

NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 5-6, 2025
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Tuesday and Wednesday, August 5-6, 2025, beginning 8:00AM each day. All times are based on the central time zone.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Barnwell Ramsey, President-Elect Kathleen Moore, Vice President David Costello, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, and Steve Smith. Executive Committee member Casey Green was excused and not in attendance. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff were in attendance at this meeting. NCHA staff directors of respective departments were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

TUESDAY – AUGUST 5, 2025

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:01AM and roll call was taken.

President Barnwell Ramsey welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and led the attendees in prayer welcoming the opportunity to serve and lead with wisdom, patience, and grace as the committee works together to shape a better future for this great association. Emphasis was made on the guidance of unity, collaboration, and respect on discussions as the Executive Committee makes decisions during these meetings.

President Barnwell Ramsey asked Phil Benadum to lead the Executive Committee in reciting the NCHA mission statement.

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.

PRESIDENT REPORT – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey addressed the members of the Executive Committee with some quick updates for his report. Ramsey expressed his gratitude for all attendees at the meeting with the purpose of hearing the recommendations that were developed during the convention meetings and being presented to the members of this committee over the next two days.

Ramsey stated that a lot has taken place since the convention and started with his emphasis on a great Summer Spectacular Show which just ended with some great exhibitions and an encouraging youth week. The military cutting on the last day was a great end to the show.

Ramsey handed out a personal gift to all the Executive Committee members, a book called "Greatness" written by David Cook. Encouraged all to enjoy this exceptional read.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the office.

Summer Spectacular

Winborn elaborated on the success of the Derby, the staff did a fantastic job once again to create a positive environment for all our cutters to have a wonderful experience. The consensus moving forward is that the John Justin Arena holds as our second show arena during our triple crown events.

WRMC

Construction is underway and NCHA is hopeful that the coliseum will be ready for the Futurity. There is a contingency plan being finalized for a backup and NCHA will notify the contestants as soon as a decision has been made. NCHA was notified that parking will be increasing to \$15 daily.

MERP

NCHA is expecting MERP reimbursement from the state in the amount of \$1.389M within the next couple of weeks. After this disbursement payout, the only show pending this process will be the latest Summer Spectacular. The state has made some changes with these procedures which have streamlined the reimbursement process.

Horse Protection Act (HPA)

The USDA is now taking comments and suggestions from equine associations, and all changes are still pending. Our lobbyists have formed a coalition that is continuing to monitor this activity.

Judges Seminar

Director of Judges Andy Adams held a judges' seminar at the Derby. Those that attend have a better understanding of how the runs are scored and answer questions. Please encourage all your directors in your regions to try and attend a session soon.

Landman

The Landman film crew has captured some footage out at Will Rogers in the Watt Arena that created some excitement during the show for the upcoming television series.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – DENISE WILLIAMS

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of the June financials for the association.

**National Cutting Horse Association
Finance Commentary
June 2025**

Statement of Position

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$32 million which represents an increase of \$586k from the previous month.

The Association's cash increased \$73k primarily as a result of cash receipts for show related items with the 2025 Summer Spectacular show. The investment portfolios increased ~\$337k which was due to the unrealized gain of \$200k on the investment portfolios and the realized gain of \$108k.

The realized gain related to the investment sales as recommended by Frost Wealth advisors. The Stallion Foal Cash & Investments noted an increase of \$130k which was primarily due to the unrealized gain on the Stallion Foal Investment portfolio.

Accounts receivable increased by ~ \$45k as a result of sponsorship billings for the month, the most notable was the \$45k Cargill sponsorship.

Total liabilities increased ~\$530k from the previous month. This was primarily due to an increase of \$313k in deferred event revenue from cash receipt of \$221k in Summer Spectacular show entries, \$50k in youth show entries and \$26k in 2025 Futurity show entries. The remaining increase in total liabilities was primarily attributed to an increase of ~\$166k in accounts payable and accrued expenses which were primarily related to the 2025 NCHA Convention expenses.

Net assets increased by approximately \$56k which represents the net profit for the month of June.

Statement of Activities

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, for the month of June, the Association posted a net loss of \$277k while the FY 2025 budget anticipated a net loss of \$373k for the month.

Revenue for the month totaled \$475k or \$123k more than budget. This favorable variance was driven by the activity in the investment portfolio. The Association posted a gain of \$88k on the sale of investments in the long term investment portfolio and the interest earned on our investments outpaced budget by \$22k due to higher rates. In addition, we noted higher than anticipated approval fees of \$30k as participation at the weekend level continues to be strong and sponsorship revenue posted a favorable variance of \$19k which was primarily due to a \$1 Ok Convention sponsorship by Will Rogers Memorial Center that was not anticipated in the budget. These favorable variances in total revenue were offset by two declines in membership revenue and other income. Membership revenue was down as fewer renewals occurred in June than anticipated. As discussed last month, we feel like the "promo period" offered impacted the timing of when members renewed their membership and this promo period was not known when the budget was determined. The unfavorable variance in other income was due to the lower than anticipated revenue from Gala ticket sales.

Total expenses for the month were \$752k which was 4% over \$27k more than what was budgeted. For the most part, expense categories were relatively close to budget. However, the following categories had unfavorable variances worth noting:

Legal - \$27k unfavorable variance due to legal work on the new TCLOC relationship (~\$17k) and an additional \$7,500 on the by-laws project.

Personnel - \$11k unfavorable variance due to higher than anticipated monitor fees (\$5,500).

Promotions - \$10k unfavorable variance due to timing of the payment of signs for the 2025 PRCA Rodeo signs.

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams also shared the tentative schedule set for the FY2026 budget timeline.

FY 2026 Tentative Budget Timeline

- Week of July 21 - Meetings with Department Heads
- Week of July 28 - Meetings with Department Heads
- Week of Aug 11 - Review first draft of SOA with Dept Heads
- Week of Aug 18 - Review second draft of SOA with Dept Heads
- Week of Sept 1 - Review FY 2026 Budget with Jay
- Week of Sept 8 - Review FY 2026 Budget with Finance Committee
- Week of Sept 15 - Review FY 2026 Budget with Executive Committee

After the financial presentation was given, a **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to accept the June Financials as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – GARRY MERRITT

Finance and Audit Committee Chair Garry Merritt joined the meeting in person to report updates to the Executive Committee from his committee.

Merritt provided some opening comments in the form of a letter to the Executive Committee...

"It's a privilege to address the board today on behalf of the Finance Committee.

*Our association continues to demonstrate strong financial health, supported by a committed membership of over **11,000 individuals**. As of this period, we hold **\$17 million in unrestricted free cash**, providing us with the flexibility and stability to meet both current obligations and future opportunities.*

*We have paid out **\$9.4 million in purses**, a reflection of our ongoing commitment to competitive excellence and support for the industry participants who drive our mission forward.*

***In the short term**, our priority is to preserve this financial strength while continuing to deliver value to our members. We are closely monitoring our expenses, maintaining reserve discipline, and aligning our spending with strategic goals.*

***Looking ahead**, the long-term vision is to responsibly grow and deploy our resources in ways that expand access, elevate the member experience, and support the future of equine sport. This includes investing in digital infrastructure, youth development, and broader engagement strategies—all with a focus on long-term sustainability.*

With continued fiscal stewardship and strategic planning, we are well-positioned to protect and grow the impact of this organization.

Thank you, and I welcome your input as we move forward together.
Thanks gm"

Merritt presented a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee to update/change the investment policy in section V – Monitoring portfolio investments and performance under #2.

2. A composite benchmark consisting of the following unmanaged market indexes weighted according to the expected target asset allocations stipulated by the Portfolio's investment guidelines.

- a. ~~U.S Equity: Wilshire 5000 Total Market Index~~ **Standard & Poor's 500 Index**
- b. ~~Non-U.S. Equity: MSCIEAFE +EM Index~~ **MSCI ACWI Ex USA Index**
- c. ~~Investment Grade Fixed Income: Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index~~ **Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index**
- d. ~~Non-Investment Grade Fixed Income: Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate High-Yield Bond Index~~ **Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index**
- e. ~~Cash: Citigroup 3-Month T-Bill Index~~ **91 Day US T-Bill**

The Executive Committee made a **MOTION** by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to approve the changes to the NCHA Investment Policy as presented. **MOTIONED PASSED.**

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

(Due to multiple actions taken by the Executive Committee in both the Judges Department/Judges Rules sections, **ALL motions will be formatted in BOLD.**)

Director of Judges Andy Adams presented updates from his department.

Adams submitted a solution on the monitor application fee and paying the monitors at the show as a result of budget planning for the department by proposing a change to Standing Rule 7.

STANDING RULE 7.

Show Approvals for Limited Age Events with \$10,000 or more added.

- 6. Approval Criteria
 - f. Judges & Monitors
 - iii. All approved shows with \$100,000 added or more must use no fewer than five (5) **4A judges or 5A judges** and these events will be monitored.
 - i. Monitored event show management must sign AMS agreement to furnish necessary equipment, lodging, meals **and cover all expenses incurred during the event. NCHA will cover the cost of transportation to and from the event. ground transportation for NCHA-Monitor.**
- 8. Show Rules
 - e. Payout
 - iii. Show management must pay NCHA an approval fee on total entry fees collected, the percentage owed NCHA determined by the amount of added money.
 - 3. \$100,000 added or more (monitor required) = 2% **plus \$500 per show plus Monitor approval fee.**
 - 4. **NCHA approval fees may be deducted from total entry fees collected. If applicable, the total daily Monitor fee approval fee of \$500 may be prorated between classes held that day.**

5. Monitor ~~approval daily~~ fee must be equal to the amount paid to judges per day and must be paid directly to the Monitor **by the Show Producers.** ~~is \$500 per day (paid to NCHA) plus the difference between the actual judge pay rate and the \$500 per show day rate (paid directly to the monitor).~~

Following this discussion, a MOTION was made by Steve Smith and SECONDED by Tommy Williams to approve the changes to Standing Rule 7 as presented with the following highlighted amendments as of October 1st which aligns with the beginning of FY2026. MOTION PASSED.

NCHA to send out letters with regards to this approved change to all Show Producers.

High School Rodeo Involvement

Adams reported that NCHA handled the high school rodeo finals monitor system this year in a five (5) judge format that was well received. A big thanks to some of our members and sponsors: 6666 Ranch, Michael/Paula Gaughan, Cookie/Katie Banuelos, Michelle/William Cowan, Chad Bushaw, Frank/Bonnie Martin, Badboonarising, and Brumbaugh's, for their support in raising \$27K to accommodate this effort. Adams expressed thanks again to all, he also recognized Della Hillerman for providing the scoring equipment used for this event.

Youth Convention

Adams noted that the judges' clinic at the Summer Spectacular during the youth convention was well attended and the youth were engaged. Adams is excited to continue this effort, educate, and provide judging techniques for our youth.

2026 Seminars

Adams has tentatively budgeted for three (3) more judging seminars for 2026 for the eastern region, western region and again in Fort Worth.

Executive Director Jay Winborn requested that Andy Adams coordinate with the marketing team to upgrade some equipment such as microphones to ensure sound is quality for our viewers.

DVD Format

Adams also provided some additional updates that they are in the process of trying to extinguish DVD format throughout the department due to the inadequate quality.

Protests/Disciplinary Actions

Adams stated that there were 4 protests this year with only 50% validity, a significant improvement from last year. Adams only had three (3) disciplinary actions towards judges this year all in reference to blowing the whistle.

JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE – ROCK HEDLUND

Judges Rules Committee Chair Rock Hedlund joined the meeting virtually to report recommendations on Judging Rule changes to the Executive Committee from his committee.

JUDGING RULE 1

Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show their ability to make a cut. One such deep cut will satisfy this rule. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in a three (3) point

penalty. A horse will be given credit for their ability to enter the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the **cow** brought out.

NOTE: If a cutter has not satisfied the deep cut rule on their first or second cut, on their last cut, a cow must be separated from the herd with the cutter's hand down before the first sound of the buzzer.

NOTE: In rule one (1) a judge must consider the condition of the arena and the cattle.

EXAMPLE 1: In a herd of cattle, a Cutter cuts two cows cleanly and is working the second cow when the buzzer sounds. Each time the Cutter cuts, they allow **some** cattle to come around them and **they** cut **a** cow.

RULING: If the Cutter rode to the edge of the herd and peeled **some cattle off the edge of the herd without entering the body of the herd** the judge shall rule that no deep cut was made and assess a three (3) point penalty.

NOTE: In ruling on Rule One, it is more important for a judge to consider the depth and route taken by the Cutter than it is to count the number of cows that move around their horse. It is necessary, however, for the Cutter to get behind some cattle before Rule 1 is satisfied.

EXAMPLE: 2 The cutter rides to the top edge of the herd, and then

(A) rides deep into the body of the herd by splitting the herd, turns and drives a cow up the middle and cuts that cow.

(B) waits for volunteers to leave the herd, turns and cuts one of them without entering the body of the herd

RULING:

(A) No penalty

(B) Assess a three (3) point penalty

EXAMPLE 3: Cutter A's horse walks quietly into the herd and remains quiet while Cutter A makes their cut. Cutter B's horse walks into the herd but is obviously nervous and moves excessively while Cutter B is making their cut.

RULING: Cutter A shall receive more credit for their cut than Cutter B.

EXAMPLE 4: After quitting a cow, a horse starts to lie **down with its legs underneath itself, but the horse is not on its side with all four feet extended in the same direction.**

RULING: No penalty but run content may be reduced in herd work depending upon the **effort** it takes to get the horse back to its feet.

EXAMPLE 5: As the cutter enters the herd, the horse kicks out at the rider's spur with a hind leg.

RULING: No penalty, however run content will be reduced in herd work.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve this change to Judging Rule #1 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 2

When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it be taken toward the center of the arena, and credit will be rewarded for same. Additional credit will be given the horse which drives its stock sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed, thereby showing their ability to drive a cow.

JUDGING RULE 3

Riding with a loose rein throughout a performance is a requirement. **If the cutters reins are tight enough to attract the judge's attention, put a minus in the loose rein column and take one point off for each cow that they were tight on, and take those points off at the end of the run, just like a major penalty. This is the only case which we take 1-point penalties off at the end of the run, to increase the severity of this rule infraction. Remember riding with loose reins is a requirement.**

JUDGING RULE 4

Credit will be recognized for setting up a cow and controlling it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible.

EXAMPLE 1: *Cutter A cuts cleanly and works three cows. They work their second cow entirely on the left one-third of the arena. Cutter B has a similar work, except they hold their cows much nearer the center of the arena.*

RULING: *Cutter B shall receive more credit for their work than Cutter A. The judge shall be careful not to penalize Cutter A; however, Cutter B must receive more credit.*

EXAMPLE 2: *During a work, the Cutter trails their stock just enough that the cow runs from wall to wall and is never set up and held near the center of the arena.*

RULING: *The horse which allows its stock to run from wall to wall, because they are trailing, or which rolls out on its turns and lacks control shall not be credited under this rule.*

NOTE: *The degree of difficulty presented by the stock cut out shall weigh heavily on the judge's decision. Credit must be given to the horse which meets the challenge of a hard charging, fast moving animal without loss of working position and control. Where other considerations are equal, the horse which works a longer time should receive greater credit.*

A MOTION was made by Kirby Smith and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve these changes to Judging Rule #2, Judging Rule #3, and Judging Rule #4 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 5

If the cutting horse or its rider creates disturbance at any time throughout their working period (21/2 minutes), they will be penalized:

a. *Any noise directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized one (1) point.*

EXAMPLE 1: *While attempting to make a cut, the Cutter makes noise that causes the cattle to separate. This noise is clearly audible to the judge.*

RULING: *Assess a one (1) point penalty (C)*

b. *Each time a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd while working or picks up one or more cows, it will be penalized three (3) points. A wild cow leaving on its own would not be considered picking up cattle.*

Note: *The definition of a wild cow as it pertains to rule 5.b., is a cow that goes into motion on its own (not caused by the cutter).*

Note: *At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated. The entire cow must enter working area of horse. The working area of the horse is defined as the entire cow being in front of the horse's head.*

EXAMPLE 1: *While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has some cattle separated from the herd to cut the desired cow. The cutter separates one cow from the others and begins to work. The other cattle/cow did not return to the herd and rejoin the cow being worked. The cutter continues to work his/her original cow and quits legally.*

RULING: *No penalty.*

NOTE: Picking up cattle will not be charged in this instance, because the remaining cattle/cow had not rejoined the body of the herd. The cattle/cow in this instance would have been considered “traffic.”

EXAMPLE 2: While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has some cattle separated from the herd to cut the desired cow, he/she comes close enough to the herd to cause one (1) or more cows to enter the working area of the horse.

RULING: Assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

EXAMPLE 3: The Cutter quits legally, and one or more cows leave the herd almost simultaneously.

RULING: In the judge’s opinion the Cutter ran into the herd and caused the cattle to leave, prior to quitting, assess a three (3) point penalty.

NOTE: Even though the Cutter quits before a cow enters the working area of the horse, a three (3) point penalty will be charged if the judge is certain the disturbance was caused by the Cutter.

EXAMPLE 4: While the Cutter is working a cow at a reasonable distance from the herd, another cow voluntarily leaves the herd and stops in such a position that the working horse’s normal pattern causes the cow to enter the working area of the horse.

RULING: No penalty, as no disturbance of the herd occurs.

c. The judge shall stop any work due to the contestant working the horse in an unprofessional manner, disturbance of the cattle by the contestant, or excessive training of the horse by the contestant. Any contestant failing to stop immediately after the first whistle will be whistled out again. *The judge is responsible for reporting the double whistle violation. It is the Judges responsibility to be prepared and have a whistle and a rule book at all judging assignments.*

EXAMPLE 1: The Cutter is making an honest effort to show his/her horse, but the horse is not working properly. The Cutter runs through the cattle more than once, severely disturbing the herd.

RULING: The judge will blow his/her whistle and terminate the run.

NOTE: Even though the Cutter was not training or abusing the horse, they were creating a disturbance of the cattle.

EXAMPLE 2: After losing a cow, the Cutter cuts another cow and stops their horse each time the cow stops. In the judge’s opinion they are training their horse.

(A) They do not jerk or excessively cue their horse.

(B) They are excessive training their horse.

RULING:

(A) Score the cutter sixty (60)

(B) Terminate the run and score the cutter a zero (0).

NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve this change to Judging Rule #5 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 6

A horse will be penalized three (3) points each *time a Cutter allows the cow being worked to move inside of the back fence marker within one step, or three (3) feet of the fence. The outer limits of the designated back fence shall include any boards or other markers used to define this outer limit. The back fence to be designated by show management before the contest starts. If any of the contestants voice an objection before the contest starts, show management shall take a vote of the contestants, and a “back fence” acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.*

EXAMPLE 1: The cow being worked bangs into the back fence *inside the back fence marker, the cow*

(A) is moving away from the Cutter when they quit.

(B) is moving toward the Cutter when they quit.

(C) returns to the herd.

RULING:

(A) Assess a three (3) point penalty *for a back fence violation.*

(B) Assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation and a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13). Total penalty of six (6) points.

(C) The judge will consider the two penalties to have occurred simultaneously unless the cow first moves away from the horse and then returns to the herd. When the penalties occur simultaneously, only the larger penalty of five (5) points should be assessed.

EXAMPLE 2: While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has *some* cattle separated from the herd. As the Cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the cattle move *inside of the back fence marker within one step, or three (3) feet of the fence* then move back to the working area.

RULING: Assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence.

EXAMPLE 3: A Cutter is working a cow that stops against the arena fence outside the back fence marker. The cow moves toward the horse until it is inside the marker.

RULING: Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 4: The Cutter is working a cow that jumps out of the arena:

(A) outside of the back fence markers.

(B) inside the back fence markers.

RULING:

(A) No penalty

(B) Assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence (Rule 6).

NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

A MOTION was made by David Costello and SECONDED by Phil Benadum to approve this change to Judging Rule #6 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 7

If, whether on its own or at the direction of the rider, a horse turns the wrong way so that its tail is **pointed** toward the cow being worked, a five (5) point penalty for turn tail will be assessed.

EXAMPLE 1: While in the process of making their cut, the cutter has **some** cattle separated from the main herd. As the cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the horse turns away from the cow/**cattle** so severely that the horse's tail points toward the cow or separated cattle.

RULING: The Cutter is assessed a five (5) point turn tail penalty.

EXAMPLE 2: During the process of making a cut, the cutter directs their horse to make a 360-degree **turn**

(A) while still in the main herd.

(B) after the cutter has **some cattle separated from the main herd**.

RULING:

(A) No penalty

(B) Assess a (5) point turn tail penalty.

EXAMPLE 3: The Cutter has put their hand down and the horse is working a cow

(A) **when the** horse attempts to turn their tail toward the cow. The Cutter **reins his/her horse and** stops the horse before they **can** completely turn away from the cow.

(B) when the horse turns away from the cow so that the horse's tail points toward the cow being worked.

RULING:

(A) This is not a case of turning tail. Assess a five (5) point penalty for horse quitting a cow (Rule 14)

(B) Assessed a five (5) point turn tail penalty.

A MOTION was made by David Costello and SECONDED by Les Jack to approve this change to Judging Rule #7 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 8

While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse. A one (1) point penalty shall also be charged whenever a horse is visibly cued in any manner. If the reins are tight enough that the bits are bumped at any time, they shall be penalized one (1) penalty point (B) per occurrence in the 1-point penalty column, even though the hand of the rider does not move. In addition, put a minus in the loose reins column per cow **and take off one point (1) per cow** at the end of the run to increase the severity of this rule infraction. (Rule 3)

NOTE: The intent of Rule 8a is to prevent the Cutter from helping his/ her horse after a cow is clear of the herd. Judges **shall use common sense and** allow the Cutter to handle his/her horse enough to clear the cow that they selected to cut. In the application of this rule, the term "clear" means far enough out from the body of the herd that the Cutter has a reasonable opportunity to begin working and that all other cattle are at least behind their horse's buttocks.

a. A horse must be released as soon as the desired **cow** is clear of the other cattle, **and the cutter is no longer driving the cow forward**. Additional reining, cuing, or positioning will result in a one (1) point penalty for each occurrence.

EXAMPLE 1: While making his/her cut, the Cutter moves his/her hand up and down, side to side while selecting a cow to work. He/she *then releases their horse to indicate that the cutter is ready to begin working and* places their hand:

(A) *on the horse's neck close to the saddle* and leaves it there while working:

(B) *on the horse's neck close to the saddle first and then push their hand forward or moves it enough to cue his/her horse.*

(C) *up the horse's neck (too far forward).*

RULING:

(A) No penalty.

(B) *Assess a one (1) point penalty (B) for each occurrence.*

(C) *Assess a one (1) point penalty (G) per cow.*

NOTE: The Cutter may rein his/her horse as much as necessary to make a cut. Clean, pretty cuts shall receive credit.

EXAMPLE 2: The Cutter makes a cut and while waiting for the cow to begin movement *he/she shakes their* rein hand causing movement of the bridle reins:

RULING: Penalize the Cutter one (1) point *penalty (B) for each occurrence.*

EXAMPLE 3: The Cutter cuts a cow that is walking away from the herd. The Cutter reins his/her horse until they *are clear* of the herd *and the cutter is no longer driving the cow forward.*

(A) The Cutter then releases their horse.

(B) The Cutter continues to hold contact with his/her horse by having their hand up and some tension on his/ her reins. They do not move their horse around; they are holding his/her horse's attention on the cow until the cow moves.

RULING:

(A) No penalty.

(B) *Assess a one (1) point penalty (E).*

EXAMPLE 4: The Cutter selects a cow from a group of cattle that are moving around him/her. They step to that cow and rein *their* horse until *their* herd holders have the other cattle behind the *contestant's* horse's buttocks (cleared away). *The Cutter* continues to hold tension on *the* reins while the cow that they have cut trots several feet across the arena. When the cow stops and turns around, the Cutter stops his/her horse and reins it back to the cow before releasing it.

RULING: Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter cues their horse. In this case, one (1) *point penalty (E)* for holding the horse going across the arena, one (1) *point penalty (B)* for stopping the horse, and one (1) *point penalty (B)* for reining it back to the cow. Total penalty of three (3) points.

b. The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty shall be charged if the second hand touches the reins for any purpose except to straighten them.

NOTE: *In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.*

EXAMPLE 1: While working a cow, the cutter uses two hands on the bridle reins to *stop or* turn his/her horse around.

RULING: Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 2: The Cutter drops one bridle rein and uses his/her free hand to retrieve it
(A) after they have obviously legally quit the cow and stopped their horse.
(B) while cutting a cow.
(C) while working a cow.

RULING:

(A) No penalty
(B) and (C) Assess a three (3) point penalty for using both hands on the bridle reins.

c. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed each time a horse is *spurred* in the shoulder.

d. A toe, foot, or stirrup on the horse's shoulder is considered a visible cue. A one (1) point penalty shall be charged for each occurrence.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Kirby Smith to approve this change to Judging Rule #8 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 9

If a horse lets *a cow* that it is *being worked* get back *to* the herd, it will be penalized five (5) points

EXAMPLE 1: The cow being worked is making a strong attempt to return to the herd. The Cutter quits the cow after he/she has lost their working advantage. The cow leaves the working area and returns to the herd.

RULING: Assess a one (1) point penalty for loss of working advantage and a five (5) point penalty for a lost cow. Total penalty of six (6) points.

EXAMPLE 2: While working a cow, the cow out-maneuvers the horse and it is obvious that the horse is unable to stop the cow from entering the herd. The buzzer sounds before the cow physically enters the herd.

RULING: Assess a five (5) point penalty.

NOTE: At the buzzer, loss of *a cow* occurs the moment the horse can no longer regain its working advantage, regardless of if the rider's hand is up or down. For a loss to occur during the work, the cow must return to the herd.

NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

A MOTION was made by David Costello and SECONDED by Les Jack to approve this change to Judging Rule #9 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 10

If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed. A Cutter shall be committed whenever he/she makes *a move* to a specific *cow when there is separation between that cow and other cattle*, and that move clearly and obviously indicates a specific animal has been selected.

NOTE: All reviews on change of cattle must be reviewed at normal speed (no slow motion).

EXAMPLE 1: During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter drives a group of cattle away from the herd. Before the Cutter *attempts* to cut one of these cows, *if any cattle* leave the herd and walk to a position nearby but do not join the first group of cattle.

(A) The Cutter steps to the first group of cattle and cuts one of them.

(B) The Cutter reins away from the first group toward the second group and cuts one of them.

RULING:

(A) and (B) No penalty.

NOTE: A Cutter commits to a single animal, not to a group of cattle.

Two (2) or more cows are considered a group.

EXAMPLE 2: During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter drives a group of cattle away from the herd.

(A) looks at a brown cow but does not attempt to move his/her horse toward the brown cow. He/she then cuts a red cow.

(B) moves his/her horse toward a brown cow *with separation and* reins once to move his/her horse in the direction it starts. He/she then cuts a red cow.

RULING:

(A) No penalty

(B) Assess a five (5) point penalty for changing cows.

EXAMPLE 3: The Cutter enters the herd and drives *a single cow* out, as that cow moves around his/her horse, a group of cattle come out of the herd *and join the cow that has been separated*. The Cutter releases their original cow and cuts one from the group.

RULING: Assess a five (5) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 4: During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter steps toward a cow to stop the flow of cattle. That cow stops and other cattle also stop thereby forming a group of cattle. The Cutter then cuts any cow from that group.

RULING: No penalty.

NOTE: A judge must allow a Cutter to stop a group of cattle and then cut from that group. A judge shall not consider the Cutter visibly committed to that lead cow unless there is separation between the lead cow and the rest of the flow, and the Cutter attempts to cut that cow.

EXAMPLE 5: During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter starts a group of cattle around his/her horse. *The Cutter* selects *a cow* and reins his/her horse toward it *and the cow* is separated. The herd holders attempt to drive the other cattle away; *some cattle* turn and rejoin the cow that is already cut. The Cutter separates their original cow from the others without the group rejoining the herd or moving to the back fence. *The Cutter*

(A) releases their horse and does not cue the horse in any manner.

(B) releases their horse and then picks up their hand to separate the original cow from the others

(C) does not release their horse until all other cattle have cleared and are at least behind their horse's buttocks.

RULING:

(A) No penalty; credit shall be given for the horse staying with the original cow

(B) Assess a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter reins their horse (Rule 8)

(C) No penalty but should affect run content in herd work

EXAMPLE 6: The Cutter is working a cow. Another cow that has previously escaped the turnback horses decides to return to the herd. As the returning cow approaches,

(A) the Cutter does not cue his/her horse, and the horse does not switch to the returning cow.

(B) the Cutter anticipates that a change might occur and reins his/her horse to prevent it. The horse's attention is momentarily diverted toward the returning cow, but they do not change cattle.

(C) the Cutter's horse switches its attention and makes a move with the other cow. The Cutter reins the horse back to the original cow.

(D) the Cutter's horse changes to the returning cow.

RULING:

(A) Reward credit to the Cutter. The amount of credit rewarded depends upon the exact circumstances of the situation.

(B) Assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8) *and should affect run content.*

(C) Assess a five (5) point penalty for the change and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of six (6) points.

(D) Assess a five (5) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 7: If the Cutter is committed to a cow, but before he/she is clear of the herd, or traffic, their horse abruptly attempts to change to a different cow.

(A) The Cutter had not released his/her horse and immediately reined it back.

(B) The Cutter had dropped his/her hand indicating their horse was on the desired cow.

RULING:

(A) No penalty *but would affect run content in herd work*

(B) Assess a five (5) point penalty.

A MOTION was made by Byron Green and SECONDED by Kirby Smith to approve this change to Judging Rule #10 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 11

When a horse loses its working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position, it will be penalized 1 point penalty (A) or point penalty (F).

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Loss of working advantage is defined as: When a horse goes by a cow to the degree that they lose their position to maintain control of the cow.

A miss is defined as: A response of the horse to the action of the cow being worked, resulting in a loss of working advantage. *Penalty (A)*

Working out of position is defined as: The position of the horse in relation to the cow being worked, being consistently either too short or too long in working to control a cow. *Penalty (F)*

EXAMPLE 1: While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow. The cow turns,

(A) the cutter maintains their control and working advantage of the cow

(B) the cutter regains their control and working advantage of the cow within a short distance.

(C) it is necessary for the cutter to make a hard run before *regaining control and working advantage of the cow.*

RULING:

(A) No penalty should be charged a horse which maintains control after going past a cow to cause it to turn. The horse that can maintain working advantage over a cow that presents a severe challenge shall receive credit.

(B) No penalty, this is not an obvious miss but can affect run content.

(C) Assess a one (1) point penalty *(A)* for losing the working advantage

NOTE: If it is not obvious, it is not a penalty.

EXAMPLE 2: While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses its working advantage.

(A) The cutter reins the horse back and, after taking several steps, the horse regains its working advantage.

(B) The cow stops and turns away; the cutter quits without regaining its working advantage

RULING:

(A) Assess a one (1) point penalty (A) for losing the working advantage also, assess a one (1) point penalty (B) for reining the horse. Total penalty of 2 points.

(B) Assess a one (1) point penalty (A) for losing the working advantage.

NOTE: The cutter may not avoid a one (1) point penalty for losing their working advantage or being out of position by quitting a cow, even though the quit is legal under (Rule 13).

EXAMPLE 3: While working, the cutter's horse is extremely long in one direction and extremely short in the other direction. The cutter continues to work in this manner.

RULING: Assess a one (1) point penalty (F) per cow, a minus (-) in controlling a cow and reduce run content accordingly.

NOTE: A judge should acknowledge that a loss of working advantage, a miss, and/or working out of position, can result in a minus (-) in run content.

A MOTION was made by Byron Green and SECONDED by David Costello to approve this change to Judging Rule #11 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 12

Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse pawing, biting, or kicking cattle, will be penalized three (3) points. **Penalty (E)**

EXAMPLE 1: While in the process of **cutting or working a cow**, the Cutter's horse:

(A) attempts to bite the cow but does not make contact.

(B) nuzzles a cow

(C) obviously bites the cow

(D) kicks a cow

(E) paws a cow

RULING:

(A) and (B) No penalty

(C), (D) and (E) Assess a three (3) point penalty (E)

EXAMPLE 3: During a run, the Cutter's horse:

(A) strikes with its front foot but misses the cow.

(B) kicks at the cow but does not make contact.

(C) horse kicks out with one or both hind legs or jumps into the air slinging its head and hopping up behind.

RULING:

(A), (B) and (C) No penalty, but this type of unusual behavior would detract from the run and cannot have a positive influence on the point value awarded for that run.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve this change to Judging Rule #12 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 13

A contestant may quit a cow when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, **backing up, has fallen, or behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are behind the timeline.** A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.

DEFINITION: "Obviously stopped" means that in a slow-motion video at 1/16th (.06) speed, a cow has all four feet on the ground for five or more seconds. In real time, this is less than one second.

NOTE: When a cow is in an obviously stopped position and simply picks up one foot and replaces it, the quit would be considered clean. This would not include the final step of a "slow walking" cow.

EXAMPLE 1: **The** Cutter is working a cow, **and** the cow stops while facing the Cutter's horse. As the Cutter is quitting, the cow:

(A) simply replaces a foot and stands still.

(B) starts to back away from the Cutter.

(C) moves its head from side to side *but does not move its feet*

(D) moves into the Cutter's horse

RULING:

(A), (B), and (C), No penalty.

(D) Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 2: The Cutter is working a cow that takes them deep into the *corner* of the arena. The cow turns into the Cutter's horse, the Cutter:

(A) waits until the cow has traveled a sufficient distance to clearly show the judge the *cow* is moving away from their horse before initiating the quit

(B) quits the cow in the turn.

RULING:

(A) No penalty,

(B) Assess a three (3) point penalty.

NOTE: No imaginary line will be considered in applying this rule. The cow's relationship to the cutting horse (turned away) is the only thing to consider in applying this rule.

EXAMPLE 3: The Cutter is working a cow that falls to the ground. The Cutter quits the cow:

(A) while the cow is lying on the ground.

(B) after the cow has fallen and is returning to its feet.

(C) after the cow has returned to its feet and is moving into the horse.

RULING:

(A) and (B), No penalty

(C) Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 4: While working a cow that has run behind the turnback horses and the turnback horses are behind the timeline, the Cutter quits the cow

(A) while it is turning toward his/her horse.

(B) while it is turning toward his/her horse after the cow has moved back between the Cutter and their turnback horses.

RULING:

(A) No penalty.

(B) Assess a three (3) point penalty.

EXAMPLE 5: The Cutter is working their cow. The Cutter initiates their quit by picking up their rein hand and/or taking their free hand off the saddle horn. The Cutter is uncertain if the quit is clean and immediately puts their rein hand down and/or *their free hand back on the saddle horn. The Cutter then reinitiates the quit*

(A) while the cow is moving away from the cutting horse *or is stopped.*

(B) while the cow is moving into the cutting horse.

RULING:

(A) Assess a one (1) point penalty (B) for reining

(B) Assess a one (1) point penalty (B) for reining, plus a three (3) point penalty for a hot quit. Total penalty of four (4) points

NOTE: The judge shall consider that a Cutter has *initiated* a quit when they pick up on their reins or places their free hand on their horse's neck, whether the horse stops instantly or not.

NOTE: A judge shall not consider a hot quit until the cutter has stopped working the cow.

NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve this change to Judging Rule #13 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 14

If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed.

NOTE: *At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.*

EXAMPLE 1: *The cutter legally quits a cow while in working position. The judge believes that the cutter's horse has lost contact with the cow.*

RULING: *No penalty; however, this should reduce run content.*

NOTE: *It is the judge's responsibility to call what happens. A judge shall never anticipate an error.*

EXAMPLE 2: *The Cutter's horse goes by a cow that has turned away or stopped, resulting in a loss of working advantage. The horse is obviously not going to stop or turn around without assistance from the rider. The Cutter quits.*

RULING: *Assess a five (5) point penalty*

EXAMPLE 3: *The Cutter is working, and their horse quits a cow. The Cutter reins and re-starts their horse. The Cutter continues their work.*

RULING: *Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.*

EXAMPLE 4: *The Cutter's horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves, and the horse*

*(A) momentarily remains still. The Cutter does not rein the horse; the horse turns around late but **regains its working advantage of** the cow.*

(B) remains still. The Cutter reins the horse back to the cow. In the judge's opinion, the Cutter reined the horse because the horse quit the cow.

RULING:

*(A) Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (being out of position) (Rule 11). **Run content would also be affected.***

(B) Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.

NOTE: *Even though a horse shows a momentary reluctance to turn or stop with a cow, a quit will not be called if the horse turns or stops on its own. If the horse must be reined or stopped by the rider, a five (5) point penalty must be charged.*

NOTE: *In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the smaller penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8.b., which concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.*

A MOTION was made by Byron Green and SECONDED by Kathleen Moore to approve this change to Judging Rule #14 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 15

*If a horse clears the herd with one (1) or more **cows** and fails to separate a single animal **before re-entering the body of the herd**, a five (5) point penalty will be charged. There is no penalty if time expires.*

EXAMPLE 1: *The Cutter drives a group of cattle away from the herd,*

(A) they commit to a cow in the group of cattle, their horse does not respond to the Cutter immediately, but they are able to stop the cow before it returns to the herd.

(B) they commit to a cow in the group of cattle, their horse does not respond to the Cutter and the cow returns to the herd with the group of cattle

*(C) The cattle all trot past **him/her and return** to the herd*

RULING:

- (A) No penalty; however, the point value of the run may be reduced due to the lack of a quiet, clean cut.
 (B) and (C) Assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate a cow

EXAMPLE 2: The Cutter is working and at no fault of the Cutter, they pick up additional cattle. The Cutter quits their cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.

RULING: No penalty.

NOTE: Rule 15 applies only while the Cutter is making a cut. Once a cow is separated from the herd, the Cutter has satisfied the requirements of Rule 15.

EXAMPLE 3: During the process of cutting, the Cutter has **some** cows in front of them. After clearly committing to one of these cows, the cow they committed to turns and runs past the turnback horses and the other cow(s) remain. The Cutter:

- (A) stops their horse and returns to the herd to make another cut.
 (B) positions their horse and waits for the remaining cow(s) and begins to work.
 (C) holds their horse and waits for their original cow to be returned to the working area and then begins to work this cow.

RULING:

- (A), (B) and (C) No penalty

NOTE: A Cutter may legally quit a cow under any circumstances so long as the cow is behind both turnback horses (provided the turnback horses are behind the timeline) or the cow has left the working area. At that point in time, the Cutter may begin to work any cow in front of them or return to the herd and select another cow. The timeline will be visibly marked.

NOTE: Allow the Cutter to handle his/her horse enough to clear the cow that they selected to cut. In the application of this rule, the term “clear” means far enough out from the body of the herd that the Cutter has a reasonable opportunity to begin working and that all other cattle are at least behind their horse’s buttocks.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Kathleen Moore to approve this change to Judging Rule #15 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 16

Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. All bridles on horses must have split reins. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal, and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. Braided rawhide balls across the horse’s nose are not permissible. A judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse’s nose. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse’s neck, nose, or brow band, quirt, bat, or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where an NCHA approved or sponsored event is being held. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible. Leather curb straps or curb chains must be at least 3/8 of an inch in width and must be attached to the bit by nylon string, nylon straps, or leather straps. Decorative knots, rawhide balls or tassels are not permitted on curb devices. Breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse’s neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal. Chaps and spurs may be worn. A competing horse’s tail cannot be tied in any manner which would restrict movement of the tail. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to them if they are suspicious of any infraction of this rule and Standing Rule 35.A.1 – Zero Tolerance Policy. Any time a non-competing rider is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, they must be reported to the Executive Director (see section h below).

- a.** Any person horseback in the arena (both in and outside the working area) after the start of an NCHA approved event or NCHA sponsored event must wear western attire. *Western attire is defined as: western hat, western boots with heels, western pants, jeans, or long pants intended for riding.* long sleeved shirts with sleeves rolled down, collars, and buttons or snaps completely down the shirt front. The hat requirement may be waived, both in and outside of the working area of the arena, at outdoor shows in extreme weather conditions with the consent of both show management and the judge(s). Tank tops, T-shirts, and all types of sweatshirts are not permissible. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Under the advance approval of show management, safety helmets are permissible in place of a western hat. Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of Show Management and NCHA Directors.
- b.** Cell phone use will not be allowed by herd settler at any time, or the four helpers when the judges are in the stands. Judges are not allowed to use their cell phone while in the judges' stand.
- c.** Rule 16 shall become effective one (1) hour prior to the published starting time and shall remain in effect until one hour after each day's performance is concluded at all NCHA approved *shows/events*. An announcement will be made each day when the rule goes into effect, but not hearing the announcement will not be a valid excuse for violating the rule. Alleged violations will be sent to the Grievance Committee for review.
- d.** Rule 16 may be set aside by show management for an official practice session provided that the practice session ends at least one hour prior to the start of any performance.
- e.** Contestants are limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers on horseback at a time.
- f.** Any member seeking approval to use an electronic hearing device during an NCHA approved contest must meet or exceed the minimum criteria for hearing impairment, based on the results of an audiogram administered by a licensed physician.
1. A letter requesting the use of an electronic hearing device must be submitted to NCHA, along with the member's audiogram results.
 2. The transmitter of the device must be one of the contestant's four (4) helpers.
 3. The user of an electronic hearing device can be required to be tested by an NCHA if a complaint or protest arises in connection with the user's degree of hearing impairment.
- g.** Violations of Rule 16 a, b, c, d, e, and f, shall result in:
1. First offense—\$200 fine.
 2. Second offense—\$500 fine.
 3. Third and subsequent offenses within 12 months - 90-day suspension.
- h.** *Those responsible for reporting violations of this rule to the Executive Director include, but are not limited to, show management, NCHA Directors, officers, and the judges.*

EXAMPLE 1: During a work, the judge suspects that the hackamore is too tight.

RULING: At the completion of the work, the judge shall examine the hackamore. If the judge can pass two fingers completely around the horse's nose under the hackamore, no penalty. If the hackamore is, in fact, illegal, the Cutter *will* be disqualified.

EXAMPLE 2: During a work, the judge suspects that a training device is being used.

RULING: At the completion of the work, the judge shall examine the Cutter's *equipment*. If any equipment is found to be illegal, the Cutter *will* be disqualified.

NOTE: In the event a contestant is disqualified for illegal equipment, it is the responsibility of the judge to report the incident to the judging department.

NOTE: In the event a rider's equipment breaks during a horse's performance, the horse will be permitted to complete its allotted time and shall be scored in accordance with the other NCHA Rules for Judging Cutting Horses. *Any Judge has the sole right to terminate a run. A judge must terminate the run when human safety or animal welfare is at risk.* (Reruns shall not be granted for equipment failure.)

EXAMPLE 3: During a work, the judge suspects the contestant isn't wearing western attire.

RULING: *At the completion of the work, the judge shall examine the Cutter's attire. If the rider's attire is not western attire the Cutter will be disqualified.*

An AMENDED MOTION was made by David Costello and SECONDED by Kirby Smith to approve the change with the highlighted amendment for Judging Rule #16 to the show attire required as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 17

*When a contestant is thrown from a horse, **dismounts from a horse**, or the horse falls to the ground, the run shall be terminated, and no score (0) will be given.*

NOTE: ~~*Any judge has the sole right to terminate a run. A judge must terminate the run when human safety or animal welfare is at risk.*~~ **If in the judge's opinion human safety or animal welfare is at risk, the judge must terminate the run.**

EXAMPLE 1: *While in the process of cutting or working a cow,*

(A) the Cutter falls from their horse

*(B) the Cutter **dismounts from their horse***

(C) the Cutter's horse falls to the ground

(D) the horse starts to lie down with its legs underneath itself, but the horse is not on its side with all four feet extended in the same direction.

RULING:

(A), (B), and (C) The judge shall stop the run and score the run zero (0).

(D) No penalty but run content may be reduced in herd work depending upon the effort it takes to get the horse back to its feet.

NOTE: *A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.*

A MOTION was made by Kathleen Moore and SECONDED by Steve Smith to approve this change to Judging Rule #17 with the highlighted changes in coordination with the amended language changes in Judging Rule #19 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 18

*Any rider who allows their horse to quit working, leaves the working area before their allotted time is up or refuses to work **will be scored zero (0)**.*

EXAMPLE 1: *The Cutter loses a cow and decides to retire from the herd and rides out, or stops working, (does not attempt to cut or reenter the herd) before the end of his/her time.*

RULING: *The run shall be scored zero (0).*

A MOTION was made by Kathleen Moore and SECONDED by Tommy Williams to approve this change to Judging Rule #18 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 19

*A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if, in the judge or judges' opinion, 2 1/2 minutes time was not allotted for the work or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those caused by the contestant. This rule does not apply to cattle scattering due to natural wildness or normal arena activities. **This rule also does not apply to disturbances caused by herd help under normal working conditions.***

Definition of Disturbance: *A disturbance is any departure from normal, including commotion or disorder.*

Note: *Any judge has the sole right to terminate a run and grant or deny a rerun. A judge must terminate the run when human safety or animal welfare is at risk.*

No rework shall be granted if the contestant involved has incurred a three (3) or five (5) point (major) penalty prior to a disturbance. *If the judge(s) did not terminate the run, and the cutter has completed their 2 ½ minutes work, if in their opinion a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness to warrant a rerun, they may immediately make a request for the same to the designated judge or judges who shall report this fact to show management before the next horse is called to work. Show management shall make such facts as are available known to the judge(s) and if the majority agree that due cause did exist a rerun may be granted provided the original work was free of a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) infraction prior to the disturbance. If a rework is granted, the rework may occur immediately or as the last work in that set of cattle at the contestant's option.*

EXAMPLE 1: In a contest using two or more judges, a judge terminates a run for the purpose of granting a rerun. The other judge(s) do not agree that the run should have been stopped.

RULING:

- (A) If two (2) judges are being used, a rerun will be granted.
- (B) If three or more judges are used and a majority of the judges *have* assessed a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) penalty before the time was stopped, no rerun will be granted.

EXAMPLE 2: While the Cutter is working, a judge falls out of the judging stand, the judging stand collapses, or the stand over-turns. At the time of the disturbance,

- (A) the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- (B) the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction *prior to* the disturbance.

RULING:

- (A) the judge shall *terminate* the run and grant a rerun.
- (B) the judge shall *terminate* the run, *and the Cutter shall receive a score of zero (0).*

Short Clock: A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if the run was free of a major penalty at the sound of the buzzer or time was called. *If the run begins but the clock has not started, a rework will automatically be granted.*

EXAMPLE 1: The buzzer sounds ending a run. In the judge(s) opinion, the Cutter worked for less than 21/2 minutes.

- (A) At the time the buzzer sounded, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction *by the judge or majority of judges.*
- (B) Before the buzzer sounded, the judge *or the majority of judges* had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

RULING:

- (A) the judge(s) shall grant a rerun.
- (B) no rerun shall be granted, and the Cutter shall receive a score of zero (0).

Long Clock or No Clock: A rework will be automatically granted whether a major penalty has occurred *or not*. The contestant must take a rework.

EXAMPLE 1: While the Cutter is working, it becomes apparent to the Judge(s) that they have worked longer than 21/2 minutes.

- (A) The run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction when the judge(s) realized that the Cutter had worked for longer than 21/2 minutes.
- (B) The judge(s) had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty *after* the Cutter had worked for longer than 21/2 minutes.

RULING:

- (A) and (B) the judge(s) shall grant a rerun.

NOTE: *It would be difficult to determine in some instances whether the major infraction occurred before or after the actual 2 1/2 minutes had expired; therefore, in this instance only, the Cutter shall receive a rerun.*

IMPORTANT NOTE TO SECRETARIES AND TIMERS:

Any judge has the sole right to terminate a work prior to the 2 1/2-minute buzzer. The Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s) immediately if the clock has not been started or malfunctions.

Amendment to Rule 19:

In the event that a contestant's herd help becomes separated from their horse—regardless of whether a disturbance to the run occurs—the judge is required to blow the whistle and terminate the run for safety reasons. At this point, a re-work may be granted. Any run in which a contestant's herd help becomes separated from their horse will be automatically reviewed by the Director of Judges for authenticity. If the Director of Judges deems that a situation has occurred that was not an authentic separation of a rider from their horse he will turn this over to the Grievance committee for possible fines and suspension.

AMENDED REVISION

(This business was requested of JRC on 7.28.25 and conducted electronically via email.)

JUDGING RULE 19

A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if, in the judge or judges' opinion, 2 1/2 minutes time was not allotted for the work or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those caused by the contestant. This rule does not apply to cattle scattering due to wildness or normal arena activities. This rule also does not apply to disturbances caused by the contestants help under normal working conditions.

Definition of Disturbance: *A disturbance is any departure from normal, including commotion or disorder.*

Option 1: *would be to keep the current verbiage passed at convention as it is shown in red.*

*Note: Any judge has the sole right to terminate a run and grant or deny a rerun. **A judge must terminate the run when human safety or animal welfare is at risk.** Any run in which a contestant's help becomes separated from their horse will be automatically reviewed by the Director of Judges for authenticity. If the Director of Judges deems that a situation has occurred that was not an authentic separation of a rider from their horse, he will turn this over to the Grievance committee for possible fines and suspension.*

Option 2: would be to change the verbiage to the following in red

Note: Any judge has the sole right to terminate a run and grant or deny a rerun. **If in the judge's opinion human safety or animal welfare is at risk, the judge must terminate the run.** Any run in which a contestant's help becomes separated from their horse will be automatically reviewed by the Director of Judges for authenticity. If the Director of Judges deems that a situation has occurred that was not an authentic separation of a rider from their horse, he will turn this over to the Grievance committee for possible fines and suspension.

The voting members of the Judges Rules Committee were unanimously in favor of the revisions presented in Option #2.

The Executive Committee made a MOTION by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by David Costello to approve the amended revision (Option #2) which was unanimously supported by members of the Judges Rules Committee and presented as such for a change to Judging Rule #19. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 20

A judge marks from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (1/2) points are permissible.

EXAMPLE: The first horse in a contest works. The judge cannot decide whether to mark the run a 73 or 74. The judge decides to mark the run 73 1/2.

RULING: Legal. The judge may mark any run they choose using one-half (1/2) points: however, the reason for the one-half (1/2) point is to allow the judge to differentiate between runs. It is, therefore, not desirable to begin one's scorecard with a one-half (1/2) point marking.

NOTE: Judges are encouraged to use a full spread of scores in judging a contest. **It is important for a judge to recognize the level of competition being judged. It is equally important for a judge to** assess a high enough point value to those good runs that occur early in the contest. By using a full spread of scores, the remaining horses in the contest are more likely to place in the positions earned by their performance.

A MOTION was made by Phil Benadum and SECONDED by Byron Green to approve this change to Judging Rule #20 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

JUDGING RULE 21

When the judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit always goes to the contestant.

EXAMPLES 1. The Cutter is working and quits a cow.

(A) The judge is not certain whether the quit was illegal.

(B) The judge is certain that the quit was illegal.

RULING:

(A) **No penalty, benefit of doubt goes to the cutter**

(B) **Assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13).**

NOTE: A judge is duty-bound to call all penalties. If a penalty occurs, call it. If the judge must ask themselves, "Was that a penalty?" the benefit goes to the Cutter. **Judges should look for credit earning opportunities.** A judge can determine the difference in cutting runs by following these guidelines.

RUN CONTENT:

Guideline for Evaluating a Work:

Runs are scored from (60-80) based on an analysis of what occurs during the work. Run Content is a numerical value, minus penalties which equals the score. The judge will start judging each horse when the Cutter's time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of (70). The run will conclude at the first sound of the buzzer. The Cutter's run content will be based upon compliance with credit **earning opportunities** and 1-point penalties. Run content may be decreased without occurrence of a penalty and 1-point penalties can be overcome if more credit is earned. **One** (1)-point penalties will be deducted on a cow-by-cow basis. Occurrence of major penalties will only be deducted at the conclusion of the run. Judge the 1st cow and give a value consistent with run content minus 1-point penalties (this is the value of your 1st cow score). Judge the 2nd cow and give a value consistent with run content minus 1-point penalties (this is the value of your 2nd cow score). If only 2 cows are worked the judge will average the 2 cow scores to determine final value of the run. If the cutter cuts a 3rd cow the judge will use common sense and run content to decide how much to increase or decrease the value of the run. **After each cow**, the judge should be able to ascribe a numerical value based on the above standard.

EXAMPLE 1: Based on run content and 1-point penalties, the judge has a value of 74 on the 1st cow and a value of 70 on the 2nd cow. The value of the run at the conclusion of the second cow will be a 72. If the cutter cuts a third cow the judge will use common sense and run content to decide how much to increase or decrease the value of the run.

EXAMPLE 2: The Cutter has a run that in the judge's opinion has an original point value of 73. Just prior to the buzzer sounding, the Cutter lost a cow.

RULING: Subtract a five (5) point penalty from the original point value. $73 - 5 = 68$

Degree of Difficulty:

Degree of difficulty is determined by the amount of effort exerted by the cow in its attempt to return to the herd. A cow that turns quickly and moves rapidly is more difficult to hold in a working position than a cow that turns and moves slowly. A judge must give credit when a Cutter is able to **maintain a working advantage** on a tough cow.

NOTE: The judge should consider if the cutter has maintained its working advantage on a difficult cow or if the cutter has not maintained its working advantage therefore creating their own difficulty.

Eye Appeal:

Runs that are attractive because of the style of the horse and the correctness of the overall performance shall receive credit.

Amount of Courage:

A judge should give credit for a Cutter who demonstrates courage by:

- (A) Staying on a tough cow **and not quitting at the first opportunity.**
- (B) **Releasing their horse early on the cut (the opposite of holding on too long)**
- (C) **Above average working time**
- (D) **Use common sense to apply this rule**

NOTE: Coming off the fence to set up a cow in the center of the arena before quitting, staying on a tough cow and working longer than average are high risk situations. If a rule infraction occurs

in these situations, a judge must call it; therefore, the Cutter who shows this type of courage and commits no rule infractions, shall receive credit.

Time Worked:

*Consider the amount of time that the Cutter spends working a cow during the 21/2-minute run. A Cutter shall be rewarded credit for his/her working time. Stalling in the herd or reluctance to cut a cow to allow time to run off the clock shall have a negative influence on **working time and courage**.*

NOTE:

- (A) 45 seconds of working time is required and considered average*
- (B) 50 to 60 seconds of working time is above average and should be rewarded*
- (C) 60 second and above is exceptional, a minimum of one (1) point should be added to the total value of the run*

EXAMPLE 1: *The Cutter works two cows and is attempting to cut their third cow when the buzzer sounds.*

RULING: *The Cutter may work any number of cattle that they choose.*

NOTE: *No penalty exists for “dying in the herd.” The judge shall, however, always consider the amount of time spent working when marking a run.*

Horse Charging – *While working, the cutter’s horse consistently applies pressure on the cow being worked, either through their turnarounds or while traveling across the arena; thereby forcing the cow being worked further away from the herd until they no longer have a working advantage. A horse charging certainly detracts from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.*

Force off a Cow – *Any time a contestant must quit a cow because their horse is in an incorrect working position. Being forced off a cow detracts from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.*

Herd Help -- *A herd holder’s duty is to assist the Cutter in containing the herd and group of cattle the Cutter is trying to cut from. This gives the Cutter ample opportunity to demonstrate to the judge their ability to work the herd, drive a cow, and set a cow up in the middle of the pen. These conditions allow a judge to reward credit to the Cutter under Rules 1, 2 and 4. After assisting the Cutter in making a cut, the herd holder should move to a position toward the arena wall that will enable them to contain the herd but not distract from the run. Any excessive action by the herd holder will be dealt with as a reduction in run content. Although there is no specific major penalty for this action, it does hinder the Cutter’s horse from showing their full potential. Therefore, judges will begin reducing run content when excessive help from herd holders affect the run, such as saving a major penalty from occurring, cutting the pen down, and in fresh cattle, driving the herd out for the Cutter to cut from. Herd holders should keep in mind they are jeopardizing the Cutter’s score when they give too much assistance to the Cutter.*

EXAMPLE 1. *The Cutter enters the herd, one or both herd holders get behind the cattle so that it is obvious to the judge that the herd holders are doing as much or more to drive the cattle out **than** the cutter is*
(A) in rerun cattle

(B) in fresh cattle

RULING:

- (A) No reduction of run content. *Credit will be given to the Cutter who does not need assistance.*
- (B) Run content will be reduced.

EXAMPLE 2. After the cut is made the herd holder

(A) is sitting in the corner. As the Cutter and cow approach the corner, the herd holder remains in position *and has no influence on the cow*

(B) does not move their horse to a position on the arena wall but stops in a position several feet off the wall. The herd holder is not moving but it is obvious to the judge that the cow being worked is being influenced by the presence of the herd holder's horse.

(C) comes out of the corner in an obvious attempt to stop or turn the cow.

RULING:

- (A) No reduction in run content.
- (B) and (C) Run content of the run will be reduced *based on the judge's opinion of what occurred.*

EXAMPLE 3. As the Cutter leaves the arena wall with a cow, the herd holder on the opposite side believes the Cutter's path may cause the herd to split. They ride their horse out into the arena to a position that will prevent this from happening.

RULING: No reduction in run content. The herd holder has the right to position themselves so that the herd will not scatter.

EXAMPLE 4. The Cutter has worked a cow and needs to get off. The cow is obviously not going to turn away without some assistance. The Cutter

(A) has maintained a *working advantage* as the cow approaches the side. The herd holder moves their horse up to turn the cow away.

(B) has not maintained a *working advantage* as the cow approaches the side. The herd holder moves their horse up to turn the cow away

RULING:

- (A) No reduction in run content.
- (B) *Run content will be reduced.*

EXAMPLE 5. After a miss, it is obvious to the judge that the Cutter is about to lose or back fence a cow. The herd holder moves their horse to prevent this from happening.

RULING: Assess a one (1) point penalty for the miss (Rule 11) and run content should be *affected greatly if this action saved a major penalty.*

Penalties:

- (a) 1 point—(miss) losing working advantage (11)
- (b) 1 point—reined or visibly cued (8)
- (c) 1 point—noise directed to cattle (5a)
- (d) 1 point—toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder (8d)
- (e) 1 point—hold on too long on a cut(8a)
- (f) 1 point—working out of position
- (g) 1 point—hand too far forward
- (a) 3 points—hot quit (13)

- (b) 3 points—cattle picked up or scattered (5b)
 - (c) 3 points—second hand on reins (8b)
 - (d) 3 points—cue in shoulder (8c)
 - (e) 3 points—pawing or biting cattle (12)
 - (f) 3 points—failure to make a deep cut (1)
 - (g) 3 points—back fence (6)
 - (a) 5 points—horse quitting a cow (14)
 - (b) 5 points—losing a cow (9)
 - (c) 5 points—changing cattle after a specific commitment (10)
 - (d) 5 points—failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd (15)
 - (t) 5 points—turn tail (7)
 - 0—if a contestant is thrown from a horse or the horse falls to ground (17)
- Disqualification (score 0)—illegal equipment, or leaves working area before time expires.

A MOTION was made by Byron Green and SECONDED by Kathleen Moore to approve this change to Judging Rule #21 as presented. MOTION PASSED.

Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System “AMS”

The Adjusted Monitor System (AMS) is a system that has been designed to make judging equally fair for each contestant. The AMS is required to be used with **the five-judge system** and may be used in a **three-judge system**. In the five-judge system, the high and low scores will be discarded.

NOTE: Under this system, only the total combined scores, after throwing out the high and low, will be displayed to the public by a scoreboard, not visible to the judges. Scores should not be announced.

1. The monitor(s) will have full use of video equipment, including video replay, slow motion, and wide angle or overhead film to determine each infraction in question.
2. Scores of 195 and below, in a go round, will not be reviewed.
3. In the finals, only scores of 181 and higher will be reviewed or adjusted
4. Scores are official one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of a go-round or class. In a final, scores are official one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of that final or before the first awards for that final are given, whichever comes first.
5. Show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.

Monitor Guidelines

1. First and foremost, the monitor is not the judge, but is there in the capacity to monitor and make rulings on major penalty discrepancies, based on reviewing film and using the “NCHA Judging Casebook of Rules and Regulations for Judging Cutting Horse Contests.”
2. Monitor(s) may talk to contestants and owners about a particular run or penalty provided the Director of Judges **approves it** and a designated liaison is present.
3. In finals only, in a case where a R is either placed on the scoreboard or announced by error (when all 5 judges have called the same penalty), the monitor will contact contestant to make them aware of the error.
4. Monitor(s) **have** the authority to educate a judge after **the judge has made** their decision on a **penalty** and signed their penalty slip.
5. If a monitor finds a penalty to be ruled inconclusive due to video evidence; the run will not be reviewed by a judge or judges. If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.
6. If there are no discrepancies on the judges’ cards, the run will not be reviewed, except for the evaluation **and education** of **the judge(s)**.

7. The monitor(s) will not review one-point penalties; however, they may review any run with a judge **for education** where there **are** clear misapplications of obvious one-point penalties.

Procedure of the monitor:

1. The monitor(s) will deal only with three (3) and five (5) point penalty discrepancies in the judge's cards. In the event the judges are split on a particular penalty, then the **run** is reviewed on **video**, and is then ruled on by applying the "Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Shows" found in the NCHA Rule Book.
2. If the monitor(s) are in full agreement that the rule in question was violated or not violated, then the judge(s) in error will be asked to the monitor room **and shown the penalty in question**. All reviews with judges will be audio recorded.
3. The judge can change their score or leave their score as originally marked. In no way is the judge intimidated or encouraged into changing their score. The judge can see the situation as many times as they wish, and if they request any clarification of the rule in question, then it is given to them from the Rule Book and casebook examples.
4. If the judge wishes to change their score, an affidavit is signed by the judge signifying the penalty, and the score is adjusted by the amount of that penalty.

EXAMPLE:

Go Round _____ Group of Cattle
 I wish to change from a _____ to a
 Horse's Name:
 three-point penalty five-point penalty
 Signature
 Date

NOTE: If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one-point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty.

5. The monitor(s) will fill out an AMS Penalty Analysis Sheet to document changes made to an adjusted score.
6. The monitor(s) will fill out a **NO Action Sheet** to document when no changes have been made.

SEE END OF JUDGES DEPARTMENT SECTION FOR ACTIONS TAKEN ON JUDGING SYSTEMS CHANGES PROPOSED.

Guidelines for (Self-Adjusted Monitor System) SAMS

1. All NCHA Championship Shows must use SAMS It is imperative that the system be announced prior to the start of the show.
2. There will be no adjustment to the following:
 - (a) No change in run content or one (1) point penalties.
 - (b) No review of any run not reported to the announcer **as a review** at the time the judge calls in their score.
3. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or a five (5) point penalty **has been called for a review**.

EXAMPLE: At the completion of the run the judges value of the run is a 74 with a review on a (3) point penalty (rule 13).

- (a) The judge must document the penalty in the appropriate penalty box and circle it. Then write their score as 74R and circle it.
- (b) The judge will report the score as follows to the announcer: "74R"
- (c) The announcer must announce "74R" for the review to be valid, and this announcement must be made when the run is complete and before the next run takes place. It is the judge's responsibility to be sure the call indicating the "R" is announced.

The score on their card would appear as this:

(d) After the review, if the judge's opinion is the penalty is not valid, he/she would leave the original mark for the horse and initial both the score and the reviewed penalty. They do not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.

(e) After the review, if the judge's opinion is the penalty is valid, he/she would write the new score next to the original score and initial the new score and the reviewed penalty. They do not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.

(f) All reviews should be made during a cattle change. A judge must resolve all reviews in a particular class before moving on to the next class. However, if the next class occurs without a cattle change (i.e., consecutive classes held in the same herd example: Junior Youth followed by Senior Youth), the judge must wait until the next cattle change to conduct any/all reviews.

(g) The announcer will make the following statement:

Horse #19, Docs Tommy, has a score of 74 (if no adjustment) or 71 if adjusted."

Attention Show Management: *For the judge to use the Self-Adjusted Monitor System you must provide an isolated location for the judge to review the runs in question. The room is to include a good-sized TV and AV equipment to play the video. Under no condition is a judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants or other judges.*

Rules of Thumb:

- 1. Do not dwell on the call. After three reruns of the same penalty the judge should have a working knowledge and basis in fact for a decision.*
- 2. Rule 21 is in the Rule Book to determine in favor of the cutter if a penalty situation does not have an absolute conclusion. However, it is important that Rule 21 is used as an aid, not a crutch.*
- 3. If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.*

Multiple Judged System

- 1. Two or three judges—one uses the "R", and the other(s) did not:*

The judge(s) marking the "R" will review the situation first. If the judge(s) do not change their score, the other judge(s) will not be required to look at the run. If the judge(s) change the score, then the other judge(s) will be required to review the situation. If the decision of the judge that called the "R" results in the difference of a major penalty between the judges; the other judge (s) will be required to review the situation. This should be done totally separate with no communication between the judges during the reviews.

- 2. Two or three judges—no "R" is called:*

The judge with the highest rating and most credits has the responsibility to communicate with the show secretary to review each judge's score card to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points) to be reviewed.

Guidelines for Weekend Monitors for US, Canadian and European Judges

- 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) and judges' sheets.*
- 4. A Judge is required to mail a copy of the judge sheets and video to the assigned field Monitor no later than the Wednesday after the conclusion of a non-monitored event.*
- 5. Judges are required to be available for communication with the respective Field Monitor for a minimum of fourteen days from end of a show. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Weekend Field Monitor Program will result in:*

1st offense - letter of reprimand

2nd offense - \$100 fine

3rd offense - \$300 fine

4th offense - removal from the NCHA Judges List

However, all disciplinary actions listed in this rule are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his/her sole discretion, based on the severity of the incident in question.

Judge Challenge System

The Challenge System is to be used at all LAE monitored events. The Challenge system gives a contestant the opportunity to challenge a judging decision. When all five judges call the same major penalty, the contestant can request a review on their run. Only the contestant can challenge their own run. The challenge cost is \$1,000 and must be submitted *with a completed Challenge form and payment to the show management no later than one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of a go-round or class.* In the event the challenge is for a score from a final, the challenge must be submitted to show management *no later than one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of that final or before the first awards for that final are given, whichever comes first.* If the challenge is *upheld*, then the contestant will be refunded their \$1,000. If it is not, and the judges leave their original ruling, then the NCHA will retain the \$1,000. If the contestant's score is changed by the judges and is high enough to advance to the next go-round it will advance and work in its pre-drawn position *or be drawn in as an A draw.* The extra horse will be added into that round, but the bubble score required to advance to the next round will never be changed. *The challenged penalty is reviewed on film. If the monitor(s) are in full agreement that the rule in question was not violated, then all five judges will review the penalty separately.*

Each judge has the opportunity to change their score or leave their score as originally marked. If the contestant's score is changed by the judges in a final, placings will be adjusted accordingly. Once the scores are adjusted and verified, show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.

The Challenge Form is available on the NCHA website, nchacutting.com in the Judges Section and on the Forms page.

A MOTION was made by David Costello and SECONDED by Ora Diehl to approve all clarification changes to the AMS, SAMS and Judge Challenge Systems as presented. MOTION PASSED.

ALL JUDGING RULE CHANGES APPROVED at this EC Meeting (1-21 and Judging Systems) will be effective for the 2026 point year.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – ROCK HEDLUND

Grievance Committee Chair Rock Hedlund joined the meeting virtually to report recommendations to the Executive Committee from his committee.

Reduction in Cases

The number of grievance cases has decreased over the past couple of years due to the standard notifications letter format being distributed for alleged rule violations.

Publishing the Probation/Suspension List

Hedlund emphasized the importance of publishing the probation/suspension list as part of the disciplinary actions taken with any sanctions issued. At the very least, the show secretaries should be proxy to this information accordingly.

The NCHA agreed to distribute this list each month with the show secretaries' newsletter and the list will continue to be published in the Cutting Horse Chatter.

STALLION OWNERS AND BREEDERS COMMITTEE – ROCK HEDLUND

Chair of Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee Rock Hedlund joined the meeting virtually and addressed the Executive Committee with updates from his committee. NCHA Manager of the Stallion Foal Program Allison Walker also joined the meeting virtually during the presentation to the Executive Committee.

Stallion Foal Incentive Policies

Hedlund reported that the committee has completed their updates to the Stallion Foal Incentive (Rules, Policies and Procedures) and would like the Executive Committee to consider its approval. These changes have been reviewed by NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris. With the implementation of these rules, it will allow NCHA to help monitor those stallions that are falsely advertising and are not subscribed to the program.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to adopt proposed changes to the Stallion Foal Incentive (Rules, Policies and Procedures) with implementation by November 1st, 2025. **MOTION PASSED.**

Effective November 1st, check out the latest updates to the Stallion Foal Incentive Program (Rules, Policies and Procedures) which can be found using the following link: <https://nchacutting.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/stallion-foal-rules.pdf>.

Continued Support for Stallion Booth at Futurity

The Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee is requesting consideration of \$10K again this year to continue these efforts. It was suggested to have this amount placed in the budget for FY2026.

Hedlund closed with his appreciation for Allison Walker and her assistance with managing this program, Walker has made significant strides to turn this program around and benefit the subscribers.

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT UPDATES – JULIE DAVIS

NCHA Director of Membership Julie Davis reported on the current membership status of the association highlighting some recommendations and changes for her department.

Membership Report August 2025

2024 vs 2025

- June 2024 11,609- June 2025 11,210
- 2024 Free 2032 - 2025 Free to date 331
- 2024 Year End Membership 12,897

2025 to date

- Membership cost increase to \$135 accepted with very little complaint
- New Member Call program launched with Growth & Development
 - Call list to assigned Director/Committee Member
 - Online program tracks completed calls to measure success of program
 - Over 150 calls have been made so far in 2025, most of them captured in call program.
 - Members that have received the calls are very grateful
- Complimentary Membership Offer to Directors, Affiliates and Show Producers.
 - Eliminated free membership to all in an effort to offer free membership specific target areas.
 - Introduced and launched at 2025 Convention
 - Eblast to Affiliates, Show Producers and Directors offering the complimentary cards for person to person contact with instruction to request complimentary cards from office. Some have taken advantage of this program.

2026

- Early renewal discount for 2026
 - Discount Offer Oct 1- Dec 25, 2025 – membership \$100
 - Dec 26, 2025, forward membership \$135
- Launch 3 year membership offer, members asked, we are delivering
 - Discount Offer Oct 1 - Dec 25, 2025 – membership \$300, saving \$105
 - Dec 26, 2025, forward - membership \$360, saving \$45

Communication

- Membership department in line with other departments strive too frequently communicate and offer resources to members.
- Membership Renewals online and mailed
- Membership Focused Communication
 - Email - Welcome to NCHA
 - Email - We Miss You
 - Email - Amateur vs. Non-Pro What's the Difference
- Medication Rule 35 Communication
 - Eblast to all members
 - Insert with Back Numbers for riders/owners at NCHA Produced Shows
 - Signage placed at show in stall/barn areas relating to medication/injectables
- Award Focused Communication
 - Website / Eblast - Local Show and Award Qualification Pyramid
 - Website / Eblast - (coming soon) Calculating Hall of Fame / other Award earnings

Department Update

- Continued service to Amateur, Non-Pro, Trainers, Youth, Owners and Fans related to membership, rider status, communication, and Chatter.
- Day-to-day operations going smoothly
- Significant improvements with Hub and processing thanks to IT
- Committee Liaisons for multiple committees

What we need?

- Appeal to the 25-35 year old age group.
- Continued exposure of cutting.
- New Demographic Survey to show the strength of the members (budget).

Summary

- Although numbers look slightly down mid-year, base membership is actually up.
- Overall membership is good; members are happy and showing.

MONTH/YEAR END MEMBERSHIP REPORT June 2025

Total 11210
Life(Non Youth) 3005
Reg/Annual 6654
Youth 787
Business 662
Affiliate 82
Comp 20

New Members 873
Trainers 818
Am/Non-Pro 4891
Non-Pro Only 804

Free Regular Members 331
Free Youth Members 59
Total Free Members 390

Free Prior Year 2270
Free Renewals 751
Free Renewals/Free Prior Yr 33.08%

Age	Count	%
0-18	781	7.72%
19-29	781	7.72%
30-39	928	9.17%
40-49	1123	11.10%
50-59	1391	13.75%
60-69	2089	20.65%
70+	2329	23.02%

The membership department is collaborating efforts in a variety of ways for instance calling new members with the Growth and Development Committee, issuing complimentary membership business cards to the Affiliates to distribute, enhanced communications to members, and reaching out to those members who haven't renewed with a "We Miss You" email.

Davis reported that the membership department is recommending to eliminate the grace period to renew your membership which is currently offered until March 1st of the following year.

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Steve Smith to eliminate the membership renewal grace period, effective immediately. The NCHA annual membership period will now end December 27th each year. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee tasked Julie Davis with pulling membership numbers from before/after the National Circuit Program was initiated for a comparison.

NON-PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE – DAVID BOOTH

Chair of Non-Professional Committee David Booth addressed the Executive Committee with updates from his committee.

Recommend to the Executive Committee to **leave** the Non-Pro advancing formula as is resulting in maintaining the greater purse.

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Non-Professional Committee for further research.

Recommend to the Executive Committee to **eliminate** the \$250,000 cap for Non-Pros showing in the Open.

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Non-Professional Committee for further research.

Recommend to the Executive Committee to support the class restructure concept of going to all money. The non-pro committee established a sub-committee including Sherry Graham, Ryder Carpenter, Michelle Cowan, David Booth, Mary Ann Rapp, and Casey Green. The non-pro committee will invite at least 2 members from the Amateur committee to join the sub-committee. The committee charge will be to develop a class structure based on all money, with levels based on current needs, data, age rollback and rules. Establish pros and cons and prepare to present to other committees (Amateur/Weekend).

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Non-Professional Committee for further research.

AMATEUR COMMITTEE – BROOKE MANION

Amateur Committee Chair Brooke Manion joined the meeting in person to report updates to the Executive Committee from her committee.

Family-Owned Rule – The committee agreed to leave the original motion made at convention which is to **Recommend to the EC to leave the family rule as is**. Thad Cox made a motion and withdrew the motion. The Amateur Committee requested family related showing and trips to the herd be gathered from the 2025 Summer Spectacular, Futurity, and 2026 Super Stakes for committee review in the Spring of 2026.

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Amateur Committee for further research.

Weekend Class Caps: Original convention action was NO Action. Dawn Brehm made a motion, seconded by Thad Cox and all were in favor of making no changes to the 2LR, 15AM or 35NP and allow the weekend committee to bring forth recommendations on this item.

Amateur \$25,000 Limited Leveling Cap:

A motion was made by William Cole, seconded by Peri Suenram and all were in favor **Recommend to the EC to change the current Amateur limited cap from \$25,000 Lifetime earnings to \$25,000 Limited Age earnings only.**

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Amateur Committee for further research.

Amateur \$250,000 LAE Non-Pro Cap for Amateurs below the age of 60.

Grant Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Cooley and all were in favor to **Recommend to the EC to leave the current \$250,000 rule as is**. Collect data and review the pros and cons of any change and revisit at a later date.

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Amateur Committee for further research.

Amateur entries and horse entries in the Non-Pro – No action determined as the Amateur presence in the Non-Pro is strong according to all data received.

Recommend to the EC to increase voting participation by:

- Offering a Town Hall type meeting
- Allowing Standing Committee Members to submit questions

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation and encourage the Amateur Committee to discuss this concept with the Growth and Development Committee.

New Business: Class Structure

Original Motion made by Peri Suenram, seconded by Andrew Sligh with majority in favor with one opposed to **Recommend to the Executive Committee to leave the existing class structure as** Open, Non Pro and Amateur and advocate for it remaining, however the Amateur committee would like to be involved and a part of any and all pursuits to review and/or change the current class structure. Note: The Amateur Committee is happy and thriving with the current three-division system.

The Executive Committee made the decision to TABLE this recommendation from the Amateur Committee for further research. Proposed changes of weekend classes seem to be region specific.

WEEKEND SHOW COMMITTEE – TED SOKOL JR.

Weekend Show Committee Chair Ted Sokol Jr., joined the meeting in person to report updates to the Executive Committee from his committee.

1. **Discuss raising the limits in the \$2,000 Limit Rider, \$15,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro and \$50,000 Amateur.**
 - A motion was made by Wendy Warne to request more data for how many will be brought back to each class by changing the class limits. Second by William Stein.
This motion was rescinded by Wendy Warne and **a new motion was made to change the \$2,000 Limit Rider to \$4,000 Limit Rider, \$15,000 Amateur to \$25,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro to \$50,000 Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur to \$75,000 Amateur. Second, by Joseph Kalt. Motion carried.**

SEE ACTION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN AFFILIATE OFFICERS/ SECRETARIES COMMITTEE SECTION UNDER ITEM #2.

The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Weekend Show Committee to reevaluate the limits of the horse classes and report back to the EC at the October Meeting.

2. Discuss only allowing contestants to show at one show per day.
 - Motion made by Richard Hicks to take no action. Seconded by Wendy Warne. Motion carried.
3. Discuss \$750 added cuttings not requiring 3 cows per cutter.
 - A motion was made by John Fay to take no action. Seconded by Wendy Warne. Motion carried.

4. Discuss \$500 added cuttings with 3 horse class – address the payout.
 - The motion was made by Jason Reed to take no action and seconded by Chris Howell. Motion carried.
5. Discuss allowing Weekend Shows to offer Intermediate Open/Non-Pro classes.
 - A motion was made by Jason Reed to let the producer or affiliate decide the format of their classes. Seconded by Holly Jones. This motion was rescinded by Jason Reed. Another motion was made by Richard Hicks to take no action on this. Seconded by Chris Howell. Motion carried.
6. **Revisit Jackpot Championship shows counting for World Finals.**
 - Richard Hicks made a motion to support the Jackpot Championship Shows and to continue as they are currently structured. Seconded by Holly Jones. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee made the decision to take NO ACTION on this recommendation from the Weekend Show Committee.

7. **Discuss allowing contestants to show on a transfer.**
 - There was a motion made by Holly Jones to support the decision that the Affiliate Officers/ Secretaries Committee made to mirror the Non-Pro/Amateur transfer rule for the Open/Horse classes where the fines are issued to the new owner on the transfer report. Seconded by Richard Hicks. Motion carried.

SEE ACTION TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN AFFILIATE OFFICERS/ SECRETARIES COMMITTEE SECTION UNDER ITEM #6.

8. **Discuss allowing anyone to wear headsets at a Weekend Show, World Finals and Circuit Finals.**
 - There was a motion made by Richard Hicks to allow anyone to wear a hearing device that is astride a horse in the arena communicating with only one of the 4 helpers in the arena. Seconded by Wendy Warne. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to approve anyone to wear a hearing device that is astride a horse in the show arena communicating with only one of the four (4) helpers. **MOTION PASSED with one (1) opposition from Tommy Williams.**

9. **New Business: The Mission Statement of this committee was discussed and if the provision regarding working with World Finals sponsors was accurate. (#6)** The consensus of the committee was the committee mission statements should be reviewed and updated.

The Executive Committee made the decision to take NO ACTION on this recommendation to change the language in the Weekend Show mission statement until further review.

This committee would like to visit about not counting other associations' earnings. Only NCHA earnings to count toward eligibility.

The Executive Committee made the decision to take NO ACTION on this recommendation.

APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS COMMITTEE – COLETA ROSSON

Approved LAE Show Producers Committee Chair Coleta Rosson joined the meeting in person to report updates to the Executive Committee from her committee.

1. Choose Region 4 replacement for Chuck Smith (Resigned)
Recommend offer the position to Byron Green Motion Skip Jones second Robert Charles Brown all in favor

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to this recommendation to appoint Byron Green to represent Region 4 on the LAE Show Producers Committee due to the recent resignation. **MOTION PASSED with one (1) abstention from Byron Green.**

2. Abilene and Augusta overlap again in 2026 **

Both parties agreed on the overlap and Abilene will start a day earlier.

3. 2026 Proposed LAE show dates January-April **

Motion by Skip Jones second Kathy Cardon to approve date with the one adjustment from Abilene to start a day earlier

2026 LAE SHOW PRODUCER CALENDAR (JANUARY-APRIL)

2026 Requested	days	Added \$	2025 Requested	days	Added \$	Show Name	Show Producer	Show City	State	Secretary
Jan 1-10	10	\$191,000	Jan 3-12	10	\$161,000	Abilene Spectacular Cutting Event	Abilene Spectacular	Abilene	TX	Coleta Rosson
Jan 10-17	8	\$350,000	Jan 11-18	8	\$350.00	42nd Annual Augusta Futurity & Classic	Atlantic Coast CHA	Perry	GA	Gwen Coie
Jan 22-Feb 1	11	\$208,500	Jan 22-Feb 1	11	\$208,500	The IKE (Tunica)	Robert Charles Brown	West Monroe	LA	Della Hillerman
Feb 11-22	12	\$220,000	Feb 11-23	13	\$198,000	Arbuckle Mountain Futurity & Classic	Della Hillerman	Ardmore	OK	Della Hillerman
Feb 27-Mar 8	9	\$150,000	Mar 1-9	9	150K/135K	The "Cattlemens" Derby & Classic	Jeff Gough	Graham	TX	Donna Bachand
Feb 25-Mar 6	10		Feb 27-Mar 8	10		Eastern Nat'l Championships	NCHA	West Monroe	LA	NCHA
Mar 18-Apr 11	25		Mar 19-Apr 12			NCHA Super Stakes	NCHA	Fort Worth	TX	NCHA

The 2026 LAE Show Producers Calendar for January through April of 2026 was presented and accepted. A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by David Costello

to approve the 2026 LAE Show Producers Calendar with Abilene starting one day earlier as agreed and presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Discuss members with AED machines are not logging into the website and performing the service required to keep it current.

Information on the importance of updating no action

5. New Business

New Bond verbiage to replace and consolidate for Premier Shows task force consisting of Coleta Rosson and Kathy Cardon to rewrite and bring back to the committee.

STANDING RULE 7

Show Approvals for Limited Age Events with \$10,000 or more added.

6. Approval Criteria

e. Bond

- i. NCHA ~~may~~ **will** require any Limited Age Event approved by NCHA to provide either an acceptable bond or Irrevocable Letter of Credit covering the added money of the show plus estimated entry fees.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Ora Diehl to approve a verbiage change of the word "may" to "will" in Standing Rule 7.6.e. Bond. **MOTION PASSED.**

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – SKIP JONES

Governance Committee Chair Skip Jones joined the meeting virtually to report updates to the Executive Committee from his committee.

Bylaw Review

Chair Sharon Beach provided an update of the latest bylaw review status, recently completed and proposed by Jim Eggelston's firm. The Executive Committee's request is for the Governance Committee to review this proposal and provide comments in preparation for the presentation at the August EC Meeting.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on these bylaw revisions until further review from the Governance Committee. The Executive Committee issued a directive to clarify and cleanup the revisions presented with no changes to the governance and report back to the EC at the October meeting.

VP Mentoring/Leadership Program

Training is encouraged in the form of a leadership committee to guide new prospects for an officer position with the association. This will help develop those candidates and provide them with the opportunity to succeed as they become more familiar with the duties that position requires.

A suggested group will need to be compiled of diverse talents to lead and develop this program. There should be input from the NCHA Officers, NCHA Management and others like the Past Presidents.

Past President and Committee Member Ora Diehl stated that our Executive Director Jay Winborn has a suggested guideline that may be able to provide input or direction for this program and should be considered.

Each year the VP Selection Committee struggles to find two qualified candidates to run in the election. Not due to lack of qualifications as we have plenty of members eligible and even some overqualified, but no one wants to commit.

This past VP Election stats were shared and to confirm actual numbers, the turnout was 2566 (27.4%) of 9376 electors that participated and 792 of those votes were mailed and manually input by the third-party firm. Some suggestions were made to promote the candidates, for instance one-on-one interviews, an open forum for the membership to inquire and possibly creating a podcast platform.

In closed session, the Governance Committee made a MOTION by Buddy Westphal and SECONDED Eric Field to recommend moving forward with a VP Mentoring program. MOTION PASSED.

Past President Ora Diehl stated that she will reach out to the Executive Director Jay Winborn who mentioned a proposed scope to formulate this initiative.

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to establish a diverse AD HOC Leadership Committee to support our association's governance system. **MOTION PASSED.**

Director Emeritus Concept

Region 7 Committee Member Skip Jones presented this concept for the NCHA to consider formulating a category of Director Emeritus (DE) or Director At Large for a recognition of those members that have dedicated their time and served the association under certain criteria yet to be determined. This concept was introduced to mirror what the AQHA offers their members. Skip shared some data that was pulled by Director of Membership Julie Davis with the terms of how long members have served in a leadership role with the association. This data shared goes back in HUB to 2010. This data was just baseline to begin discussions of this concept. The individuals selected with this implemented category will be recognized in print and possibly an event.

During discussion, the consensus was to stay with the Director Emeritus term and not refer to this proposed position as an At Large Director to eliminate confusion with what was recently removed from the Executive Committee structure.

Recommendation from the committee was to look at service years as a cumulative and not consecutive number of years.

In closed session, Ora Diehl made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Buddy Westphal for the Governance Committee to form a subcommittee consisting of Dan Agnew, Buddy Westphal, Ora Diehl, and Skip Jones to research this proposed program of Director Emeritus and come up with suggested criteria to present to the Executive Committee for approval. MOTION PASSED.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Ora Diehl to encourage the committee to continue research, finalize criteria and report back to the EC at the October Meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

Committee's Restructure

Chair Sharon Beach led the discussion that the committees all have a common dilemma with members serving that do not participate at meetings or on calls. In an effort to address this concern shared a suggestion from a current NCHA member that has had experience in serving on committees for NCHA to establish and implement a committee interest online form (application) to be available year-round for members interested in serving on a committee to submit for consideration during the appointment period by the incoming President. This suggested process would be in addition to the standard solicitation that occurs at year end encouraging members interested to send in an email to the NCHA as information is collected during the annual processes in place.

It was also suggested to revisit the maximum number of committee members allotted and reevaluate the diverse structure of each committee. A suggestion might be that no more than two (2) members serve from a specific region for fair representation across the board.

Historically, the proposed standing committee list to be appointed each year is approved by the Executive Committee and reflects in the minutes prior to the annual meeting.

Discussion on this topic ended with how a chair and vice chair is elected, should it be by the committee members (current process) or possibly by the incoming President? The overall consensus had mixed reviews but a previous survey of the current standing committee chairman on a pre-convention call was in favor of the current process and that the committee members would elect those positions since they were more familiar with the level of leadership and commitment by that individual nominated to run.

Should we reevaluate the regional makeup of each region and the balance the membership counts to be compliant with Article V of the NCHA Constitution and Bylaws? This effort was made twice over the past few years and did not meet the criteria to address a change in the regional boundaries.

After much discussion in closed session, Skip Jones made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Buddy Westphal to recommend reevaluating the current standing committee appointment process and implement an online form (application) for interested members to serve and also recommend that no more than two (2) committee members be appointed from each region. MOTION PASSED.

Regional Director Application Process

This item was requested to be included on the agenda by the Executive Committee to eliminate the delay of a regional representative on the Executive Committee that NCHA was

faced with in 2024. If a current regional representative on the EC chooses to run for VP and is elected, we need to have a procedure in place to ensure that the region being vacated is represented under the normal election process.

In conclusion of the closed session, Skip Jones made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dan Agnew to take NO ACTION with the regional director application process. MOTION PASSED.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS COMMITTEE – PHIL BENADUM

Professional Trainers Committee Chair Phil Benadum reported updates to the rest of the Executive Committee members from his committee.

The meeting opened with old business, the Professional Trainer's Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics has been voted on and approved by the Professional Trainers committee during their last meeting. It was then presented to the Executive Committee and approved. The current plan is to start circulating the Code of Ethics in September when membership renewals start.

- Trainers wishing to be listed on the website must sign an agreement.

Concerns were raised about the absence of calendar space for new events. Discussion led by Cheryl Callis on scheduling and avoiding overlaps. The concept of "premier status" for events was clarified for members in attendance. Cheryl answered questions regarding schedule rules and timelines. Importance of the community's efforts to establish cutting events across the country was brought up.

- Evolution of scheduling under the NCHA's guidance.
- Introduction of a 365-day calendar to prevent scheduling conflicts.
- Specific timelines for show applications: events must be submitted months in advance.

Future Planning

- Calendar management is done well in advance in order to reserve the arenas, staff, and cattle
- Continuous collaboration among producers to accommodate potential overlaps due to unforeseen circumstances.

It was brought up to limit the Premier LAE shows to 125 horses maximum per day. This keeps the cutting fair and time efficient. The idea was brought up to mention it to the Judges Committee in the morning.

Next Steps include a follow-up on show scheduling processes in future meetings.

Horse of the Year finals were brought up for discussion. The goal is to recognize the importance of horses that are leading the cutting industry.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Ora Diehl to adjourn the EC Meeting at 5:28PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** The EC Meeting will reconvene Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 8:00AM central time.

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 6, 2025

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 7:58AM by President Barnwell Ramsey and roll call was taken.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Barnwell Ramsey, President-Elect Kathleen Moore, Vice President David Costello, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, Byron Green, Ora Diehl, Tommy Williams, and Steve Smith. Executive Committee member Casey Green was excused and not in attendance. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff were in attendance at this meeting. NCHA staff directors of respective departments were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

NCHA FOUNDATION UPDATES – JOEY MILNER/JULIA BUSWOLD

NCHA Foundation Chair Joey Milner and Executive Director Julia Buswold opened the EC meeting with some updates from the NCHA Foundation.

Youth Scholarships

Buswold presented an overview of Youth Week with the scholarships that were awarded. There was a little over \$140,000 in scholarships awarded. There were 120 scholarships awarded to the youth. One third of the youth received a scholarships (over 300 entries in and out of the arena).

Buswold demonstrated a payout scale that reflected an additional \$25K that is being recommended for the Executive Committee to approve moving forward from the NCHA towards youth scholarships.

Buswold added that there has been an increase with the youth utilizing their scholarships for continued education, accredited trade schools and even those youth taking dual credited courses in high school.

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to make a request to the Finance and Audit Committee to consider approving \$500K for a NCHA Youth

Scholarship Endowment that will sustain \$25K per year. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee inquired about the current Foundation investment account balances and how the funds serviced each of the tenants. Buswold stated that overall investments were about \$6M, of which \$1.7M in a separate account dedicated for scholarships and the balance is divided to service the other tenants of focus. Some funds are dedicated specifically to specific tenants.

As referenced in IRS policies, the NCHA Foundation exists exclusively to support the NCHA.

The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Foundation on devising a plan for extensive collaboration between the NCHA Foundation and the NCHA on combining efforts with corresponding committees, for instance, the Horse and Cattle Welfare Committee with the Animal Welfare tenant and report back to the EC after the Foundation Board Meeting scheduled in September.

Buswold continued by providing an update with specifics to each tenant of focus and the committees' efforts from the Foundation.

Youth Programming & Scholarships – Committee Chair Joey Milner

- Over \$195,000 in awarded scholarships and program support
- \$10,000 annual commitment for the next 10 years from Whitley Ranch to boost Senior Scholarship Cutting awarded scholarships to the top 3 finishing seniors.
- Three (3) year commitment in support of the Life After the Arena program
- Three (3) year commitment supporting the NCHA Cutting Clinic held annually at the National High School Finals Rodeo.

Equine Welfare – Committee Chair Lach Perks

- Home of the Dr. Glenn Blodgett Animal Welfare Fund
- \$125,000 in funding to IGNITE for Equine Athletes study
- \$25,000 to funding an arena ground study during the 2025 NCHA Super Stakes
- Dedicated to significantly increasing funding support available for equine related projects over the next 5 years.

Historical Preservation – Committee Chair Jay Winborn

- Over 75 years of cutting history are currently being processed to the digital archive
- 30,000+ items digitally archived
- We need your help to preserve our history!

Continued Education of the Sport – Committee Co-Chairs Jo Ellard/Charlie Israel

- \$100,000 committed to support cutting clinics in underserved areas. Clinics held in Pennsylvania & Germany with plans for Canada, Brazil and more to come!
- Additional support and visibility at The Run for a Million, American Performance Horseman, Priefert Junior Elite clinics, and the National High School Rodeo Finals
- Where do you want to see us next?

Past President and Executive Committee Regional Member representing Region 5 Ora Diehl personally thanked Joey Milner and Julia Buswold for their efforts in leading the NCHA

Foundation, they are instrumental to its ongoing success.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES – RIANNA STOREY

NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey briefed the Executive Committee with general updates from the Youth Department including highlights from the Summer Spectacular and the Youth Week events.

Community Involvement

- NYCHA has been involved with Priefert's Junior Elite Program in Mount Pleasant, Texas for the past three (3) years and looking forward to more.
- NCHA Cutters for Kids event was a great success at Cook Children's in Fort Worth, Texas bringing some education of our sport to the patients with some of our trainers and the VR goggles.
- NYCHA was involved with the 2025 Cowpoke Camp hosted by The Cowgirl Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. This visit also included the VP goggles and was well received.

National High School Rodeo Association

- The NCHA Cutting Clinic had 63 youth competitors and actually had to turn some away. This event was held July 12th in Rock Springs, Wyoming facilitated by clinicians Todd Gann and Rick Mowery who both did an outstanding job mentoring these participants. There are future plans to attend the 2026 National High School Rodeo Finals in Lincoln, Nebraska and the 2026 National Junior High Finals Rodeo in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

NYCHA Youth Convention (held during the Summer Spectacular)

- The NYCHA Youth Convention schedule encompassed a Family Fun Night, Life After the Arena event, a Public Speaking Contest, Youth Membership Meeting wrapped up with the NYCHA Banquet.
- NYCHA Outgoing Officers
 - NYCHA Senior President - Riley Hope Farris, Texas
 - NYCHA Senior President-Elect -Makena-Grace Newton, North Carolina
 - NYCHA Senior Vice President - Annie Kate White, Mississippi
 - NYCHA Senior Reporter - Breanna Collier, Texas
 - NYCHA Senior Secretary - Sara Hollar, Texas
- NYCHA Incoming Officers
 - NYCHA Senior President - Makena-Grace Newton, North Carolina
 - NYCHA Senior Vice President-Annie Kate White, Mississippi
 - NYCHA Senior Reporter - McKenzie Corvin, Texas
 - NYCHA Senior Secretary - Kate Roberson, Texas
 - NYCHA Senior Promotions Director - Sara Hollar, Texas
- 2025 NYCHA Holy Cow Performance Horses Youth World Champions
 - Senior Youth World Champion – Preslie Green of Perrin, Texas
 - Junior Youth World Champion – Benton Scheer of Altoona, Alabama
- 2025 NCHA Foundation Scholarship Cutting Champions
 - Senior Youth Champion – Will Bushaw of Weatherford, Texas
 - Junior Youth Champion – Zachary Corvin of Canyon, Texas

- 2025 Rafter P Construction Youth Award Winner – Aubrey Gist of Placerville, California
- 2025 NYCHA Circuit Basket Silent Auction organized by NYCHA Governance raised \$8,850.00.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – KORY POUNDS

Chair of Youth Committee Kory Pounds addressed the Executive Committee with updates from his committee. Pounds emphasized that attention needs to be focused on youth scholarships for these young members showing in the industry.

I. Review of the 2024/2025 NYCHA Changes

Year-in-Review Update (June 2024-June 2025)

1. Vice President Term Length Revised

In response to youth feedback from the December 2024 in-person membership meeting, the Committee proposed reducing the NYCHA Vice President's term from three years to one. The change received unanimous support and was approved via email vote. This adjustment will apply to future elections; current VP Annie Kate White will fulfill her original three-year term through 2027.

2. Leadership Structure Streamlined

Following a comprehensive review of officer roles, the Committee voted to eliminate the President-Elect and Treasurer positions. In their place, youth members recommended introducing a Promotions or Fundraising Officer role. Additionally, the Committee approved replacing NYCHA Area Directors with two elected Circuit Directors per circuit (totaling 32 representatives across 16 circuits) to better reflect regional structure and encourage localized engagement and fundraising.

3. Qualifications for NYCHA Senior Youth President

After gathering feedback at the 2024 Futurity and through a youth-wide survey, the Committee determined that candidates for NYCHA Senior Youth President must have at least two years of prior service as an NYCHA Senior Officer. This ensures that presidential candidates have relevant leadership experience.

4. Todd Drummond Memorial Award – Process Update

To enhance awareness and participation, the application process for the Todd Drummond Memorial Award was revised:

- The NCHA Youth Director will work with the Marketing and Show Departments to promote the award.
- Show Secretaries will be contacted before the deadline and encouraged to nominate eligible youth.

- Nominated youth are then responsible for completing and submitting their applications through the Show Secretary.

5. Governance Application Updates Approved

Updated governance applications for NYCHA Junior/Senior National Officers and Circuit Directors were introduced and approved. A key change allows officers who are unable to attend the NYCHA Convention to complete their orientation virtually.

6. Election Transparency with Simply Voting

To increase transparency in the election process, the Committee approved the use of Simply Voting, the platform currently used for NCHA elections. The \$1,000 annual cost will be covered this year through youth-led fundraising and included in future Youth budgets to support continued use. A MOTION PASSED – ensuring a secure and equitable voting process for all youth candidates.

II. New Business

NYCHA Scholarship Discussion – Reporting & Marketing

The goal is to start tracking and reporting scholarship activity from NCHA affiliates to support marketing and help grow youth membership. Highlighting scholarship opportunities available through NCHA affiliates, both nationally and locally, can create more awareness. This becomes especially useful at events like the National High School Finals Rodeo and Junior High Finals.

A social media and email campaign can help promote these efforts and bring more attention to youth involvement, at a local and national level.

Record-Keeping Proposal

Adding Scholarship Cuttings to the Weekend Show Applications would improve consistency in record-keeping going forward.

The Executive Committee agreed to task the NCHA office with implementing a check box field for youth scholarships on all show applications during approval process effective immediately. These efforts will also be coordinated with forms in the Faster Cut and Equinal programs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting into executive session to discuss an NCHA issue.

GENERAL SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting back into general session.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – SHELBY AGNEW

Growth and Development Committee Chair Shelby Agnew joined the meeting virtually to report updates to the Executive Committee from her committee.

Discussion:

The Growth and Development Committee reviewed their efforts to promote NCHA growth through new member outreach programs and discussed membership data showing both strengths and challenges in their current base. The group explored various strategies to enhance membership engagement and retention, including targeted promotional programs, recognition incentives, and improved communication channels with regional directors. The conversation ended with discussions on developing a comprehensive strategic plan for membership growth and retention, with emphasis on securing director commitment and creating achievable development goals.

Julie Davis, NCHA Director of Membership, lead the development of a comprehensive membership retention and growth plan for NCHA. Julie went over the NCHA Monday Minute (which is now NCHA Insider). Logan Lynch and Jay Winborn also went over some highlights of the recordings. On average, 700 people watch the NCHA Insider (this number grows during shows and special events).

It was brought up from the audience that Directors should be held accountable and encouraged to make phone calls to new members. Julie went into depth about the New Member welcome program that the Growth and Development committee has recently implemented. Committee members have been the ones reaching out to new members, but think it can be opened up to Directors to encourage them to stay involved and give the new members a point of contact.

Julie went over various trends in membership, mentioning a 3 year membership. Moving forward, there will not be a “grace period” because IT has worked hard to remove any delays in the process.

The idea was brought up to work with Julia Buswold to develop a grant proposal for the NCHA Foundation to fund 4 regional clinics focused on new member development. Ideas included “Climb aboard a Cutter” or similar classes to get youth or potential members started on a cutting horse.

Ideas were explored to make the NCHA website more user-friendly including restoring the search function on the NCHA website to make it easier for members to find information.

A whiteboard was used to brainstorm potential growth options. Ideas included referring so many members in order to get a free membership, creating cutter introduction clinics, sending out lifetime member pens and/or thank you notes.

Jay Winborn presented the committee and members in attendance with new "Free Membership Cards" that can be handed out at Affiliate shows or similar functions to encourage membership to those that will actually renew membership after a year. The cards can only be used once and have to be requested from Julie Davis.

A motion was made by Jim Johnson to make a subcommittee. This was seconded by Shelby Agnew. Dean suggested that Shelby head the subcommittee moving forward. She will brainstorm what other committee members to include and if they can get EC members involved.

In closing, Agnew emphasized that the key initiative at the convention meeting pushed for area director involvement by calling new members.

The Executive Committee issued a directive to Growth and Development Committee to look at forming a "Welcoming Committee" and some standards from the Board of Directors that would encompass these initiatives.

ATTENDANCE RECORDS – BARNWELL RAMSEY

President Barnwell Ramsey tasked the Regional Directors with a letter in July to provide the officers with a recap of any area directors that are not participating and/or have a series of unexcused absences on calls and/or meetings to take the appropriate actions moving forward for the association.

Convention attendance was shared and unexcused absences were discussed by each region.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting into executive session to discuss attendance violations.

GENERAL SESSION

President Barnwell Ramsey placed the meeting back into general session.

AFFILIATE OFFICERS/ SECRETARIES COMMITTEE – DEE MCLAUCHLIN

Affiliate Officers/ Secretaries Committee Chair Dee McLauchlin joined the meeting in person to report updates to the Executive Committee from her committee.

1. Youth Scholarship
 - **The Committee suggests that NCHA along with Faster Cut and Equinal include a youth scholarship spot on the show applications to indicate if the show will hold a youth scholarship or not.**

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION as this suggestion can be handled operationally by NCHA staff.

2. **Discuss change in the class limits for \$15,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, and \$2,000 Limit Rider.**
 - There was a motion made by Kathy Cardon **to establish a task force that includes 3 members from the Amateur, Non-Pro and Weekend Show Committees to look into the data for this.** Scott McKinsey seconded. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Tommy Williams to approve the Weekend Show Committee's recommendation to update class limits as follows: \$2,000 Limit Rider to \$4,000 Limit Rider, \$15,000 Amateur to \$25,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro to \$50,000 Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur to \$75,000 Amateur for implementation of the 2026 point year.
MOTION PASSED.

3. Discuss allowing Weekend shows to offer Intermediate Open/Non-Pro classes.
 - There was no discussion.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this item presented by the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries.

4. **Discuss \$750 added cuttings not requiring 3 cows per cutter.**
 - There was a motion made by Vicki Green **to change the rule to read "it is suggested that \$751 added cuttings have 3 cows per cutter". Also make this verbiage consistent for the Non-Pro.** Brooke Manion seconded. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this item presented by the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries.

5. **Discuss \$500 added cuttings with 3 horse classes – address the payout**
 - There was a motion made by Scott McKinsey **to increase the added money to \$501 and up for classes with only 3 entries to pay only the added money.** Seconded by Vicki Green. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this item presented by the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries.

6. **Discuss allowing contestants to show on transfers.**
 - There was a motion made by Kathy Cardon **to match the Non-Pro/Amateur transfer rule for the Horse classes where the fines go to the new owner on the transfer report.** Seconded by Brooke Manion. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Ora Diehl to approve the to match concept of the Amateur/Non-Pro transfer rule for the Open classes where the fines go to the new owner on the transfer report. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. Revisit Jackpot Championship shows counting for World Finals.

- There was a motion made by Scott McKinsey **to continue with the No Added Money Championship Shows.** Seconded by Dave Costello. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee took **NO ACTION** on this item presented by the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries.

8. Discuss Secretary Handbook/Mentoring Program.

- Kim made a motion **to have a secretary seminar each year and start a secretary mentorship program.** Seconded by Brooke Manion. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee supports the continuation of the secretaries' handbook under construction and would like to be presented with a draft copy for review and approval at the Executive Committee Meeting in October.

Old Business: The committee discussed continually receiving hot checks/un-paid bills at shows. Enforcing/posting the rule that allows the show to charge an additional 15% or \$100 for any unpaid dues after 30 days of the show.

New Business: The shows would like more help from the NCHA in the attempt to start back the Judges and trainers clinics at local shows. We support further work from the Growth and Development Committee to get this going again.

This Committee would like to revisit the Free New Membership for first time members.

The Secretaries would like help from the NCHA to receive payments for any and all memberships that they or the affiliates have had to cover at the shows.

Discussion occurred regarding having the 2A judges having a mentorship and sit with other 4A judges during shows.

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel presented updates to the Executive Committee from the Show Department.

Summer Spectacular Updates

- Overall, the entries in 4YO were down, 5/6YO were up, Junior Youth was up and Senior Youth was down
- Practice pen revenue is expected to increase by \$12K this show
- Settle times averaged 16 minutes per set. There were 194 sets throughout the entire show.

Eastern Nationals

Megel was approached by the City of West Monroe about our commitment for 2027 as they have some promoters with interest in those dates. After discussing, a **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by David Costello to secure the Eastern Nationals location in West Monroe, LA for the next three years (2026-2028). **MOTION PASSED.**

Triple Crown Back Numbers

After bringing some concerns to the EC, the Show Department is recommending that we install a penalty for those contestants that do not pick up their back numbers during an NCHA produced shows, 1st offense would be issued a warning, 2nd offense would be issued a \$500 fine, for 3rd offense a \$1,000 fine would be issued and same for each time afterwards. The purpose of this policy is to ensure there is a form of payment on file with the association and secure a level of protection in case Texas Department of Animal Health demands to review health papers.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by David Costello to approve this recommendation by installing a penalty for not picking up back numbers at all NCHA Produced shows as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

Parking Increase at WRMC

The NCHA has been notified that there is going to be an increase in the cost of daily parking at Will Rogers Memorial Center from \$12 to \$15 daily with a two-day pass available for \$14, and trailer parking increasing from \$24 to \$30 a day.

2025 Futurity Dates

Current dates are set for November 10th – December 6th, 2025, there might be an option to shift our dates a week later if this committee would like to entertain that option. This was discussed with Western Bloodstock as a coordinated effort for the sale.

LIMITED AGE EVENTS COMMITTEE – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel presented the Limited Age events updates from their committee in the absence of Chairman Phil Rapp.

Triple Crown Schedule Review

The structures for each Triple Crown show were reviewed by the Committee. The consensus was that the Super Stakes should run in the order of Open, Amateur, Non-Pro and the Summer Show should run in the order of Open, Non-Pro, Amateur. It was also decided to adjust the World Finals schedule to make accommodation for Thanksgiving. The first and second round will be held November 21-22 and the third and fourth round will be held on the 28-29.

Additionally, it was agreed going forward this committee's recommendation for a 2nd arena be the John Justin.

The Executive Committee made the decision to take NO ACTION on this recommendation from the Limited Age Events Committee as this is an operational item for the NCHA office.

Triple Crown Entry Count

Triple Crown entries were reviewed for each event.

A motion was made by Ben Roberson to offer a Youth subclass for all 6 levels and seconded by Wendy Warne. All in favor, motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Ora Diehl and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve the implementation of youth subclasses in all six (6) levels of limited age event shows. **MOTION PASSED.**

Triple Crown Rules/ Entry Structure

The committee reviewed the entry structure for each show and opted to make no changes.

Slot sales and rider changes were extensively discussed. This item was tabled for a later meeting to allow the committee to gather more information and consider the topic.

The committee is recommending that a credentialing process be implemented to verify service dogs presence in the arena. The credential will be a visible pass similar to photography credentials.

New Business

This committee supports the work from the Weekend show committee regarding hearing devices. Their recommendation would be to include a provision that all devices be utilized in a hands-free format.

REGIONAL REPORTS

President Barnwell Ramsey welcomed the committee members with any updates from their regions to report since meeting at convention. The only region to report updates was Region 1 by Les Jack who expressed concern with the overlapping of shows in his region, and lack of participation with a few of the Region 1 directors. Oregon and Washington have had some well attended shows lately and Western Canada shows are looking forward to a successful year.

NCHA ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

2025 NCHA Convention Stats

- Convention Attendees **375 Total (18 Staff)**
 - Directors (In Person) **129 Average**
 - Directors (Virtual) **12 Average**
 - Standing Committee Members **110**
 - Members (In Person) **91**
 - Members (Virtual) **11**

- Other 4
- Excused Requests from Convention **42 Total**
 - Directors **33**
 - Standing Committee Members **9**
- Hall of Fame Gala Attendees **345**
- Hotel Rooms Booked **675**

2025 NCHA Convention Look Back (Last 3 Years)

Convention Attendance	Director Attendance	Gala Attendance
• 2023 – 363	• 2023 – 132	• 2023 – 373
• 2024 – 279	• 2024 – 134	• 2024 – 264
• 2025 – 375	• 2025 – 136	• 2025 – 345

Mark your calendars now!!!

The 2026 Annual Convention will be held at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada June 19-21, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Task Force Committees will now be referenced as NCHA Working Committees. President Barnwell Ramsey is in the process of formalizing appointments in the following working committees and reevaluating current members involvement to continue services.

Cattle Working Committee

- Kirby Smith has been appointed Chairman.
- Add David Costello
- Add Casey Green
- Add Shianne Megel with her recommendations from outside cattle resources.

Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee

Rename this task force committee to Eastern/Western Nationals Working Committee and install the following changes to continue these efforts for Eastern and advance discussions to reinstate Western Nationals.

- Add Rock Hedlund
- Add Les Jack
- Add Craig Morris
- Add Nate Miller

World Finals Task Force Committee

Rename this task force committee to World Finals Working Committee

- Add David Costello
- Add Carol Ward

Amateur/Non-Pro Working Committee

This new working committee will include a diverse group of members to research the caps, money earned, and concept of combining the Amateur and Non-Pro division by pulling data and reporting back to the Executive Committee at the next meeting in October.

- Ora Diehl has been appointed Chairman.
- Add Julie Davis
- Add Kelley Hartranft
- Add Shianne Megel

NEW BUSINESS

Horse of the Year (Top Ten)

Executive Director Jay Winborn would like the Executive Committee to consider the NCHA potentially producing a one-night event at a venue like Dickies Arena on a large-scale exhibition. Just something to think about as we plan for the future of the association.

NCHA Approved Events

President Barnwell Ramsey tasked the Executive Committee members with being diligent and brainstorming some ideas to prepare NCHA to explore new opportunities and improve show schedules for growth opportunities and betterment of the association by the next meeting in October.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Les Jack and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to adjourn the meeting at 3:27PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**