



**NCHA ANNUAL BOD 2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 23, 2024  
LOEWS VANDERBILT HOTEL • NASHVILLE, TN**

The second session of the 2024 NCHA Annual Board of Directors meeting was held at 9:00am on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

President Toddy Pitard called the meeting to order at 9:07am central standard time.

Roll was called with a quorum of 128 (in-person and virtual) Board of Directors in attendance.

**Those attendees (in person and virtually) and those unable to attend are on record with the NCHA Office in the Annual Meeting files.**

Data on the Spot (DOTS) offered a quick review to get the attendees ready to cast their votes on the upcoming proposed bylaw change.

President Toddy Pitard welcomed Past President Steve Norris to the stage to lead the members in attendance in opening prayer.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Regional Director Kirby Smith of Region 3 addressed the Board of Directors by reciting the NCHA Mission Statement...

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

**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE – JIM MORRIS**

President Toddy Pitard welcomed NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris to explain the proposed change to the bylaws presented for consideration. The Board of Directors will be voting on the proposed change to Article VI - Section One brought forward by the Governance Committee.



**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE – ARTICLE VI, SECTION ONE**

Proposed Change to  
Article VI, Section One of the NCHA Constitution and Bylaws

EXISTING SECTION	PROPOSED CHANGES
<p><b>Article VI</b> <b>Section One.</b> There shall be three elected officers of the Association: The President, President-Elect, and Vice President. Such officers shall be elected as follows: (a) Prior to each annual meeting of the members, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for purposes of electing a Vice President. Four members of the nominating committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be from a different director district, and no more than two of whom may be from the same region. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chair from among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to each annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate two candidates at least 60 days prior to each annual meeting for the office of Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension or probation, for a period of seven 7 years prior to nomination. The candidates must have completed three 3 years of continuous service as a director of the Association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served as a member of a Standing Committee for three 3 continuous years within 10 years of nomination. In determining the nominees for the office of Vice President the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be elected to a one-year term.</p>	<p><b>Section One.</b> There shall be three elected officers of the Association: The President, President-Elect, and Vice President. Such officers shall be elected as follows: (a) Prior to each annual meeting of the members, a Nominating Committee consisting of eight members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for purposes of electing a Vice President. Four members of the nominating committee shall be from the Executive Committee. Four members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be from a different director district, and no more than two of whom may be from the same region. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chair from among its members. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to each annual meeting of the members of the Association and shall nominate two candidates at least 60 days prior to each annual meeting for the office of Vice President. The candidates nominated for the office of Vice President must have been a member in good standing continuously, without suspension <u>for a period of five (5) years prior to nomination and</u> <del>without</del> probation, for a period of <del>seven 7 years</del> <u>one (1) year</u> prior to nomination. The candidates must have completed three 3 years of continuous service as a director of the Association on or before the date of assuming the office of Vice President or have served as a member of a Standing Committee for three 3 continuous years within 10 years of nomination. In determining the nominees for the office of Vice President the Nominating Committee shall solicit recommendations from the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be elected to a one-year term.</p>

A **MOTION** was made by Sharon Beach and **SECONDED** by Mary Ann Rapp to adopt this proposed bylaw change as presented in the proposed revision for Article VI, Section One. After discussion, a vote on the Motion was taken. **MOTION FAILED.**

A **MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Lewis Wray to **AMEND** the proposed bylaw change as presented to retain the 7 years suspension and reduce the probation period to 5 years. After discussion, a vote on the Motion was taken. **MOTION PASSED with a majority of 84.6% IN FAVOR and 15.4% AGAINST.**

**APPROVED BY NCHA DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS AT 2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Change to  
Article VI, Section One of the NCHA Constitution and Bylaws

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## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Unfinished business from the first session of the 2024 NCHA Annual Board of Directors meeting held at 5:30pm on Friday, June 21, 2024, to be addressed were the disposal of minutes.

## **DISPOSAL OF MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made by Ted Sokol Jr. and **SECONDED** by Lindy Burch to accept the minutes from (*Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors – 1<sup>st</sup> Session dated June 23, 2023*) that were made available on the NCHA website. **MOTION PASSED.**

## **HORSE & CATTLE WELFARE TASK FORCE**

Past President and Chairman of the Horse & Cattle Welfare Task Force Committee Lindy Burch joined by Dr. Scott Stanley of the University of Kentucky, presented on the responsibilities of this committee serving the NCHA.

### HORSE & CATTLE WELFARE TASK FORCE

- Lindy Burch, Chair
- Chris Benedict
- Janet Bowen DVM
- Matt Gaines
- Bruce Morine
- Bill Riddle
- Kristen York
- Maben Thompson DVM
- Jeff Foland DVM
- Jerry Black DVM
- Charlie Buchanan DVM
- Lane Easter DVM
- Pat Parelli
- Chubby Turner
- Bronc Willoughby
- Scott Stanley PhD



## Medication committee Sub committee of Horse & Cattle Task Force

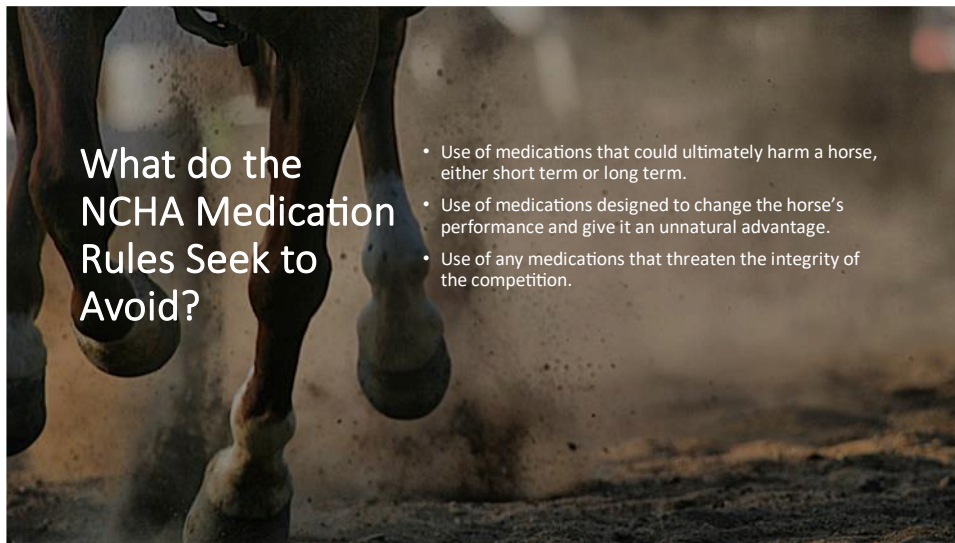
- Jerry Black DVM, Chair
- Chris Benedict
- Lindy Burch
- Janet Bowen DVM
- Charlie Buchanan DVM
- Jeff Foland DVM
- Maben Thompson DVM
- Robert Meyer, DVM
- Scott Stanley, PhD
- Dave Frisbie, DVM Colorado State - Consultant
- Mike Martin, DVM Texas A & M - Consultant
- Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc Colorado State - Consultant

## Medication Review Committee

- Jerry Black DVM - Chairman
- Lindy Burch – Open Representative
- Steve Williams – Non-Pro Representative
- Dave Frisbie, DVM Colorado State – Medication Expert Consultant
- Mike Martin, DVM Texas A & M – Medication Expert Consultant

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## What do the NCHA Medication Rules Seek to Avoid?

- Use of medications that could ultimately harm a horse, either short term or long term.
- Use of medications designed to change the horse's performance and give it an unnatural advantage.
- Use of any medications that threaten the integrity of the competition.

## What shows are being tested?

- All Divisions of the Futurity, Super Stakes, and Summer Show
- National Championships
- 2025 National Circuit Championships

## HOW ARE HORSES SELECTED FOR TESTING?

- 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> place in all two set finals
- 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, & 3<sup>RD</sup> place in all one set finals
- Slots randomly selected prior to the draw
- The NCHA Executive Director may also, in his sole discretion, have any horse tested.

(Note: Champion and Reserve Champion checks (plus ties) are held after the show at NCHA until a preliminary clearance of any prohibited medication is received from the testing lab.)



## How is the horse tested?

- All medication tests for NCHA events are blood tests performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- When the horse has finished its run, the veterinarian, their assistant or a staff liaison delivers the medication test form to the rider or representative instructing them to bring the horse to the testing stall.
- The horse must be brought for testing 15 minutes after receipt of the medication test form.
- Once the horse is presented and its testing form is completed, then the veterinarian will draw blood.
- If the horse is showing again later that day, the rider can possibly make arrangements with the veterinarian to test afterwards.

## What happens with the test samples?

- Two test samples are taken from each horse.
- The test samples go through a specified chain of custody from the veterinarian to the testing lab.
- The current testing lab is UC Davis.
- The testing lab performs the testing and sends results to the NCHA.
- The testing lab retains the second sample for 90 days to ensure a sample is available if the rider and/or owner want to have the sample retested at an alternate recognized lab approved by the NCHA.

## What happens if the test is positive?

- The Medication Review Committee reviews the test results and considers the discipline for the offense under the Rule 35A disciplinary guidelines.
- The committee sends a notice letter to the responsible party giving the option to accept the proposed discipline or have a hearing before the Medication Review Committee.



## Rights to a hearing and appeal?

- The notice letter includes instructions for a retest if desired and instructions to request a hearing with the Medication Review Committee.
- There is no fee for the initial hearing with the Medication Review Committee.
- If you feel you are not or should not be the responsible party, you can challenge and use the hearing process to show who should be the responsible party.
- Once the hearing has concluded and the committee determines the result and fines.
- If the outcome of the hearing is not in your favor, you can appeal the committee's decision.
- NCHA Rule 38 outlines the appeal process and associated requirements.

## Statistics

### For 2023

- 336 horses tested
- 5 Prohibited
- 7 Overage/Stacking
- Fines collected \$26,000
- Prohibited Medication Violations 2017-2023 (29 horses)
  - 11 Guanabenz,
  - 13 Romifidine,
  - 3 Stanozolol and
  - 2 Bupivacaine/Lidocaine

## Most Common First Offenses and Disciplinary Action

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Permitted Medication Overage  | \$500   |
| • Stacking 2 Permitted Non-Steroidal Medications                          | \$1,000 |
| • Prohibited (loss of awards, titles, possible probation/suspension plus) | \$5,000 |

(Fines and penalties can increase as determined by the grievance of the level on concentration and other factors.)



## Where we are today

- In today's world with the social licensing scene and various animal rights groups who are striving to rewrite rules and parameters of how horses may be trained and shown, it is paramount we continue to have a strong medication policy for our sport to ensure its longevity.
- From 2008 to 2024, the NCHA has made many improvements to the medication policy, based on testing and research, to ensure the welfare of the horses and the equality of fair competition.

## Important Information to Know

- Before the show review Standing Rule 35 Zero Tolerance and 35A Medication.
- Dosages in the Guidelines are based on weight, most commonly 1000 lbs., adjust dosage accordingly.
- Nerve blocking agents cannot be used 24hrs before competition.
- To avoid stacking, withdraw the 2nd non-steroidal at least 72 hours in advance.
- Ace requires a medication report be filed at the show office.
- **Injectables** in Arena, Practice Areas, Alleys or any other public areas is strictly prohibited.
- Use caution is using a compounded medication and/or nutritional and herbal supplements and know the quantitative analysis to avoid a failed medication test.
- The emergency medication report form is available online under medication policy or at the show office. It must be acknowledged by show management and completed by a license veterinarian.
- Veterinarians need to have a "Veterinarian Authority to Treat on NCHA show grounds" on file at the NCHA office. Form available online.

## Who Can Answer Medication Questions

- Horse & Cattle Welfare Chair
  - Lindy Burch [lindy@lindyburch.com](mailto:lindy@lindyburch.com)
- Medication Committee Chair
  - Dr. Jerry Black, DVM [jerry.black@ttu.edu](mailto:jerry.black@ttu.edu)
- NCHA Staff Liaison
  - Julie Davis [jdavis@nchacutting.com](mailto:jdavis@nchacutting.com)





## **NCHA FOUNDATION UPDATE – JULIA BUSWOLD**

To conserve time in this meeting and out of respect for our guest speaker, this portion of the meeting will be postponed, and an update will be provided immediately following the convention.

## **EUROPEAN DIRECTOR UPDATES**

NCHA Directors Denis Pini, Jana Pini, Sergio Traverso, and Pietro Valeri provided updates on cutting in Europe. NCHA Directors Joseph Bachmeier and Gaetan Foulatier were not available.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

At this time, there is no old business to be addressed by the Board of Directors for discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Currently, there is no new business to bring before the Board of Directors for discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Ben Roberson to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

President Toddy Pitard asked Jay Winborn to come up to introduce our guest speaker for the opening of our General Membership Meeting scheduled to begin at 10:30am.