

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 11-12, 2025  
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11-12, 2025, beginning 8:00AM each day. All times are based on the central time zone.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Mark Senn, President-Elect Barnwell Ramsey, Vice President Kathleen Moore, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, Casey Green, and Cara Brewer. 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 Director of Judges Andy Adams, Director of Youth Rianna Storey, Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

**TUESDAY – MARCH 11, 2025**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:04AM and roll call was taken.

President Mark Senn welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and led the attendees in prayer referencing the need for wisdom and with effectiveness all while valuing each person's perspective with open minds and in return offer respect with kindness as we lead this association.

President Mark Senn asked President Elect Barnwell Ramsey 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.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARK SENN**

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve and accept each set of minutes from January 28, 2025, and February 5, 2025, Executive Committee conference calls. **MOTION PASSED.**

## **PRESIDENT REPORT – MARK SENN**

President Mark Senn addressed the members of the Executive Committee with some quick updates for his report.

### **Eastern Nationals**

Upon attending the Eastern Nationals, Mark found it interesting how many members grew up showing in the youth at the Eastern Nationals and how passionate they were to support the continuation of that show. He met members from New York, Wisconsin and Ohio that each had their own story about how they became involved in our industry and shared their excitement for the great sport of cutting.

Mark expressed his appreciation to Director of Show Shianne Megel and staff for putting on such a positive experience in West Monroe, LA for our members at the 2025 Eastern Nationals.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN**

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

### **National Circuit Program**

Entries have increased from last year and we are excited to produce another great show for the National Circuit Program contestants.

### **Super Stakes**

Super Stakes entries are down overall but may work out to our advantage as we deal with the challenges forthcoming on the venue changes while the coliseum is undergoing renovations. The staff has worked hard with a plan to make this transition as seamless as possible for our members.

### **MERP Program**

Angie Highland, Executive Director of TCLOC will be attending the meeting later to address the Executive Committee with updates on that program. With the help of our lobbyists and others that assist with the process of these applications, NCHA was able to cease the discussion of upcoming proposed rule changes in Austin with the MERP process.

### **Horse Protection Act**

Jay provided an update with the latest on the Horse Protection Act (HPA) rule changes for 2025. It is rumored that USDA is planning to resend the rule changes proposed that were scheduled to go into effect in 2025 regarding the Horse Protection Act (HPA). NCHA is working with other equine associations by forming a coalition that hired a law firm in Washington DC to address these issues.

## **VP SELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE – BARNWELL RAMSEY**

President Elect Barnwell Ramsey shared an update from the Vice President Selection Committee who have formally made a decision of two qualified candidates to run for the 2025 NCHA Vice Presidential election. The VP Selection Committee after much research and collaboration recommends that David Costello of Anna, TX and Jim Gandy of Frisco, TX be the next two candidates to run for the office of Vice President.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to endorse and support this recommendation by the VP Selection Committee that suggests our next two candidates to run for VP of the association be David Costello of Anna, TX and Jim Gandy of Frisco, TX. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS – DENISE WILLIAMS**

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

### **National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary January 2025**

#### **Statement of Position**

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$30.3 million, which represents an increase of \$3.9 million from the previous month.

Cash had an increase of \$1.4m in the operating account. The primary reason for the increase is cash receipts from entries for upcoming shows (Easterns, Super Stakes and National Circuit Championship shows)

The Association's short-term investment portfolio decreased by ~\$172k which was the net impact of transferring in the 2023 Futurity MERP of \$1.3 million from the operating account and transferring out \$1.5 million to the long-term investment portfolio.

The Association's long-term investment portfolio increased by \$1.7 million which was primarily due to the transfer from the short-term investment portfolio described above and the unrealized gain on the portfolio of \$164k.

The stallion foal checking account increased \$337k due to the receipt of foal nominations during the month. The Super Stakes investment portfolio increased \$335k which was primarily due to \$252k of transfers from the stallion foal checking account and a \$83k unrealized gain on the portfolio.

Accounts receivable increased by \$157k which was primarily due to sponsorship billings, the most significant of which was the \$250k Rocking P sponsor, netted against collections of several other sponsors.

Prepaid expenses increased 220k for the month, which was primarily due to an increase in prepaid other as expenses were paid related to the upcoming shows Easterns, Super Stakes and National Circuit Championships.

Total liabilities increased to \$3.2 million from the previous month. This was the net effect of increases in event deferred revenue of \$3.3 million, \$585k in stallion & foal program deferred revenue and \$311k in sponsorship deferred revenue offset against decreases in accrued expenses of \$552k and membership deferred revenue of \$402k.

The increase in event deferred revenue was due to the receipt of entries for Easterns, Super Stakes and National Circuit Championship shows. The increase in stallion & foal program deferred revenue was due to receipt of foal nominations and the increase in sponsorship deferred revenue was due to the billing of the 2025 Futurity title sponsorship with Rocking P Ranch. The decrease in accrued expenses was primarily due to payment of 2024 Futurity bills, specifically the facility bill of \$475k. The decrease in membership deferred revenue of \$402k was due to recognizing 2025 membership fees that were collected in 2024.

Net assets increased by approximately \$703 which represents the net profit for the month of January.

### **Statement of Activities**

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, for the month of January, the Association posted a net profit of \$467 which is \$34k or 8% better than the FY 2025 budget. This favorable variance is primarily attributed to \$36k in additional revenue and effectively managing expenses.

On the revenue side, the most significant contributor to the \$36k favorable variance in total revenue was interest income on the investment portfolio. Due to higher than anticipated short term rates and a higher balance in short term investments, the Association posted an \$18k favorable variance in the short-term investment portfolio. The Association also exceeded budget in approved show fees by \$14k due to higher participation in weekend approved shows. All other revenue categories, with the exception of membership revenue, noted slight favorable variances. Membership revenue missed budgeted projections by \$14k or 2.5%.

On the expense side, total expenses were \$2k or .50% more than budgeted. For the most part, most expense categories had slightly favorable variances. However, there were two expense categories with unfavorable variances that should be noted. Professional fees had an unfavorable variance of \$10k. This unfavorable variance was the net of a \$15k payment to the Horse Protection

Coalition offset against a favorable variance of \$5 in legal fees. Awards expense had an unfavorable variance of \$4k due to the purchase of three (3) extra trophies that were not in the budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Steve Smith and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to approve the January Financials of the association as presented. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

President Mark Senn expressed thanks to NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams and the entire Finance and Audit Committee for all the hard work and dedication they put in keeping our financials up to date for the association.

### **TARRANT COUNTY LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (TCLOC) – ANGIE HIGHLAND**

Angie Highland, the Executive Director of TCLOC, presented an overview to the Executive Committee regarding the newly established Tarrant County Local Organizing Committee (TCLOC). The presentation included details on the organizational structure, other event clients, and pricing related to administrative services.

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Steve Smith to endorse moving forward that all the NCHA MERP applications process through TCLOC on a three (3) year contract until 2028 with the right to cancel at any time. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL**

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from her department.

#### **Super Stakes**

- Schedule presented with a 48 hour move in timeframe to run 276 sets between two arenas (nothing more than a 9 set day with a start of 8:30am)
- 14, 975 head of cattle required for the Super Stakes and the National Circuit Championship
- Parking/Traffic Flow – Gate 42 will be an entrance only during move-in (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>); garages available, losing half of the coliseum surface parking and underground under Exhibit Hall
- Practice Pens – 3 pens in the Watt until showing begins and 3-4 pens in the multi-purpose building: no flag in the multi-purpose building
- Construction layout of the arena in the John Justin was shared with options for viewing cattle at the Super Stakes

#### **Cattle Increase**

Director of Shows Shianne Megel and the show department are proposing an increase in \$25 head for cattle to continue providing quality stock for our triple crown events.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Kirby Smith to approve the increase of \$25 per head in cattle as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Summer Spectacular**

After much discussion and anticipation with the upcoming summer show, a **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Kathleen Moore to approve an addition of \$100K for the Summer Spectacular payouts. **MOTION PASSED.**

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE – NIKKI ROBERSON/RIANNA STOREY**

Chairman of Youth Committee Nikki Roberson addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the committee with a recommendation for the Todd Drummond Award selection process and some updates to youth governance applications.

#### **Todd Drummond Award**

Recommendation was to mirror this nomination process alongside the Whitney Welch Award in lieu of the current process. This newly proposed process would take some of the leg work off the nominating secretaries' plate and have the youth responsible for that portion of the nomination process. Chairman Nikki Roberson to visit the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries convention meeting with the update.

#### **Youth Governance Application**

Updates were provided for the Senior and Junior Youth governance applications for 2025 as presented below.



Please circle the office you are running for:  
(You may only run for one office)

Sr President  
1 Year Term

Sr Vice President  
1 Year Term

Sr Secretary  
1 Year Term

Sr Reporter  
1 Year Term

Sr Promotions Director  
1 Year Term

Jr President  
1 Year Term

Jr Vice President  
1 Year Term

Jr Secretary  
1 Year Term

Jr Reporter  
1 Year Term

Jr Promotions Director  
1 Year Term

### NYCHA Junior/Senior President

**Qualifications for NYCHA President:** To be eligible to run for Senior Youth President, candidates must have completed two terms on the NYCHA Governance (one term must be as a Senior National Officer).

- Relay all decisions from the NYCHA Board to the NCHA Youth Director.
- Lead meetings, both in person and on Zoom, effectively.
- Compile NYCHA meeting agendas for both Zoom and in-person sessions.
- Deliver a speech at the NYCHA Banquet during Youth Week.
- Maintain contact and collaborate with the Junior Youth President.
- Must participate in a minimum of 2 out of the 4 "Out of Arena" contests at the Youth Convention. (Speech, Photo, Art, and Essay)
- Must contact a minimum of 3 people per fundraiser
- Must be present for all meetings (Zoom option available)

### NYCHA Junior/Senior Vice President

- Collaborate with the NYCHA President to prepare meeting agendas.
- Maintain contact and collaborate with the Junior Youth Vice President.
- Must participate in a minimum of 2 out of the 4 "Out of Arena" contests at the Youth Convention. (Speech, Photo, Art, or Essay)
- Must contact a minimum of 3 people per fundraiser
- Must be present at all meetings with the exception of 2 excused absences

### NYCHA Junior/Senior Secretary

- Record detailed meeting minutes.
- Junior and Senior Youth must write minutes for each meeting.
- Junior Youth will review Senior Youth's published minutes.
- Senior and Junior will take turns every other meeting (In-person or Zoom) reading the minutes of the previous meeting after roll call, but the Senior minutes will always be the one read aloud.
- Update the NYCHA Governance Binder.
- Must participate in a minimum of 2 out of the 4 "Out of Arena" contests at the Youth Convention. (Speech, Photo, Art, or Essay)
- Must be present at all meetings with the exception of 2 excused absences

### NYCHA Junior/Senior Reporter

- Complete writing assignments for the NCHA Chatter Quarterly.
- Communicate with NYCHA members from each circuit to collect event photos for advertisements and publications.
- Maintain contact and collaborate with the Junior Youth Reporter
- Both Senior and Junior complete a writing assignment for the Youth Convention program
- Must participate in a minimum of 2 out of the 4 "Out of Arena" contests at the Youth Convention. (Speech, Photo, Art, or Essay)
- Must contact a minimum of 3 people per fundraiser

- Must be present at all meetings with the exception of 2 excused absences

#### NYCHA Junior/Senior Promotions Director

- Manage all NYCHA fundraisers, ensuring communication with NYCHA Governance. (Stallion Service Auction, Wild Rag Fundraiser, and Jean Jacket Fundraiser)
- Maintain contact and collaborate with the Junior Youth Fundraising Director
- Must participate in a minimum of 2 out of the 4 "Out of Arena" contests at the Youth Convention. (Speech, Photo, Art, or Essay)
- Must contact a minimum of 3 people per fundraiser
- Must be present at all meetings with the exception of 2 excused absences

- I have reviewed the position description for a National Youth Cutting Horse Association Officer. I am willing to devote the time required as estimated in the position description as a NYCHA Officer; my obligation to the association will come before other organizations or athletics.
- I understand that if elected, officers and at least one parent or guardian will be required to attend an officer orientation session and planning meeting during the Summer Spectacular, July 2025. This will also be offered by Zoom should the elected officer not be in attendance at the Summer Spectacular.
- I understand that I will be required to attend and assist with youth activities during the NYCHA Convention including but not limited to, if in attendance.
  - o Business Meeting
  - o Family Fun Night
  - o Fundraising
  - o Preparation for NYCHA Banquet
  - o NYCHA Awards Banquet
  - o Grand Entry
- I will serve as a positive role model to other members. I agree to be responsible for my actions and accountable for their consequences and will encourage other members to do likewise.
- I will be fair-minded and honest in dealing with others. I will be open to ideas, suggestions, and opinions of teammates and advisors.
- I will not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs at all NCHA & NYCHA events.
- I understand that if I miss two meetings, I will have a meeting with the Youth Committee Chair and the NCHA Youth Director.
- I understand that if I miss three meetings, I will automatically be terminated as NYCHA Junior/Senior Director.

I have read the above statements; I am willing to fulfill my obligations, and I am willing to conduct myself to the highest standards expected of a National Youth Cutting Horse Association Officer. I am a member in good standing and currently passing all my classes in school.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS**

Director of Judges Andy Adams presented some proposed updates for consideration and approval to the Executive Committee. An insert from a recent JRC meeting minutes on February 25<sup>th</sup> was presented with explanations below in full support of the members of the Judges Rules Committee.

### **Minutes from JRC Meeting – February 25, 2025**

Director of Judges Andy Adams presented a newly proposed Toggle Switch to Manage Judge Eligibility for Premier Events. The proposed toggle switch would allow for immediate action to be taken when a judge's



performance is below expectations, thereby ensuring that only qualified judges are assigned to premier events.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF A TOGGLE SWITCH FOR JUDGE ELIGIBILITY IN HUB**

The proposed toggle switch would allow for immediate action to be taken when a judge's performance is below expectations, thereby ensuring that only qualified judges are assigned to premier events.

### **Proposal Details**

#### **- Feature Description:**

The toggle switch will be located on the judging page within Hub, accessible only to the Director of Judges. After reviewing the body (Judges Department Monitors, Judges Rules Chair and Director of Judges) determines a judge is not up to the standards of our organization to maintain the integrity of our events. This feature will allow the Director of Judges to mark a judge as " Ineligible for Premier Events" quickly and efficiently.

#### **- Functionality:**

- Toggle On/Off: The Director of Judges can switch the status of a judge with a simple toggle.

- Visibility: This status change will be visible only to the Director of Judges and the Show Approval Department and will not affect the judge's overall standing or ability to judge non-premier events unless specified otherwise. 2

- Documentation: Each use of the toggle will be logged for transparency and record-keeping, ensuring that all decisions are documented in accordance with NCHA policies.

#### **- Implementation Timeline:**

I have discussed the implementation and the development of this feature with the IT Department. It is possible to immediately implement upon approval through the Judges Rules and Executive Committee.

### **Benefits**

1. Improved Efficiency: The toggle switch will significantly reduce the time required to manage judge eligibility, allowing for swift decisions when performance issues arise.

2. Enhanced Compliance: This feature aligns with the NCHA rulebook, ensuring that we uphold the standards of our organization and maintain the integrity of our events.

## **PROPOSED REALIGNMENT TO THE BONUS SYSTEM**

The next agenda item Andy presented was a re-alignment to the judges' bonus system. The purpose is to introduce a bonus system that incentivizes judges to participate in more shows and rewards consistent performance by enhancing the average evaluation scores based on the number of shows judged annually.

### **1. Introduction of a Bonus System:**

- a. Implement a bonus system that calculates the average of evaluation scores, adding value based on the number of shows judged.
- b. Encourage judges to participate in more shows, promoting consistency and dedication.

- c. Provide additional recognition and incentives for judges who contribute significantly to NCHA events.
- 2. Calculation Method:
  - a. The average evaluation score will be adjusted with a bonus percentage based on the total number of shows judged in a year.
  - b. A tiered bonus system will be used, where judges receive incremental score enhancements for judging more shows.
  - c. Judges must judge at least two shows per year to qualify for the bonus system.
    - i. The first show a judge evaluates will have a negative value of -2.
    - ii. The second show a judge evaluates will have a negative value of -1.
    - iii. Once a judge has judged three shows, they will receive a value of +0.20 per show judged.
- 3. Benefits:
  - a. Enhances the overall quality and consistency of judging by rewarding judges who commit to more shows.
  - b. Motivates judges to maintain high performance standards across all shows.
  - c. Strengthens the credibility and integrity of the NCHA judging system.

## **PROPOSED VERBIAGE CHANGES TO STANDING RULE 27**

The next agenda item was a verbiage change and adding verbiage to Standing Rule 27 as shown below in red.

Agenda items 3 through 6 were put together for approval together.

## **Standing Rule 27**

### **EVALUTATION SYSTEM – Page 63**

- 3. 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 violation in question. Additionally, if a pattern of complaints emerges regarding an individual judge, the Judging Department may review tapes of the show or shows in question and take further action when appropriate.

The next proposed agenda item was a verbiage change on page 130 of the rulebook. 1/16th speed doesn't exist on recorders whereas the proposed change is how its measured on the recorder.

## **PROPOSED VERBIAGE CHANGES TO PROCEDURES FOR VIDEOING NCHA APPROVED EVENTS (PAGE 130)**

*16. Under the Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS), please have adequate equipment available. A judge is required to review the video in a place where they are completely separated from the contestants and away from the video stand. All events using the Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) must provide an*

*isolated location to review the runs in question. The room is to include a large TV (preferably with at least a 30-inch screen), one station with monitor and media player (i.e., recorders or computers) with 1/16 (0.06x @ 60fps) slow motion and play back capability is required for the judge. Under no condition is a judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants, owners, or other judges. At all monitored events, two stations with monitors and media players (i.e., recorders or computers) with 1/16 (0.06x @ 60fps) slow motion and play back capability are required for the NCHA monitor.*

#### **JUDGING RULE 13, DEFINITION: "Obviously stopped" Page 154**

##### **JUDGING RULE 13**

A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is obviously 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 (0.06x @ 60fps) speed, a cow has all four feet on the ground for five or more seconds. In real time, this is less than one second.

##### **PROPOSED VERBIAGE CHANGES TO STANDING RULE 7**

The next agenda item Andy is proposing is a verbiage change from aged to monitored events to Standing Rule 7 as stated below.

## *Standing Rule 7 6. f.2.vi. Page 38*

### *f. Judges & Monitors*

- i. Shows must use NCHA Approved Judges.*
- ii. All shows using more than three (3) judges must use an NCHA monitor.*
- iii. All approved shows with \$100,000 added or more must use no fewer than five (5) 4A judges or 3A judges and these events will be monitored.*
  - 1. Monitored event show management must sign AMS agreement to furnish necessary equipment, lodging, meals, and ground transportation for NCHA Monitor.*
  - 2. It is mandatory that all monitored Limited Age Events have a qualified Escort for the Judges. A fine of \$500 per day will be imposed on major Limited Age Events with a five-judge system that do not have the required Escort for the Judges.*
- iv. NCHA will solicit judges for all shows using the Adjusted Monitor System.*
- v. Judges may judge up to 13 consecutive days at Limited Age Events. Additional judging days must be approved by the Director of Judges. Violation of this rule is \$2,500 per day.*
- vi. Judges must get approval from the Director of Judges to judge consecutive ~~aged~~ monitored events.*
- vii. NCHA Self-Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) may be used with three (3) judges or less.*
- viii. NCHA monitors are available to shows that do not meet the minimum requirement for shows required to use the adjusted monitor system.*

## **JUDGES RULE BOOK CONDENSED VERSION**

The last agenda item proposed by Andy was creating a condensed rulebook with just the judging portion for the judges to carry on their persons.

Purpose of the proposal - creating a concise version of the NCHA rulebook specific to the judging portion.

Proposal Details: Overview of the short-version rulebook for judges to carry.

Distribution Options: Discuss printed copies, online downloads, or inclusion in new judges' packets.

Cost Analysis: Evaluate the financial aspects of each distribution method. 6

Conclusion: Summarize the benefits of having a streamlined rulebook for judges.

## CONTINUATION OF THE JUDGE ELIGIBILITY TOGGLE SWITCH added March 5, 2025

The following revision to Standing Rule 21 has been suggested by legal regarding a previous motion, the judge's eligibility toggle switch. An electronic vote which was requested via email was issued and took place on March 4th. The following proposed rule changes are provided below:

### Standing Rules 21-29 - Related to Judges

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#### STANDING RULE 21.

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##### **BECOMING AN NCHA JUDGE**

Any person applying to be a judge or designated a judge must demonstrate a high degree of integrity in all aspects of their conduct related in any way to involvement with the NCHA as a NCHA member, contestant, judge, or other conduct which reflects on the NCHA. Every NCHA judge agrees and acknowledges that the ability to serve as an NCHA judge is a privilege, not a right, and that such privilege is subject to suspension or revocation by the NCHA at any time. Specifically, notwithstanding any other NCHA rules, the Director of Judges, the Executive Director, or the Judges Rule Committee, in its sole discretion of either, may determine at any time that any conduct of a person is-serves as a basis to deny or revoke that person's privilege to serve as a judge. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Judges Code of Ethics or exhibiting a level of performance as a judge that does not meet the NCHA's standards as determined by the NCHA in its sole discretion. Every NCHA judge acknowledges and agrees that this determination may be made with or without notice or hearing, subject only to and that a judge's sole remedy if his judging status is suspended or revoked under this rule is for a review of by the Executive Committee on such terms as the Executive Committee, in its sole discretion, may from time to time designate. Active members of the Association over the age of 19 may be added to the NCHA Approved Judges List upon satisfactory completion of all stated requirements. Each NCHA judge applicant and approved NCHA judge is required to sign the Judges Code of Ethics and return it to the NCHA Office. The Code of Ethics is available on the NCHA website, nchacutting.com in the Judges Section.

After a compilation of the request issued on March 4, 2025, the Judges Rules Committee members voted in favor by majority of the proposed rule change to SR 21 with regards to the judge's eligibility toggle switch as presented on February 25, 2025. Email responses on record in the company file for this committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve all the changes presented by the Judges Rules Committee noted above. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DIRECTOR ELECTION SUMMARY – BARNWELL RAMSEY**

President Elect Barnwell Ramsey presented the elected directors and a proposed list of appointed Directors of 188 members across the eight regions to serve the association for 2025-2026 which are as follows.

### **Alabama**

*Julie Beasley (27)*  
*James Hooper (LD)*  
*Joey Nail (26)*  
*Andrew Sligh (27)*

### **Arizona**

*David Booth (28)*  
*Ashley Bosack (28)*  
*Dawn Chapman (28)*  
*Glen Nelson (26)*  
*Debra Winard (28)*  
*Mike Wood (26)*

### **Arkansas**

*Diana Cunningham (28)*  
*Toddy Pitard (LD)*  
*Tommy Williams (28) (EC)*  
*Lewis Wray (LD)*

### **California & Hawaii**

*Robert Adams (26)*  
*Dana Azevedo (26)*  
*Phil Benadum (27) (EC)*  
*Kathy Cardon (26)*  
*Tim Castilaw (27)*  
*Norm Clark (26)*  
*Brent Erickson (27)*  
*Katie Fonsen-Young (26)*  
*Rock Hedlund (27)*  
*Fiina Ugrin Jolley (26)*  
*Suzy Rodoni-Silverberg (27)*  
*Stan Williams, Jr. (26)*

### **Colorado**

*Nicole Bauler (27)*  
*Nate Miller (27)*  
*Craig Morris (28)*  
*Steve Norris (LD)*  
*Ron Pietrafesa (LD)*

*Kenny Platt (27)*  
*Joel Schulz (27)*

### **Florida**

*Ora Diehl (LD)*  
*Sandra Lines (28)*  
*Brittany Overstreet (26)*  
*Sharon Overstreet (26) (EC)*  
*Pam Scott (28)*

### **Georgia**

*Alison Howell (26)*  
*Ryan Howell (27)*  
*John Hulsey (27)*  
*Mark Senn – President*

### **Idaho**

*Mike Giannini (27)*  
*Barbi Madgwick (28)*

### **Illinois**

*Rick Jackson (28)*  
*Scott Shaw (26)*

### **Indiana**

*Byron Green (28)*  
*Nick Pilcher (28)*

### **Iowa & Wisconsin**

*Seth Kirchner (26)*

### **Kansas**

*Danny Bryson (28)*  
*Kirby Smith (26) (EC)*

### **Kentucky**

*Trent Harrison (26)*

### **Louisiana**

*Robert Charles Brown (26)*  
*Gwen Coie (27)*

*Keith Deaville (LD)*  
*Elizabeth Quirk (28)*  
*Bruce Richerson (LD)*  
*Trey Rogillio (27)*

### **Michigan**

*Dan Agnew (27)*  
*Crystal DeWitt (27)*

### **Minnesota**

*J. P. Bell (26)*  
*Brian Cottrell (28)*

### **Mississippi**

*William Cole (27)*  
*Taylor Flowers (27)*  
*Ricky Lewis (27)*

### **Missouri**

*Ernie Beutenmiller, Jr. (LD)*  
*Greg Beutenmiller (27)*  
*Sonny Martin (27)*  
*Ryan Moore (27)*

### **Montana**

*John Seymour (26)*  
*Michelle Van Dyke (28)*

### **Nebraska**

*J.B. Atkins (26)*

### **Nevada**

*Cookie Banuelos (26)*  
*Patti Lund (27)*

**New England (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT), NY, NJ & PA**  
*Bill Stein (26)*  
*Faye D. Stein (26)*  
*Jack Werner (26)*



### **New Mexico**

*Joel Carson (28)*  
*Richard Hicks (28)*

### **North Carolina**

*Chase Lackey (26)*  
*Garry Merritt (27)*  
*Bob Meyer (27)*  
*Barnwell Ramsey – President Elect*

### **North & South Dakota**

*Tom Holmes (28)*  
*Jason Reed (28)*

### **Ohio**

*Jeff Brown (27)*  
*Tim Dobyns (26)*  
*Steve Duff (27)*  
*John P. Lavelle (27) (EC)*  
*Chuck Smith (LD)*

### **Oklahoma**

*Cara Brewer (28) (EC)*  
*Michelle Cowan (26)*  
*Brandon Dufurrena (27)*  
*Glenda Ericsson (28)*  
*Jody Galyean (28)*  
*Kathleen Moore – Vice President*  
*Ty Moore (28)*  
*Bill Riddle (LD)*  
*Brad Wilson (28)*

### **Oregon**

*Julie Clarke (26)*  
*Marcea DeGregorio (28)*  
*Mary Freeborn (27)*  
*Jack Holt (27)*

### **South Carolina**

*Tony Smith (28)*  
*Wendy Warne (28)*

### **Tennessee**

*Barbara Brooks (LD)*  
*Zeke Entz (28)*  
*Kevin Herzke (26)*

*Jason Whitaker (26)*

### **Texas East**

*Punk Carter (LD)*  
*Bradey Davis (27)*  
*Billy Emerson (26)*  
*Sylvia Fuentes (27)*  
*Jan Gandy (27)*  
*Cynthia Patty (27)*  
*Ronnie Smith (27)*

### **Texas North**

*Jeremy Barwick (27)*  
*Jaime Beamer (26)*  
*Chris Benedict (LD)*  
*Mary Bradford (27)*  
*Lindy Burch (LD)*  
*R. L. Chartier (27)*  
*Dennie Dunn (LD)*  
*Kelle Earnheart (27)*  
*Jo Ellard (LD)*  
*Jennifer Foland (26)*  
*Matt Gaines (27)*  
*Casey Green (27)*  
*Leon Harrel (LD)*  
*Cody Hedlund (27)*  
*Tom Lyons (LD)*  
*Frank Merrill (26)*  
*Matt Miller (27)*  
*Jim Milner (LD)*  
*Ken Mock (27)*  
*Bruce Morine (27)*  
*Sarah Morine (27)*  
*Mike Mowery (LD)*  
*Rick Mowery (27)*  
*Mary Ann Rapp (27)*  
*Phil Rapp (LD)*  
*Tarin Rice (27)*  
*Ben Roberson (27)*  
*Jonathan Rogers (26)*  
*Geoffrey Sheehan (28)*  
*Ted Sokol, Jr. (LD)*  
*Cameron Thompson (27)*  
*Chubby Turner (LD)*  
*Bronc Willoughby (LD)*  
*Michael Wood (27)*

### **Texas South**

*Denise Bendele (26)*  
*Liz Bray (28)*  
*Frank Bowen (27)*  
*Constantine Caloudas (27)*  
*Caroline Collins (28)*  
*James Davison (28)*  
*James Eakin (26)*  
*Bobby Hunt (26)*  
*Janice Little (27)*  
*Sam Wilson (LD)*

### **Texas West**

*Cheryl Callis (28)*  
*Sherry Graham (27)*  
*Skip Jones (26)*  
*Coleta Rosson (26)*  
*Steve Smith (27) (EC)*

### **Utah**

*Danielle Pace (27)*  
*Steve Williams (27)*

**Virginia, West Virginia,  
D.C., Maryland & Delaware**  
*Roy Bauer (26)*  
*Jim Johnson (26)*  
*Ryan Smith (26)*

### **Washington & Alaska**

*Holly Jones (26)*  
*Nina Lundgren (27)*  
*Dean Rebhuhn (26)*

### **Wyoming**

*Audra Crouse (26)*  
*John (Jack) Enright (27)*

### **Eastern Canada**

*Eric Van Boekel (28)*  
*Amanda Law (26)*

### **Western/Central Canada**

*Connie Down-Cicoria (28)*  
*Darcy Geherman (28)*  
*Les Jack (26) (EC)*  
*Sandy Reid (28)*

*Amanda Smith (28)*  
*Doug Wiens (27)*

**Europe**

*Gaetan Foulatier (27)*  
*Denis Pini (28)*  
*Jana Pini (28)*  
*Sergio Traverso (28)*  
*Pietro Valeri (26)*

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve the proposed list of 188 NCHA Board of Directors as presented for 2025-2026. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT SUMMARY – BARNWELL RAMSEY**

President Elect Barnwell Ramsey has been diligently working on the standing committee appointment summary for 2025-2026 and the complete list will be emailed out to the members of the Executive Committee next week. This consideration and approvals will be conducted via email. There are a few more appointments needed to solidify under the compliance of the association's perimeters for regional representation per committee with the exception of the Stallion Owners and the Finance and Audit Committees.

**EASTERN NATIONAL TASK FORCE COMMITTEE UPDATES – JOHN LAVELLE/SHARON OVERSTREET**

Co-Chairmen John P. Lavelle and Sharon Overstreet addressed the Executive Committee with updates from the Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee. An Eastern Nationals Task Force Committee was recently appointed by President Mark Senn to evaluate the Eastern Nationals show on future dates, locations and venues to consider for the event moving forward. Assigned Co-Chairmen for this committee are John Lavelle and Sharon Overstreet.

This committee has begun their research on specifics which promoted some great ideas and discussions not only on future dates, locations and potential venues, but also options to increase entries by possibly adding some aged event classes. As the committee concludes their research and suggestions, they will report to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval. This task force committee has requested time allocated during the upcoming annual convention in San Antonio, TX for more discussion.



## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

President Mark Senn welcomed each of the members to report their regional updates.

**Region 1 – Les Jack** provided an update for Region 1 that activity is quiet at this time. There are concerns with the reduction of the Canadian dollar and getting judges to come to our shows. Calgary Stampede has worked through the recent denial of a premier show request with some added money and is getting ready for their next show.

**Region 2 – Phil Benadum** updated the members that Region 2 that the PCCHA Round-Up was well attended; judged a show in Arizona was down with entries but ran strong.

**Region 3 – Kirby Smith** reported that his region is just getting started with shows, Carthage was well attended last weekend. First show in Heartland Circuit ran late with some production obstacles and there was a smaller show in Rapids but hard with the weather until it warms the region.

**Region 4 – John Lavelle** provided an update for Region 4 that they have had a couple of regional calls. Great Lakes has not had a show yet due to a weather cancellation. Region 4 had great participation at the Eastern Nationals. Great Lakes NCHA Days is scheduled for Mother's Day weekend at a nice facility in Indiana.

**Region 5 – Sharon Overstreet** updated that Region 5 is strong. Florida had a successful Winter's Circuit over Christmas and New Years that was well attended with an awards banquet. New Carolina CHA has had some shows that are very well attended. New affiliate Tar Heel Association was recently formed and plans to host several shows near North Carolina.

**Region 6 – Tommy Williams** reported that Region 6 has been slow so far, there have been a couple of shows in Mississippi and Alabama that went well.

**Region 7 – Steve Smith** updated the members that things are well in Region 7, there have been a couple of shows in Panhandle and Big Country that went well. Snake Round Up is this weekend and looks to be a good show. Steve has had some difficulty with finding individuals willing to step up as Area Director for the Region. But after some search efforts, we have come across some outstanding members to be seated.

**Region 8 – Casey Green** reported that Region 8 has been busy. He suspects that 2025 will be strong with haulers for the World Finals. Aged Events are strong and well attended. As summer comes and the weather heats up, shows will slow down a little but right now cuttings are strong.

**At Large – Cara Brewer** updated the committee members with a recent cutting clinic that she hosted at the Art of the Cowgirl which was well attended with lots of participation. A recent show in Queen Creek, AZ attended was a positive experience with great cattle and dirt and the staff were extremely welcoming.

**Vice President – Kathleen Moore** updated the members of the committee that cuttings are good in the area and a recent show in Graham was well attended; the Non-Pro classes are still suffering with low entries.

**President Elect – Barnwell Ramsey** reported that the Eastern Nationals was a good show. Barney attended a show with Tar Heel Cutting in early January which was a big show. Cutting is doing well and show producers seem to be working together.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to adjourn the EC Meeting at 5:33PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** The EC Meeting will reconvene Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 8:00AM central time.

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### **WEDNESDAY – MARCH 12, 2025**

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:01AM by President Mark Senn and roll call was taken.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Mark Senn, President-Elect Barnwell Ramsey, Vice President Kathleen Moore, Les Jack, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Steve Smith, Casey Green, and Cara Brewer. 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 Director of Judges Andy Adams, Director of Youth Rianna Storey, Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

President Mark Senn provided a recap of the meeting and plans for an earlier dismissal than anticipated. Mark also took advantage of this time to address the Executive Committee with his appreciation of each member's time and dedication because of their love for the sport of cutting. Most of the decisions made out of this group of EC members over the past year have been ruled by majority in favor and overall, this group has collaborated well giving respect to others. Mark alluded to the fact that this has been one of the best EC groups he has been a part of.

### **EUROPEAN DIRECTORS – JOHN P. LAVELLE**

The second day of this meeting began with the European Directors virtually via Zoom to share updates with cutting in their area overseas. Gaetan Foulartier (France), Pietro Valeri (Italy), and

Denis Pini and Jana Pini (Italy) were present on the call.

Regional Director John P. Lavelle of Region 4 updated the Executive Committee of a recent call with the European Directors to get updates and discuss any concerns.

As a result of the European Director's call, there were concerns with getting the NCHA awards in a timely manner for distribution due to shipping and duty fees. Pietro and Denis are traveling to Texas to attend the Super Stakes and will pick up last year's awards from the office around March 29<sup>th</sup>.

There is also a planned cutting clinic in Germany on Easter weekend with Bill Riddle and Paul Hansma that is fully booked, Director of Judges Andy Adams will travel to Germany to provide a judging seminar as well.

Cutting horse shows have been well attended in Europe and the excitement is contagious, there are a lot of new interests to capitalize on for an increase in NCHA membership.

The European Championship will be held in November and is scheduled to be held in Italy. They appreciate the continued support from the NCHA office.

President Mark Senn shared his appreciation from the group and thanked the European Directors for all they do for the NCHA.

### **NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM – ALLISON WALKER**

Manager of Circuit Program Allison Walker updated the Executive Committee on the National Circuit Program with a summary of 2024 entries and some upcoming rule changes for 2025-point year.

Allison Walker stated that entries for the National Circuit Championship (NCC) are up from 529 last year to a total of over 700 at this time. Something new that was added was to invite the short-go-cutting contestants from the High School Rodeo finals last year.

An update will be provided with the results of the NCC show during a session at the annual convention this year in San Antonio, TX.

### **EC DIRECTIVES**

**After a lengthy round table discussion on qualifications and standings, the Executive Committee issued a directive for the Amateur Committee to review the cap limiting Amateurs from showing in the Non Pro once they reach \$250,000 in Limited Age Non Pro Money (Rule 51.a.6). Members most likely would show in both if they had the opportunity. President Mark Senn is suggesting a call to discuss with the officers and report back to the EC in August with their recommendations from the convention.**

**In addition to the directive above, another directive was issued to the Non Professional Committee to review the current Non Pro advancing schedule for Triple Crown events and take into consideration the advantages of considering the Amateur advancing schedule, dropping one go-round. The change would possibly gain more entries. This directive should be reported back to the EC in August with their recommendations from the convention.**

#### **STALLION OWNERS AND BREEDERS COMMITTEE – ROCK HEDLUND**

Chairman of Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee Rock Hedlund addressed the Executive Committee with updates from his committee. NCHA Manager of the Stallion Foal Program Allison Walker was also present to support the committee during the presentation to the Executive Committee.

Rock Hedlund provided an update on all the efforts made available with money funded at the committee's request last year. The additional information and branding have significantly helped the stallion program in educating our members with their foal nominations and stallion subscriptions.

Allison Walker shared some increasing numbers and well received efforts over the past year.

President Mark Senn thanked Rock and Allison for all the hard work they have put into the success of the stallion foal program.

#### **BYLAW REVIEW – SHARON BEACH/JIM EGGLESTON**

Chairman of Governance Committee Sharon Beach addressed the Executive Committee with an introduction to Attorney Jim Eggleston who is reviewing our constitution and bylaws for the association from Eggleston King Davis, LLP.

Mr. Jim Eggleston presented a summarized review of our constitution and bylaws with some suggested edits and recommendations for changes with some of the language.

**President Mark Senn requested that the Governance Committee move forward with simplification and cleanup of the current constitution and bylaws to present as an amendment to the verbiage at the annual convention.**

**The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Governance Committee to reevaluate the 90-day application requirement prior to the annual meeting for an individual to apply for a regional director's seat serving on the Executive Committee and report back to the EC in August with their recommendations from the convention.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Medication Policy**

Regional Director Casey Green of Region 8 inquired about an update on any medication changes for the permitted usage of Sedivet as he is approached multiple times by members at each cutting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Hall of Fame (Open Rider Criteria for Induction)**

The Past Presidents would like to have the LTE criteria needed for eligibility to be inducted to the Open Riders Hall of Fame reevaluated for an increase. The Past Presidents have suggested a subcommittee for approval to research this effort.

### **Hall of Fame (Amateur Division option)**

Regional Director Kirby Smith of Region 3 inquired why we do not have a Hall of Fame category for the Amateur division and if this is an item we can look into in the near future.

### **Professional Trainers – Code of Ethics**

Regional Director Phil Benadum of Region 2 and Chairman of the Professional Trainers Committee addressed the Executive Committee with a recommendation from his committee on implementing a new code of ethics for the NCHA trainers.



## NCHA Professional Trainers Code of Ethics

As dedicated Professional Trainers of the National Cutting Horse Association, we proudly champion professionalism and integrity within our industry. We recognize the vital role of ethical interactions with the public and our competitors. It is our goal to be leaders in the horse industry and as such are committed to the safety, health, care and welfare of all horses and to always "Put the Horse First." To inspire our commitment and excellence, we have created a guiding creed that reflects our shared values and responsibilities:

- Upholding the NCHA's professional standards and working to further its goals and objectives.
- Ensuring humane treatment for all equine athletes, fostering an environment of dignity, respect, and compassion.
- Adhering to NCHA rules while taking responsibility for the well-being of the horses entrusted to us.
- Following Standing Rule 35A to maintain the highest medication and drug guidelines standards.
  - Specifically, disposing of medicinal waste responsibly, including needles, syringes, tape, etc.
- Maintaining transparency and honesty in all business practices.
- To conduct financial dealings with clients, other professionals, and the public with integrity.
- Promoting a positive image of the NCHA in *all communications*, including social media interactions.
- Treating fellow trainers with the utmost respect and championing high ethical standards.
- NCHA trainers are expected to maintain professional conduct during all NCHA events, recognizing that they represent the association and the sport. They should always treat staff, contractors, and spectators with respect, understanding that their actions are highly visible to the public.

We recognize the importance of exhibiting professional conduct at all events, as we are often in the public eye, representing our equine athletes and the NCHA.

By signing this application, I agree to be bound by the rules of application and the Code of Ethics of the NCHA Professional Trainers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Once approved, it was suggested to create an implement an electronic document for execution by all trainers registered with their membership for record and display with the association.

**The Executive Committee members were all in favor of adopting this NCHA Professional Trainers Code of Ethics for implementation as presented effective immediately.**

### **NCHA ANNUAL CONVENTION UPDATES – CATHY MARIE ALEFF**

#### **Registration Recap**

As of March 11, 2025, there are 29 members registered for the convention. Registration is open and can be accessed on the website under the convention page. Although registration fees are waived for 2025, we require all attendees to complete a registration form for badges and printed materials.

#### **Schedule of Events**

A tentative agenda has been posted to the convention portion of the website for members to view. As agendas are formulated from the committees, they will be uploaded to the perspective meetings on the agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Barnwell Ramsey to adjourn the meeting at 12:46pm. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**