 3. Date of birth will be required at date of entry.
    - 4. Intermediate Non-Pro Youth must be entered separately. ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

v. **Gelding:**

1. This sub class is available in all Divisions and Levels.
2. Please submit notification to the NCHA office of gelding updates.
3. Intermediate Open Gelding / Intermediate Non-Pro Gelding must be entered separately. ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

vi. **Chrome Cash:**

1. This sub class is available in all Divisions and Levels.
2. Limited to horses that are officially registered with the American Paint Horse Association.
3. Intermediate Open Chrome Cash / Intermediate Non-Pro Chrome Cash must be entered separately. ENTRY IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

8. Entry Fees for all Events (Super Stakes Derby and Classic / Challenge):

**OPEN\***

|                                       | Total*         | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office <sup>~</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Open / Intermediate Open <sup>^</sup> | <b>\$3,790</b> | \$2,035              | \$1,655             |
| Limited Open                          | <b>\$1,695</b> | \$970                | \$625               |

<sup>^</sup>Horses will be automatically entered in the Intermediate Open based on rider eligibility.

\*Open levels include optional \$100 PAC Fee

<sup>~</sup>Office Fee includes medication, NCHA and processing fees

**NON-PRO\***

|   | Total*         | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office <sup>~</sup> |
|---|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Non-Pro / Intermediate Non-Pro <sup>^</sup> | <b>\$3,500</b> | \$2,035              | \$1,390             |
| Limited Non-Pro                             | <b>\$1,665</b> | \$965                | \$625               |

<sup>^</sup>Horses will be automatically entered in the Intermediate Non-Pro based on rider eligibility.

\*Non-Pro levels include optional \$75 PAC fee

<sup>~</sup>Office Fee includes medication, NCHA and processing fees

**AMATEUR\***

|                                    | Total*         | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office <sup>~</sup> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Amateur                            | <b>\$1,935</b> | \$1,020              | \$895               |
| Intermediate Amateur               | <b>\$1,725</b> | \$810                | \$895               |
| Limited Amateur                    | <b>\$1,325</b> | \$410                | \$895               |
| Amateur-Intermediate-Limited Combo | <b>\$3,155</b> | \$2,240              | \$895               |
| Amateur + Intermediate Combo       | <b>\$2,745</b> | \$1,830              | \$895               |
| Amateur + Limited Combo            | <b>\$2,345</b> | \$1,430              | \$895               |
| Intermediate + Limited Combo       | <b>\$2,135</b> | \$1,220              | \$895               |

\*Amateur levels include optional \$20 PAC fee

<sup>~</sup>Office Fee includes medication, NCHA and processing fees

**\*PAC Fees:** Under Texas Election Code, Chapter 253, the Political Action Committee (PAC) fee is a voluntary contribution. Funding the PAC is important to be able to maintain state funding at the NCHA Triple Crown. Your contribution will provide critical assistance to the NCHA with this effort. To opt out of the PAC fee, submit your payment without the amount indicated as the PAC fee for your level.

**\$10,000 Novice** Subclass for 4-Year-Old Open, Non-Pro and Amateur Top Tier Levels only

|   | Total        | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office |
|---|--------------|----------------------|--------|
| Subclasses must be entered prior to the first horse in the respective Go Round works. | <b>\$600</b> | \$500                | \$100  |

**Senior** Subclass offered with all Divisions/Levels (Int Open/ Int Non-Pro NOT AUTO ENTRY)

|   | Total        | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office |
|---|--------------|----------------------|--------|
| Subclasses must be entered prior to the first horse in the respective Go Round works. | <b>\$600</b> | \$500                | \$100  |

**Youth** Subclass offered with Non Pro / Amateur Divisions/Levels (Int Non-Pro NOT AUTO ENTRY)

|   | Total        | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office |
|---|--------------|----------------------|--------|
| Subclasses must be entered prior to the first horse in the respective Go Round works. | <b>\$600</b> | \$500                | \$100  |

**Gelding** Subclass offered with all Divisions/Levels (Int Open/ Int Non-Pro NOT AUTO ENTRY)

|   | Total        | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office <sup>~</sup> |
|---|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Subclasses must be entered prior to the first horse in the respective Go Round works. | <b>\$600</b> | \$500                | \$100               |

**Chrome Cash** Subclass offered with all Divisions/Levels (Int Open/ Int Non-Pro NOT AUTO ENTRY)

|   | Total        | Jackpot <sup>+</sup> | Office <sup>~</sup> |
|---|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Subclasses must be entered prior to the first horse in the respective Go Round works. | <b>\$600</b> | \$500                | \$100               |

<sup>+</sup>A one percent (1%) deduction will be made from every Jackpot for the NCHA Special Events Fund.

## 9. Entry Deadlines / Penalties / Late Entries

**a. MAILED ENTRIES - ARE PHYSICAL POSTMARK DATES.**

b. Online Submissions must be received prior to 11:59 pm Central time ON the due date.

c. Penalties apply following the deadline on all payments.

**d. Due Dates:**

i. Initial entries and first payments due by January 15, 2026.

ii. Subsequent payments (second payments) due by February 16, 2026.

- iii. Subclasses must be entered by 3pm the day before the Division begins without penalty.
- iv. Penalties will be assessed following the deadline on all payments. \*Limited Open / Limited Non-Pro Exception listed below.
- v. Penalty Deadlines:

**e. Open And Non-Pro**

| Date                                  | Late Payment Calculation  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| After January 15, 2026                | Payment PLUS 50% of first payment due (Jackpot)   |
| After February 16, 2026               | Payment PLUS 50% of Jackpot + Show Fees payment(s) due  |
| After draw – 1 <sup>st</sup> Go Round | Original Entry Fee PLUS 1½ x Original entry fee (Jackpot + Office)                                  |
| *Limited Open / Limited Non-Pro       | i. New Entry = same fees as above<br>ii. Add to Existing Entry in same Division = Entry Fee + \$250 |

**f. Amateur Stand-Alone Divisions (or Combos not made by adding to an EXISTING entry)**

| Date                                  | Late Payment Calculation   |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| After January 15, 2026                | Payment PLUS 50% of first payment due (Jackpot)                    |
| After February 16, 2026               | Payment PLUS 50% of Jackpot + Show Fees payment(s) due             |
| After draw – 1 <sup>st</sup> Go Round | Original Entry Fee PLUS 1½ x Original entry fee (Jackpot + Office) |

**g. ADDING a Combo to an EXISTING Amateur Entry**

| Date                                  | Late Payment Calculation                          |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Through Draw                          | No penalty  |
| After draw – 1 <sup>st</sup> Go Round | Payment PLUS 50% of Jackpot portion of entry fee. |

**h. Subclasses:**

| Date   | Late Payment Calculation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Through Draw   | No penalty               |
| After draw – 3pm day before the respective division's 1 <sup>st</sup> Go Round | No penalty               |
| After 3pm day before Go Round and prior to first horse working                 | \$250 penalty.           |

- i. **Non-Payment:** Issuance of a check that is not honored for any reason or credit card payment that is declined for any reason to cover fees shall constitute non-payment. Entries that are deemed Non-Payment will have Penalties assessed according to the dates listed above.
- j. **ACH – Pending / Daily Limits:** ACH transactions are limited to \$10,000 in pending transactions at any given time. ACH transactions are suspended for 3-5 business days after that threshold is met. Reaching the \$10,000 limit will not be treated as a reason for a waiver of late fees. Payments that fail because the account hits the limit will be

considered late if the balance cannot be processed prior to the deadline. **PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

- k. **Failure to Pay:** All payments must be made payable to the National Cutting Horse Association in United States funds or its equivalent. All fees, including late penalties, must be paid before the draw or entry will be cancelled without refund.

## 10. Naming of Non-Pro / Amateur Slots

- a. Each Non-Pro or Amateur entry shall name the horse or horses to be ridden before the draw.
- b. If a Non-Pro or Amateur rider does not name their horse or horses before the draw, the working order will be drawn in the name of the rider.
- c. Multiple Unnamed Slots - If a rider has more than one slot and names the horses after the draw:
  - i. All horses named - the horses shall work in alphabetical order.
  - ii. One horse named / one unnamed - the named horse(s) will work in the first assigned draw and the other draw will be left vacant.
- d. Late Naming Fees – Non-Pro / Amateur
  - i. Unnamed Horses may still be named for the following fees:
    - 1. \$500 if named after the Draw but before 3pm the evening prior to the start of the first go round.
    - 2. \$750 if named after 3pm on the evening prior to the start of the go round but before the beginning of the first go round.
    - 3. 2X the original entry fee (Jackpot + Office) if named after the beginning of the first go round.

## 11. Selling of Slots / Entries

- a. Open Division
  - i. Prior to the Draw
    - 1. Open Division entries may NOT be sold prior to the draw.
  - ii. After the draw and by 3pm the day before the beginning of the first scheduled division go-round
    - 1. \$400
  - iii. After 3pm the day before the beginning of the first scheduled division go-round but before the first horse works
    - 1. \$500
  - iv. After the first horse works in the go-rounds
    - 1. Entries may not be sold
  - v. A horse that has had their draw position sold is eligible to show in other levels and divisions but may NOT re-enter the original level by any method.



- b. Non-Pro / Amateur rider's slot or named entry may be sold to another Non-Pro or Amateur:
  - i. Prior to the draw
    - 1. \$0 - No additional fees
  - ii. After the draw and by 3pm the day before the beginning of the first scheduled division go-round
    - 1. \$400
  - iii. After 3pm the day before the beginning of the first scheduled division go-round but before the first horse works
    - 1. \$500
  - iv. After the first horse works in the go-round
    - 1. Slots and named entries may not be sold.
- c. A Sale is NOT considered complete until the NCHA receives the following:
  - i. A release from the current owner
  - ii. Signed entry form, change request form or written electronic submission of the new entry (horse name, rider name, classes)
  - iii. Ownership verification
    - 1. New horse's registration papers (if not previously received) or
    - 2. Completed transfer with original horse papers or
    - 3. Bill of sale showing proof of ownership for unregistered horse
  - iv. Payment for all fees.
- d. Sales that are not complete prior to the start of the first go round will NOT BE ALLOWED to compete.
- e. **Additional Stipulations - Post Draw Sales (11.b.ii and 11.b.iii)**
  - i. An Open horse that has its draw position sold CANNOT repurchase another slot in that level.
  - ii. Any Non-Pro or Amateur that sells their entry / slot after the draw CANNOT repurchase another slot in that level.
  - iii. They may buy a horse from another Non-Pro or Amateur which is entered in that level and show the purchased horse in the draw position assigned to that horse. Proof of ownership is required:
    - 1. New horse's registration papers (if not previously received) or
    - 2. Completed transfer with original horse papers or
    - 3. Bill of sale showing proof of ownership for unregistered horse
- f. **Additional Stipulations for NAMED ENTRIES**
  - i. When a rider sells their named ENTRY, the named horse cannot be re-entered into the same Division / Level.
- g. **Additional Stipulations for Amateur Combos**
  - i. Refer to 5.d.iii in this document for entry options / limitations (2 goes max)

- ii. Before February 14<sup>th</sup> – Amateur entries may transfer in and out of combos and stand-alone entries for no fees – however, no paid entry fees will be refunded if a lower entry fee is required for the new level(s) entered.
- iii. After February 14<sup>th</sup> and before the Draw – Amateur entries may transfer in and out of combos and stand-alone entries by payment of \$100 and the appropriate entry fees. However, no paid entry fees will be refunded if a lower entry fee is required for the new level(s) entered.
- iv. After the Draw
  - 1. Riders may ADD a combo to an existing stand-alone class entry; but may NOT change the level of a stand-alone class once drawn.
  - 2. Riders may NOT remove a combo from an entry that was drawn as a combo. All levels of a drawn combo must remain on the entry.
  - 3. Riders may not change levels of combos that are drawn (i.e. change Top Tier/Limited combo to Intermediate/Limited combo).
  - 4. If / when a combo slot is sold, ALL Levels in the combo move with the sale.
  - 5. Buyers may not split a purchased combo.
  - 6. If the buyer is already entered in one of the levels of the purchased combo on the same horse, the duplicate level is withdrawn.
  - 7. If the buyer is ineligible for a level of a purchased combo, the ineligible level is withdrawn.
  - 8. Buyers may not move a purchased combo to an existing entry.
- h. Subclasses and Slot Sales – Seller Options
  - i. Sell the slot with all the subclasses
  - ii. Move ALL purchased subclasses to another entry for the same rider and then sell the slot without subclasses
  - iii. Move SOME of the purchased subclasses to another entry for the same rider and then sell the remaining subclasses with the slot.
  - iv. SUBCLASSES MAY NOT BE SOLD INDEPENDENT OF THE MAIN ENTRY and may not be moved to entries not owned by the seller.
- i. Subclasses and Slot Purchases – Buyer Options
  - i. When purchasing a slot that has entered subclasses, the options are:
    - 1. Keep subclasses for eligible entries
    - 2. Move paid entry to different eligible entry for same rider
    - 3. Withdraw the entry if ineligible

## 12. Change of Ownership / Sale of Named horse or Open Entry

- a. An entry may change ownership and retain eligibility under the new owner, provided the new owner keeps up all payments when due.
- b. Open Division – the entry goes with the horse. The owner does not retain the entry.

- c. Non-Pro or Amateur – prior to the start of the division’s first go, when the horse of a named entry is sold, the new owner can either:
  - i. Change the rider to the new owner or immediate family member and show in the original draw position for the horse or
  - ii. Purchase a slot and show in that slot’s draw position. If the new owner chooses this option, the original owner of the horse can either:
    - 1. Sell the slot (the entry became a slot with the removal of the horse)
    - 2. Name a new horse for that draw position.
  - iii. Horses sold after the beginning of a division may not be shown by the new owner.

### 13. Substitutions

- a. Open Division
  - i. Prior to the beginning of the division’s first go round, horse owners are allowed to substitute another horse owned by the same owner by:
    - 1. Submitting registration papers for the new horse.
    - 2. Paying a Substitution fee of \$250.
  - ii. No substitution will be allowed after the beginning of the division's first go-round.
  - iii. Reminder - a horse that has had their draw position sold CANNOT re-enter the original level.
- b. Non-Pro / Amateur
  - i. Prior to the beginning of the division’s first go round, horse owners in a Non-Pro or Amateur Division / Level are allowed to substitute another horse owned by the same owner or by an immediate family member as referenced in Standing Rule 51.a.4 by:
    - 1. Notifying the NCHA office in writing.
    - 2. Submitting the registration papers for the new horse.
    - 3. Paying a Substitution fee of \$250.
  - ii. No substitution will be allowed after the beginning of the division's first go-round.
  - iii. Reminder - a horse that has had their draw position sold CANNOT re-enter the original level.

### 14. Double Entry & Move Privileges:

- a. DOUBLE ENTRIES
  - i. Owners of HORSES paid up to date in any Open level on or before the February 16<sup>th</sup> payment may make an entry into another Non-Pro division level without incurring late entry penalties.

- ii. Non-Pro SLOTS paid up to date on or before the February 14<sup>th</sup> payment may make an entry into any Open division level without incurring late entry penalties PROVIDED you name the horse at the time of the double entry.
  - iii. If a horse has been entered in both the Open and the Non-Pro (as a named entry) by making one or more payments in each division, it is considered an entry. Payments cannot be discontinued / dropped in one division and later considered for double entry back into that division. In this case, late fees apply for the other division.
- b. TRANSFERS / MOVES
  - i. SLOT Transfers:
    - 1. Non-Pro slots (entry made in a Non-Pro rider's name WITHOUT a horse name) may NOT move into an Open division level but MAY move into a lower Non-Pro Level and any Amateur division level.
    - 2. Amateur slots (entry made in an Amateur's name WITHOUT a horse name) may NOT move into any other division but may move into a lower Amateur level.
  - ii. NAMED Entry Moves:
    - 1. Non-Pro entries may move into an Open division level (provided the horse was named on the first payment entry form).
    - 2. Amateur entries may NOT move into any other division but may move into a lower Amateur level.
  - iii. FEES:
    - 1. Move into a different **Division** (Open to Non-Pro / Amateur Named Entry or Non-Pro Named Entry to Amateur Named Entry):
      - a. Before February 16 – no fee.
      - b. After February 16 and before the draw - \$1,100 transfer fee.
    - 2. Move into a different **Level in the same Division** (Open to Limited Open, Non-Pro to Limited Non-Pro, Amateur to Intermediate Amateur, etc.):
      - a. Before February 16 – no fee.
      - b. After February 16 and before the draw - \$250 transfer fee.

## 15. Refunds

- a. Entry Fees may be refunded due to the death of the entered rider, owner; 30 days or less before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the event. Requests for refunds shall be accepted from the estate executor/executrix and refunds will be made payable to the estate of the rider/owner as determined appropriate by Probate Court. Refund requests shall be accepted until 48 hours after an event is completed.
- b. When Subclasses are not held because minimum entry requirements are not met, entry fees will be refunded to the original payer.
- c. Novice horses found to be ineligible to compete by February 28<sup>th</sup> will have monies refunded to the original payer.

- d. In the event of overpayment of entry fees due to miscalculation of fees, the overpayment will be refunded.
- e. There will be no refunds for any other reason.

## 16. Advancement Criteria & Payout Calculations

- a. Stipulations applying to all Divisions and Levels:
  - i. LATE entries (after the draw)
    - 1. Will not be included when calculating the advancing number of entries to the second go, semifinals, or finals.
    - 2. Will be required to work last in the herd. Additional cattle will not be added for late entries.
  - ii. Only scores of 181 or higher will advance further in competition.
  - iii. All other horses will be dropped from further competition.
  - iv. When finals are held, scores made in the go rounds and semifinals will be disregarded. ONLY scores made in the finals will be used to determine final placings.

### b. OPEN LEVELS – based on Property Entered Counts at time of draw:

| # OF ENTRIES                         | ADVANCING TO 2 <sup>ND</sup> GO | ADVANCING TO SEMIFINALS           | ADVANCING TO FINALS   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>OPEN</b>                          |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                               | None                            | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26 -124                              | Top 60% Max 180                 | None                              | 25% Max 25            |
| 125 – 160                            | Top 60% Max 180                 | Non-Working Composite (45)        | 25% Max 25            |
| 161+                                 | Top 60%                         | Top 20% Composite Min 45 - Max 60 | Top 20                |
| <b>INTERMEDIATE OPEN<sup>*</sup></b> |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                               | None                            | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26 -124                              | Open Advancing*                 | None                              | 25% Max 25            |
| 125 – 160                            | Open Advancing*                 | Non-Working Composite (45)        | 25% Max 25            |
| 161+                                 | Open Advancing*                 | Top 20% Composite Min 45 - Max 60 | Top 20                |
| <b>LIMITED OPEN</b>                  |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                               | None                            | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26 -124                              | None                            | None                              | 25% Max 25            |
| 125 – 160                            | None                            | Non-Working Composite (45)        | 25% Max 25            |
| 161+                                 | None                            | Top 20% Composite Min 45 - Max 60 | Top 20                |

\* Intermediate riders that advance in the Open will run concurrently in the Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Go.

Intermediate finals will be based on the highest advancing scores from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Go based on the chart above.

^Advancing counts for the Intermediate Open will be determined at the draw. Rider changes after the draw will be automatically entered in the Intermediate but will NOT affect Intermediate advancing counts.

**i. Open Payouts**

1. Open / Intermediate TOTAL PURSE will be split between the two levels.
2. Limited is a stand-alone purse.
  - a. 0 – 25 entries – 100% of purse paid according to the NCHA mandatory payout.
  - b. 26+ entries - 100% of purse paid in finals.

**c. NON-PRO LEVELS – based on Properly Entered Counts at time of draw**

| # OF ENTRIES                            | ADVANCING TO 2 <sup>ND</sup> GO | ADVANCING TO SEMIFINALS           | ADVANCING TO FINALS   |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>NON-PRO</b>                          |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                                  | None                            | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26 -149                                 | Top 60%                         | None                              | 25% Min 10 Max 30     |
| 150+                                    | Top 60% Max 120                 | Top 20% Composite Min 45 - Max 60 | Top 20                |
| <b>INTERMEDIATE NON-PRO<sup>^</sup></b> |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                                  | Non-Pro Advancing*              | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26 -149                                 | Non-Pro Advancing*              | None                              | 25% Min 6 Max 20      |
| 150+                                    | Non-Pro Advancing*              | None                              | 25% Min 6 Max 20      |
| <b>LIMITED NON-PRO</b>                  |                                 |                                   |                       |
| 0 – 25                                  | None                            | None                              | Non-Working Mandatory |
| 26+                                     | None                            | None                              | 25% Min 6 Max 20      |

\* Intermediate riders that advance in the Non-Pro will run concurrently in the Non-Pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Go. Intermediate finals will be based on the highest advancing scores from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Go based on the chart above.

^Advancing counts for the Intermediate Non-Pro will be determined at the draw. Unnamed Slots and slot sales after the draw will be automatically entered in the Intermediate but will NOT affect Intermediate advancing counts.

**i. Non-Pro Payouts**

1. Non-Pro / Intermediate TOTAL PURSE will be split between the two levels.
2. Limited is a stand-alone purse.
  - a. 0 – 25 entries – 100% of purse paid according to the NCHA mandatory payout.
  - b. 26+ entries - 100% of purse paid in finals.

**d. AMATEUR LEVELS – based on Entry Counts at time of draw**

| # OF ENTRIES                | ADVANCING TO SEMIFINALS | ADVANCING TO FINALS |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>AMATEUR</b>              |                         |                     |
| 0 – 149                     | None                    | 25% Min 10 / Max 30 |
| 150+                        | Top 30% Max 60          | Top 20              |
| <b>INTERMEDIATE AMATEUR</b> |                         |                     |
| 0 – 149                     | None                    | 25% Min 10 / Max 30 |
| 150+                        | Top 30% Max 60          | Top 20              |
| <b>LIMITED AMATEUR</b>      |                         |                     |
| 0 – 149                     | None                    | 25% Min 10 / Max 30 |
| 150+                        | Top 30% Max 60          | Top 20              |

**i. Amateur (All Levels) Payouts**

1. 0 – 149 entries – 100% of purse paid in the finals.
2. 150+ – purse split between finals and semifinals.

**17. Purse Payouts**

- a. Unless specified otherwise in writing (email or mail), payout checks in all classes at NCHA produced events will be made based on division:
  - i. Open Levels and subclasses to the owner on record at the time of the event.
  - ii. Non-Pro and Amateur Levels and subclasses to the rider.
- b. All finalists will receive a payout.

**18. Declining Entries:** Entries to this contest are received subject to the right of the National Cutting Horse Association Limited Age Events Committee to refuse the entry or acceptance of a transfer of any entry without notice to the subscriber. The decisions of the Committee shall be final in all matters.

**19. Cancellation:** The National Cutting Horse Association reserves the right to cancel this event without notice at any time prior to the contest without liability to them, but in such event, return all entry money to subscribers.

**20. Rules applicable to all entries**

- a. Medication Rules and Testing Provisions
  - i. All entries are bound by all rules within the NCHA Rulebook, including Standing Rule 35A.
  - ii. **Standing Rule 35A.5.a Selection / 35A.6 Testing Policy**
    1. Horses competing in all divisions / classes will be drug tested during the event as follows:

- a. One-Set Finals: The unofficial scores of the three highest scoring horses will be tested immediately following those finals.
  - b. Multiple-Set Finals: The unofficial scores of the top two highest scoring horses (including ties) in each set will be tested immediately following their respective sets.
  - c. Random Testing: Show management will predetermine days and sets in which additional random drug testing will be done in go rounds and semi-finals prior to their respective draws. Slots within those pre-determined sets that will be tested will be randomly selected from within those sets prior to their respective draws.
- iii. **Holding Payout Checks:** The payout checks for the first and second place (plus ties) horses will be held until cleared for prohibited medication by testing lab, which could result in delay of payment.
- iv. **Standing Rule 35A.14.e Disciplinary Guidelines for use of a Prohibited Substance**

The following disciplinary actions may be considered by the NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee in addressing a violation of the Medication Rules and Guidelines relating to the use of a prohibited substance by any responsible person and defined by these rules. The following are general guidelines only. The NCHA, NCHA Medication Review Committee or Executive Committee may assess discipline (including fines, probations, and suspensions) that is equal to, less than or greater than the discipline provided in the following guidelines based upon the nature of the violation and the severity of the circumstances presented in each case. A horse testing positive for a prohibited substance in any class at a show may also be disqualified from all other classes at that show in which that horse participated and such horse will forfeit all monies, awards and titles won in any class at the show. Any disqualified horse shall forfeit and must return all awards and monies won at the show. Offenses for use of a prohibited substance may, at the discretion of the Committee ultimately determining the violation, permanently remain on the responsible parties' record.

- 1. First Offense:
  - a. Forfeiture of any winnings from the show
  - b. Fine of \$5,000
  - c. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show
  - d. One (1) year membership probation
- 2. Second Offense
  - a. Forfeiture of any winnings from the show
  - b. Fine of \$10,000
  - c. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show



- d. One (1) year membership suspension
- 3. Third Offense
  - a. forfeiture of any winnings from the show
  - b. Fine of \$15,000
  - c. Loss of any titles and awards won at the show
  - d. Membership suspension of at least two (2) years.
- v. By submitting your entry, you acknowledge that you are familiar with and subject to the provisions of the Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines contained in the NCHA Rulebook. You also agree that, if requested, you will provide blood samples from your horse to comply with the random testing provisions contained in those Rules and Guidelines.
- b. The Draw
  - i. The draw will not take place more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the beginning of the first scheduled go-round.
  - ii. Only those horses & riders for which payment has been received in the NCHA office will be drawn.
  - iii. If a horse properly entered is left out of the draw, a redraw will not be held. To establish a working order for this entry, one number will be pulled from a list based on the original draw numbers. The omitted entry will be inserted into the draw behind the number pulled.
- c. Ties: In the event of a tie for the championship in either division, a work off will not be held to determine the winner.
  - i. If two ties, first and second place premiums will be added together and split fifty percent equally. (There will be co-champions)
    - 1. The winner of the tie breaker for awards will be determined by adding up all five scores from the finals.
    - 2. If still tied, the scores from the previous semifinals and go-rounds will be added.
    - 3. If still tied, the winner will be determined via a coin toss with the riders/owners. The winning horse will select first from the pool of awards, with remaining prizes being selected in alternating fashion.
  - ii. If more than two ties, all premiums will be split equally. The work-off will be for prizes and the title.
- d. Horse Health Papers & Back Numbers
  - i. All horses on-grounds will be required to have current 30 day health paper and a negative EIA (Coggins) test. Back numbers will not be distributed until proper documentation is presented.
  - ii. Back numbers for competition horses may be picked up from the show office following presentation of health papers and receipt / indication of some form of payment for pending show expenses.
  - iii. If a rider crosses the timeline without the correct, assigned back number for the horse being shown, the rider will receive a warning. Subsequent occurrences

during the event will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence. (i.e.- second offense is \$500 fine, third offense is an additional \$500 fine, etc.)

- iv. All fines assessed under this rule must be paid prior to the rider exhibiting a horse in any future NCHA produced show.
- v. Competition Horses are required to wear a back number while in the Coliseum, Watt Arena, warm up areas and in the practice pen(s).
- vi. Non-Competition horses do not require back numbers but will need to be able to show proof of health papers at show office, stall office or in the practice pen.
- e. Release and Indemnification: By signing the entry form to participate in the 2026 NCHA Super Stakes (the "Event"), being held at The Will Rogers Memorial Center of Ft. Worth, TX (the "WRC"), the entrant acknowledges and agrees that there is inherent danger in participation in the Event due to potential exposure of the entrant and his/her horses to the Novel Coronavirus (the "Coronavirus") at the Event. By signing this entry form, the entrant acknowledges and agrees that:
  - i. prior to entering the Event, he/she was made aware of and understood the potential dangers presented by the Coronavirus at the Event;
  - ii. even though the NCHA and the WRC have taken all reasonable steps to present a safe environment for the Event, there are many factors beyond their reasonable control that could lead to potential exposure to the Coronavirus at the Event; and
  - iii. he/she is voluntarily assuming all risk of harm, illness or injury to themselves or any of their horses that may be incurred by participating in the Event, or activities associated with the Event, that are in any way related to the Coronavirus. The entrant further hereby releases the NCHA and the WRC and their respective officers, owners, employees, agents, representatives, directors, shareholders, officials, administrators, contractors, vendors, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, attorneys, and the owners and lessors of animals used to conduct the Event (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasees") from any and all liability, claim, damages, injury, judgment, loss, liability, cost and expense (including, without limitation, attorney's fees and costs) incurred by the entrant or his/her horses allegedly arising out of or connected with his/her participation in the Event, or at any activities associated with the Event, that relate in any way to the Coronavirus. This Release includes, but is not limited to, claims for bodily injury and physical illness of the entrants and their horses in any way relating to the Coronavirus, that were allegedly incurred or sustained during the Event or at any activities associated with the Event.

## 21. Identification of Horses

- a. Registration Papers
  - i. A photocopy of the registration (at the time of entry) certificate of a registered horse or required documents for an Unregistered horse\* (see note below) must be provided to the NCHA office on the dates outlined below:

1. Horses entered / named prior to February 16 – Documentation must be received by February 16, or a \$100 fee will be assessed.
  2. Horses entered / named after February 16 – Registration papers must be furnished upon entry. Failure to comply will cause all fees to be forfeited and entry disqualified.
- ii. **\*Unregistered horse:** Unregistered horse application (this can be found on [nchacutting.com](http://nchacutting.com)) needs to be accompanied by a bill of sale, a vet statement attesting to the horse's age, and photos of the horse front & back & both sides- this needs to be sent into the NCHA office no later than February 16, 2026.

## 22. Judges & Judging

- a. Judges selected to officiate the event will be scheduled by the Director of Judges. Judges may be rotated throughout the event across all divisions / levels and go rounds based on event schedule.
- b. NCHA Judging Rules set forth in the Handbook will apply.
- c. The NCHA Adjusted Monitor System, and all rules and policies set forth by that system will be used.
- d. Each horse is allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work during a run. The working time starts when the rider crosses the official timeline.
  - i. 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 1-2 ½ minute clock to let the rider know how much time the rider must cross the official timeline and begin the rider's run.
  - ii. If the rider has helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has drawn back to back in the working order, the rider will have 2 ½ minutes from the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.
  - iii. If the rider has not helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has not drawn back to back in the working order, the rider will have 1 minute from the time of the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.
  - iv. If the rider fails to cross the official timeline in the time allotted under the 1-2 ½ minute clock, a buzzer and an additional minute will be added to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock. (this is the only warning that the rider will receive relating to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock)
  - v. If the rider receives any additional buzzers relating to the 1-2 ½ minute clock at any time during that show, it will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence. (i.e.- second buzzer is \$500 fine, third buzzer is an additional \$500 fine, etc.)
  - vi. All fines assessed under this rule must be paid prior to the rider's exhibiting a horse in any future NCHA produced show.

- vii. All NCHA produced events will use the 1-2 ½ minute clock as described above in each class, including the finals.

23. These Rules are subject to change by action of the Executive Committee only.