

NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

May 7, 2025

5:00PM Central

A conference call of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, beginning at 5:00PM central time.

Executive Committee members present were President Mark Senn, President Elect Barnwell Ramsey, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, Casey Green and Cara Brewer. Executive Committee Members excused were Vice President Kathleen Moore and Kirby Smith. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance from the NCHA office. Joining the attendees for a portion of this call were Director of the Foundation Julia Buswold, NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey and NCHA Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft.

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 5:05PM and roll call was taken.

President Mark Senn announced the purpose of the call to discuss recommendations on proposed qualification changes for the Eastern Nationals and reason for so many NCHA staff joining was to address youth scholarships, limited non-pro, Standing Rule 2 with definition of ownership and challenges allowing members to show on transfers under new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Scholarships

President Mark Senn wanted to evaluate the current payouts for the Summer Spectacular youth scholarships offered from the NCHA as compared to other organizations. Executive Director Jay Winborn agreed with President Mark Senn that NCHA should be setting the standard by raising the threshold for scholarship payouts incentivizing more youth to participate in these scholarship cuttings offered by NCHA and our affiliates throughout the year. Director of the NCHA Foundation Julia Buswold and NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey provided some background information that the Foundation and NCHA offers just under \$160K in youth scholarships annually. Of that amount, \$140K is awarded during youth week at the Summer Spectacular with a competition breakdown of \$85K in the arena (scholarship cutting \$40K (which includes an additional \$10K as of last year from the Whitley Ranch Endowment), youth world finals \$40K and \$5K youth riding family owned horse) and \$55K outside of the arena (Youth Rookie of the Year, photo, speaking, essay and art contests, youth merit, Greg and Whitney Welch Memorial, Michelle Wynn Holsey and the Milt Bradford Heritage of Ranching and Agriculture. There is additional funding distributed at the Eastern Nationals, FWSSR Cutting and the NCC Youth Championship.

A further breakdown was explained on the two youth programs offered in the arena with the jr./sr. youth scholarship cuttings and the youth world finals. The youth world finals each competitor hauls all year to qualify, and the youth scholarship cutting is a single entry for that event. Scholarship amount received is based on tiered down to all finalists. Paying all holes was a decision made and standardized by the youth committee ages ago. In addition to the

youth scholarships and payouts from entries, awards are given as well in the amount of approximately \$53K.

Director of Youth Rianna Storey recently reached out to the 91 registered secretaries and affiliates with inquiries on what they offer in youth scholarships and surprisingly only heard back from 11 with their results. The sole purpose of this exercise was to advertise scholarship amounts offered for the youth program. Scholarship amounts paid out again fluctuate based on how many places are paid out.

President Mark Senn suggested that a youth scholarship field be incorporated on the show applications to complete if applicable. The officers also asked Rianna to provide a list of the affiliates that have not responded by regions so that the regional representatives on the Executive Committee could follow up with them to get responses.

In closing, Director of the Foundation Julia Buswold offered to make every effort to maintain these scholarship amounts each year. The foundation and the youth department collectively have worked too hard on this program and are determined to keep sustainability. She also emphasized the importance of knowing the recipient information from the affiliates with these scholarships so when parents call to inquire about their child's scholarship money, the foundation can direct them appropriately to the right show secretary if monies are not distributed by the foundation. This lifts the burden off of the foundation that is questioned when the dollar amounts disclosed with those parents don't reflect all their youth's scholarship earnings.

President Mark Senn appointed NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold, Director of Youth Rianna Storey and Executive Committee Member representing Region 8 Casey Green to collaborate and bring a recommendation on how to increase the youth scholarship and world finals payouts to the June EC Meeting at the annual convention.

Mark also asked Julia and Rianna to reach out to the chairman of the Affiliate Officers and Secretaries and Weekend Show Committees to see if they can get time on their agendas during the convention to discuss this topic.

Limited Non Pro Class

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the Executive Committee with a concern brought forward from the Non Pro Committee that since the Limited Non Pro classes were not available on the original Summer Spectacular schedule it might be affecting Non Pro entries. Shianne advised Non Pro Committee Chairman Sherry Graham know that schedules were historically crafted to accommodate previous years entries (2024 entries were under the 26 required) of that event and apologized for any confusion. Those classes have been added to the show schedule, and it has been republished on the website.

Shianne shared that the Non Pro Committee Chairman Sherry Graham would like to Executive Committee to consider their committee's recommendation to extend the first payment deadline for the Summer Spectacular and waive the late fees to accommodate any entries that may have been detoured from the limited Non Pro class not reflecting on the show schedule.

There was also a concern to get Amateur participation in the non pro, Shianne shared data that reflects that 83.3% in 4YO and 60% in the 5/6YO of the limited non pro entries at the Super Stakes were Amateur entries.

The Executive Committee made the decision after discussing to take NO ACTION on this recommendation brought forward by the Non Pro Committee.

Showing on a Transfer

NCHA Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft shared with the Executive Committee that 863 horses that were shown on a pending transfer that took over 100 days to finalize. Kelley would like to look at redefining the terminology **ownership under Standing Rule 2** and the EC to consider eliminating the ability to show without a transfer moving forward.

Other Monies earned at Outside Associations

Data Technology Administrator Kelley Hartranft emphasized that this process has been a challenge in the office as records are not readily available from other associations to locate and members are certain on their earned amounts which leads to too many inconsistencies when calculating. A recommendation to roll back to NCHA monies earned only.

EASTERN NATIONALS QUALIFICATIONS – JOHN LAVELLE/SHARON OVERSTREET

Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee Co-Chairs John Lavelle and Sharon Overstreet presented the task force committees proposed changes to the qualifications for the Eastern Nationals in the form of two options for 2026 adoption consideration by the Executive Committee. These final options were formulated with insight from both the Weekend Show committee and the Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee.

OPTION #1:

Eastern Nationals: Qualification / Entry Methodology

RIDER CLASSES: (2K, 15Am, 35NP, 50Kam, Un. Am, and Non-Pro)

1. Qualifying in rider classes
 - a. Top 10 in an affiliate or
 - b. Top 30 in Circuit
2. EN Entry Options:
 - a. Rider must show in the class for which they qualified.
 - b. Rider can enter up to 2 horses in qualified rider class.
 - c. Rider may also enter up to 2 horses (which can be different horses as this is a rider class) in any other rider class for which he\she was eligible for during the qualifying point year.
3. Horse Limits – remains the same at 2 horses per rider in any class.

Example: Jane Doe (rider) had qualifying year earnings of \$1,789.00. Jane qualifies for the EN in the \$15K Amateur class. Jane enters the EN \$15K Amateur. Jane may now enter up to 2 horses in the \$2k, \$35K, \$50K, UA or NP – because Jane was eligible for all of those classes during the qualifying point year.

HORSE CLASSES: (Open, 25N, 25NNP, 5N, 5NNP)

1. Qualifying in horse classes:
 - a. Top ten in affiliate or
 - b. Top 30 in Circuit
2. EN Entry Options:
 - a. Horse must be entered and shown show in class for which it qualified.
 - b. Horse may also be entered into any other Horse Class for which it was eligible during the qualifying point year.
 - c. Owners may not enter unqualified horses in horse classes.
3. Horse Limits
 - a. Remains the same at 3 horses per rider in any class.
 - ~~b. NEW: An owner may enter no more than 3 horses in any horse class under any scenario.~~

Example: High Brow Sam "Sam" had Eligible earnings of \$4,405.00 during the qualifying point year. Sam is qualified in the \$25K Novice Non Pro class. Sam's owner enters the EN \$25K Novice Non Pro. Sam can now also be entered into the Open, \$25K Novice, \$5K Novice, \$5K Novice Non Pro classes at EN.

OPTION #2: (Recommendation from the Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee)

Rider classes: (NP, 50K Arn, Unlimited Am, 35NP, 15K Am, 2000 LR)

When rider qualifies under current rules (top 10 affiliate or top 30 circuit) in ANY rider class: The qualified rider may participate at the 2026 Eastern Nationals in ANY rider class for which they are eligible based upon 2025 eligibility at the start of the 2025 point year. provided they also show in the class for which they qualified.

Example: A rider with 2025 eligibility of \$1,789.00 qualifies for the Eastern in 15K Amateur class. That rider is then eligible to enter any rider class for which they are eligible for based upon 2025 eligibility and can ride up to 2 horses per class. provided the rider enters and shows in the 15k Amateur class at the Eastern. By year's end, the rider has \$4,600.00 in earnings. The rider can still show in all rider classes including the 2000 Limit Rider class at 2026 Eastern. since the rider's eligibility was \$1,789.00 at the beginning of the 2025 point year.

Horse Class Qualifier. (Walk to the herd requirement on new horses.) (Open, 25N, 25NNP, 5N, 5NNP)

If horse qualifies for the EN under current rules (top 10 affiliate or top 30 circuit) in any horse class. then that horse may participate at EN in any other horse class it is eligible for as of Sunday November 16, 2025, provided that horse also shows in the class it qualified in at the EN.

Up to two (2) additional non-qualified horses may also participate in the same horse classes as the qualified horse. provided: (1) the additional horses have each shown in at least one weekend horse class in the qualifying point year; and (2) the horse that qualifies is still owned by the same owner and it is shown in the same class(es) at EN; and 3) that the additional horses are eligible for those classes as of Sunday November 16, 2025.

Only Affiliates are eligible to submit qualifiers. No Producer or Challenger Shows.

Example: In 2025, Owner qualifies High Brow Sam (LTE \$4,405.00 as of November 16, 2025) in 25NNP. Owner shows Sam in 25NNP at 2026 Eastern. Owner can also show Sam in 25N and 5NNP and does so. Owner can have two new non-qualified horses shown at EN in 25N, 25NNP and 5NNP, that were each shown in at least one weekend horse class in 2025. because Sam was shown in those classes at EN. Owners cannot have those new non-qualified horses shown in 5N or Open because Sam didn't show in those classes. The owner also has Dual Rey Me that he showed one time in the 25NNP in 2025, who has LTE of \$5,456.00 on November 16, 2025. Dual Rey Me cannot be shown in 5N classes but can only show in the other classes that Sam showed in for which Dual Rey Me is eligible.

After much discussion over the two options proposed, a **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to adopt the proposed changes in **OPTION #1** for qualifications at the Eastern Nationals as presented with an amendment by the Executive Committee. **MOTION PASSED unanimously by all EC members in attendance.**

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, there is no old business to bring before the Executive Committee for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Sharon Overstreet and **SECONDED** by John Lavelle to adjourn the call at 6:15PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**