

NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EMAIL ACTION MINUTES October 3, 2025

An email to conduct business electronically with the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was distributed on Friday, October 3, 2025.

Executive Committee members participating were President Barnwell Ramsey, President-Elect Kathleen Moore, Vice President David Costello, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn initiated this correspondence of action required with the appropriate channels and coordination of the NCHA Officers.

The Executive Committee periodically conducts business electronically via email correspondence when and if schedules are too conflicting to meet in person and/or arrange a call for immediate actions required for daily operations of the association.

JUDGES RULES PROPOSED CHANGES

#1 – Standing Rule 35.A.2 (Horse Lameness)

→ **Vote on proposed verbiage change.**

STANDING RULE 35. A., 2., b., 1., 2. Page 68

2. Inhumane Treatment: Inhumane treatment is the exhibition of a lame or injured horse, or a horse that appears lame or injured, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. If it is determined, in the sole discretion of an officiating judge(s) or show management, that a horse exceeds a level 3 on the 5-point lameness scale published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the horse/contestant may be stopped and disqualified from the run.

The Lameness Scale published by the American Association of Equine Practitioners

0: Lameness not perceptible under any circumstances.

1: Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstances (e.g. under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

2: Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line but consistently apparent under certain circumstances (e.g. weight-carrying, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

3: Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.

4: Lameness is obvious at a walk.

5: Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest or a complete inability to move.

a. The decision of show management as to whether a horse is physically suitable to show, when circumstances permit, should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management determines, in its sole discretion, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not immediately available, show management may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy.

b. During competition, if a judge determines, in their sole discretion, that the welfare of a horse requires immediate action, the judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy without consulting a veterinarian.

1. Monitored Event: If the majority of judges assess that a contestant's horse ranks a grade 2 or 3 on the lameness scale, the NCHA monitor will communicate this to the Director of Judges. The exhibitor and/or owner will be notified of such finding by the NCHA Director of Judges, or his/her designee immediately. The exhibitor and/or owner of the horse will be required to have the horse examined by two qualified veterinarians from separate clinics to determine if the horse is sound enough to continue in competition. Both veterinarian reports must be submitted to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designee prior to the horse competing again at that show.

*2. **Non-Monitored Event:** If one or more judges assess that a horse ranks a grade 2 to 3 on the lameness scale, the judge/judges will send a video of the horse to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designee for review. This consultation will occur before any decision is made to require a veterinary certificate. If after review, it is deemed necessary, the exhibitor and/or owner of the horse will be required to have the horse examined by a qualified veterinarian to determine if the horse is sound enough to continue in competition. The veterinarian report must be submitted to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designate prior to the horse competing again at that show.*

c. Both owner and rider of any horse entered in an NCHA approved or sponsored event, by said entry, consent to the implementation of any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance Policy by either show management or judge.

#2 – Videographer Procedural Changes

→ **Vote on proposed updates.**

Procedures for Videoing NCHA Approved Events 7. Pg 129

7. ~~Videographers may be requested to forward additional videos to the Director of Judges for review.~~ The videographer acknowledges that the NCHA has the right to use all video footage from any NCHA produced or approved events for any reason. The videographer agrees to promptly provide to the NCHA any video footage of any such events in response to an NCHA request.

NCHA Code of Ethics

Article 7. Cooperation with Association Officials

A videographer should give his/her full cooperation to NCHA officials and show management and act in a timely manner to ensure that the competition, and his/her duties performed at that competition, are conducted in a professional manner and in accordance with NCHA rules.

The videographer acknowledges that the NCHA has the right to use all video footage from any NCHA produced or approved events for any reason. The videographer agrees to promptly provide to the NCHA any video footage of any such events in response to an NCHA request.

Show Management Handbook

Before the Show 11. Pg. 127

11. Check to see that you have sufficient video media (~~DVD, USB, SD Cards~~) (SD cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 external hard drives.) All approved classes must be videoed. These are to be held by management for thirty (30) days and may then be reused.

Procedures for Videoing NCHA Approved Events 2., 6., 6. b., 14. Pg 129

*2. The Videographer must have the understanding that their first responsibility is to make quality videos for NCHA reviewing purposes. Only NCHA certified videographers can be used. All videographers, including replacement or fill-in videographers must be certified and a current NCHA member. **Each NCHA Videographer is required to sign the videographers Code of Ethics and return it to the NCHA Office.** There will be a \$150 fee to apply and or recertify.*

6. NCHA will only accept ~~DVD-Rs~~, SD cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 external hard drives.

a. The Videographer will turn in a Weekend Field Monitor's Report along with all the video runs and judges' sheets to the judge(s) at the immediate conclusion of the show.

b. All video media should be labeled with the name of the show, date, classes, and judge name. Retrieving a specific horse and rider video is important throughout the show and after the show. Each set, class and day needs to be easily identified to assure that information retrieval is guaranteed. All videos stored on ~~DVDs, USB external hard drive, SD cards, or thumb drives,~~ **or USB 3.0 external hard drives** need to be organized, so that a specific horse, rider, set, class, and day of the show can easily be identified for review purposes at any time

14. Whether using ~~DVD, SD card, USB or thumb drive~~ **SD cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 external hard drives** media for storage purposes, individual video/movie files of each horse and rider must be produced. Each horse and rider exhibitor video file within a set, class and day of a show must be distinguished from the next horse and rider video within that same set in the order in which the set was shot. Do not omit any horses in any class. No extended stream of video containing multiple competitors is acceptable. Identifying the horse and rider/exhibitor at the beginning of each run is required. Begin recording early enough to record the announcer's introduction of each horse and rider. If it becomes necessary for the videographer to supply the introduction at the start of each run, please do not say the names of the horses or the exhibitors unless you are the official show announcer. As each horse approaches the herd, the videographer should speak into the microphone of the camera. For example, they should say: "This is the Non-Pro Class, third horse."

Guidelines for Weekend Monitors for US, Canadian and European Judges 3. pg. 173

1. Judges may communicate with their Field Monitors during a show for purposes of Rule Book clarification only. No videos shall be shown to the Weekend Field Monitor during the show.
2. All Judges are required to leave the show with a copy of the judge sheets, a copy of the video of all classes judged and a copy of the Weekend Monitor's Report from the Videographer.
3. Judges are required to communicate with the respective Field Monitor prior to mailing the Video Media (~~DVD, USB, SD Card~~) **(SD cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 external hard drives)** and judge sheets.

The Executive Committee acted and approved the changes as presented by the Judges Rules Committee by majority vote.

PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY RULES CHANGES

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris proposed Rule Changes related to payments of fines assessed as part of disciplinary actions at the request of the association.

#3 – Standing Rules 4, 35, and 37 (Payment of Fines)

→ **Vote on proposed changes to fine payment terms.**

STANDING RULE 4.C.3:

3. Violations by Members

The following guidelines apply if a member fails to make payments due to the NCHA or Show Management for any reason **whatsoever** (including, **but not limited to**, payments for the Cutting Horse Chatter or reimbursements made by the NCHA to Show Management for unpaid entry fee.

(Note: the guidelines in subsections (i) and (ii) below do not apply to the payment of fines assessed as part of disciplinary actions taken against the member for violations of NCHA Rules - see subsection (iii) below)s) **or to Show Management, the following disciplinary guidelines shall apply:**

(i) If reimbursement in full is not made by the member to the NCHA or Show Management (whichever is applicable) within thirty (30) days of written notice being sent to the member, the NCHA membership of that member shall be immediately and automatically suspended.

(ii) Violation of paragraph a or b above shall also result in a fine of \$50 due and payable from the member to the NCHA, so long as full payment of the entire outstanding amounts are made within 30 days of notice of non-payment from the NCHA or Show Management. If such payments are not made in that 30-day period as required by section 3(i) above, an additional \$250 fine will be added to the amount due and owing to the NCHA.

(iii) The grace periods list in subsections (i) and (ii) above do not apply to payments due from a member relating to fines assessed as part of disciplinary actions by any NCHA Committee referenced in Rule 37 for violations of NCHA Rules. Those payments must be made within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed.

STANDING RULE 35.D:

D. Failure to pay fines timely

Where a member is assessed a fine for a violation under this rule, such fine must be paid in full within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed. If the fine is not paid in full within that fifteen (15) day timeframe, the member will immediately be placed on membership suspension until such fine is paid in full. If the disciplinary action taken against the member included a suspension and/or probation in addition to a fine, that suspension and/or probation will be extended by a period equal to the amount of days over fifteen (15) days that it takes for the member to pay the fine in full (Example: If the member does not pay the fine in full until 45 days after the fine is assessed, then 30 days will be added to the term of the corresponding suspension and/or probation.)

STANDING RULE 35A.84.f:

f. Failure to pay fine timely

Where a member is assessed a fine for a violation under rule, such fine must be paid in full within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed. If the fine is not paid in full within that fifteen (15) day timeframe, the member will immediately be placed on membership suspension until such fine is paid in full. If the disciplinary action taken against the member included a suspension and/or probation in addition to the fine, that suspension and/or probation will be extended by a period equal to the amount of days over fifteen (15) days that it takes for the member to pay the fine in full (Example: If the member does not pay the fine in full until 45 days after the fine is assessed, then 30 days will be added to the term of the corresponding suspension and/or probation.) If the horse involved in the event leading to the disciplinary action transfers ownership, the suspension for the responsible individual or party will not be dissolved or shortened.

STANDING RULE 37.f.4:

d. Failure to pay fine timely.

Where a member is assessed a fine by any NCHA Committee referenced in this rule for a violation under rule, such fine must be paid in full within fifteen (15) days after the fine is assessed. as required by Standing Rule 4. If that the fine is

not paid in full within that fifteen (15) day timeframe, the member will immediately be placed on membership suspension until such fine is paid in full. If the disciplinary action taken against the member included a corresponding suspension and/or probation in addition to the fine, that the suspension and/or probation will be extended by a period equal to the amount of days over fifteen (15) days that it takes for the member to pay the fine in full (Example: If the member does not pay the fine in full until 45 days after the fine is assessed, then 30 days will be added to the term of the corresponding suspension and/or probation.)

The Executive Committee acted and approved the disciplinary rule changes as presented by our legal counsel by majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS CONFIRMED AND RECORDED.