



2026 NON-PRO/AMATEUR APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

NP/AM

Individual Name: _____ Membership Number: _____
Street Address: _____ DOB: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____ Country: _____
Primary Phone: _____ Email: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
I am applying for: ☐ Non-Pro Only ☐ Amateur/Unlimited Amateur and Non-Pro

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

All applicants must answer questions 1 through 5.

1. What is your occupation? _____
2. Do you understand that you or a valid family member must own all legal and equitable interest to any horse you show in a cutting horse contest? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Have you ever been or are you currently employed in any capacity by a training operation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - (a) Name of employer: _____
 - (b) Dates of employment: _____
 - (c) Duties during employment: _____
4. Have you ever been denied Non-Professional status? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Have you been a professional horse trainer ASTRIDE in any cattle/cow horse discipline for direct or indirect remuneration? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - (a) Discipline(s) in which you trained: _____
 - (b) Dates when you trained: _____
 - (c) Lifetime earnings (whole dollars only, excluding Non-Pro earnings): _____

If ALSO applying for Amateur status, please answer the questions below.

6. Have you ever ridden, trained, or assisted in training horses or riders ASTRIDE in any equine discipline for direct or indirect remuneration? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - (a) Which discipline(s): _____
 - (b) Describe the activities: _____
 - (c) During what dates: _____
7. Relationship Exclusion: Are you married to, have been married to, are in or have been in a cohabitational relationship with a person who is currently or previously engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified as a professional according to Rule 51.a.3? ☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Residence Exclusion: Within the last 5 years have you resided either a) on a premises where a training operation (any horse discipline) was operating OR b) with any person who was engaged in activities that would require the person to be classified as a professional according to Rule 51.a.3? ☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Have you ever been denied Amateur status? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please reference the NCHA rulebook for the full Non-Pro/Amateur criteria and rules.

REQUIRED SIGNATURE

The person making this application (the "Applicant") agrees to become familiar with and be bound by the rules of the National Cutting Horse Association and expressly agrees to have all disputes related to compliance with or violation of these rules resolved by the procedures provided in those rules and that the decisions made by the NCHA in those proceedings will be final and binding. The official rules of the NCHA may be found at www.nchacutting.com. The Applicant further understands and acknowledges that a false declaration in this application will result in disciplinary action by the NCHA which may include fines, probation, suspension and temporary or permanent loss of Non-Professional/Amateur status. It is also the Applicant's responsibility to notify the NCHA office immediately upon any change in his/her Non-Professional/Amateur status and failure to do so could result in loss of Non-Professional/Amateur status for life.

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you do not have access to Director to sign this application, it may be sent (without a Director's signature) to the NCHA office for review and approval. However, if you are applying for Amateur and/or Non-Pro status at a weekend show, a Director's signature is required.

Director Signature: _____ Director Member Number: _____

For office use only: Applicant was approved for: ☐ Non-Pro ☐ Amateur/Unl Am Signature: _____ Date: _____

NON-PROFESSIONAL DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Rule 51.a.1

A Non-Professional in this Association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration to work in any manner in the following activities on the premises of a cutting horse training operation: showing, training, or assisting in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. For purposes of this rule, a cutting horse training operation is any facility where cutting horses are trained. Any person who has trained horses astride in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline for direct or indirect remuneration or is a Hall of Fame equine trainer in any discipline shall be considered a Professional by this Association, with the exception of those who have been granted a change of status. Please review current exception rules. A Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any cattle/cow horse equine discipline.

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) or 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 \$4,000. (Includes the \$4,000 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 or Non-Pro/Amateur status may show a horse they do not own in youth classes as long as the owner is also a member.

AMATEUR DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Rule 51.a.6

Certain Non-Professionals within this Association may be classified as Amateurs. See Amateur Rules for details.

Amateurs CAN NOT have done anything in the above section PLUS CAN NOT:

- 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 inside or 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