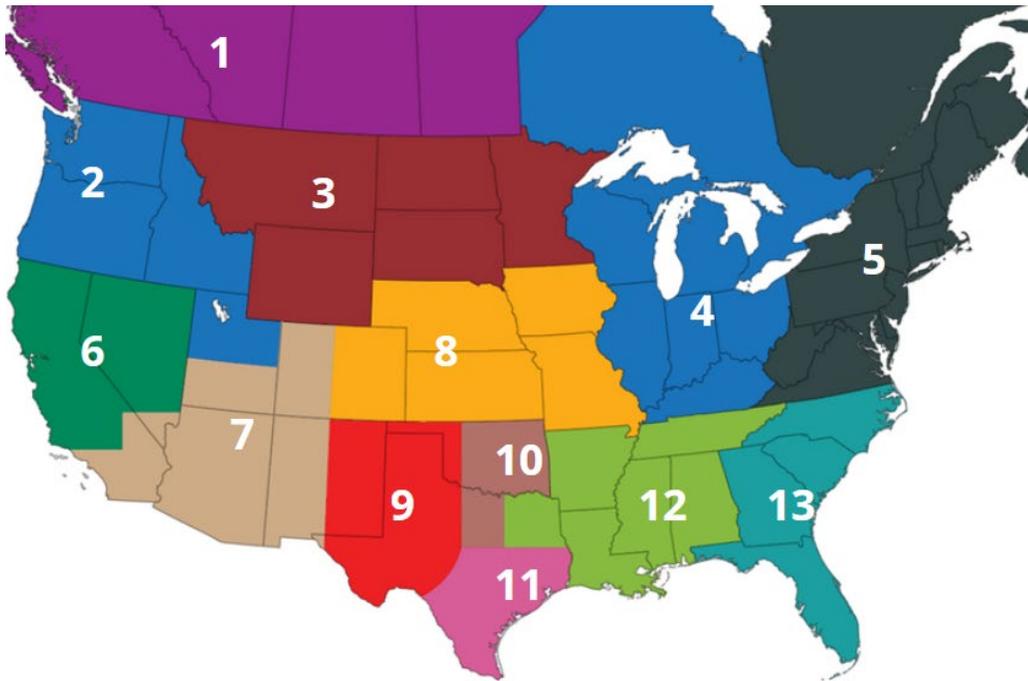


# NCHA NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM POLICY & RULES

The National Circuit Program consists of thirteen (13) geographic circuits. Cutters earn points toward year end awards by competing in NCHA approved weekend competitions. Both types of approved weekend shows (**NCHA Championship Weekend Shows** and **NCHA Challenger Shows**), award circuit points. A Cutter's points from both types of shows are combined and tracked by NCHA. Total points in a circuit are used to award Year End titles and to determine qualifying for each circuit's "Circuit Finals" Show.



1. **Aurora**
2. **Pioneer**
3. **Big Sky**
4. **Great Lakes**
5. **Appalachian**
6. **Redwood**
7. **Cactus**
8. **Heartland**
9. **Oiler**
10. **Red River**
11. **Alamo**
12. **Cotton**
13. **Sunshine**

## 1. Standings and Eligibility

### a. **Championship Weekend Shows** point and money earnings count towards:

- World Standings (Money) - **YES**
- Senior World Tour (Points per Sr. Program) - **YES**
- Lifetime Earnings (Money) - **YES**
- Horse and Rider Eligibility (Money) - **YES**
- Circuit Standings (Points per Circuit Program; see below) - **YES**

### b. **NCHA Challenger Shows** point and money earnings in count towards:

- World Standings (Money) - **NO**
- Senior World Tour (Points per Sr. Program) - **YES**
- Lifetime Earnings (Money) - **YES**
- Horse and Rider Eligibility (Money) - **YES**
- Circuit Standings (Points per Circuit Program; see below) - **YES**

## National Circuit Program Policy and Rules

### 2. Circuit Points

- a. For horse classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro classes points will be tracked by the horse.

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- b. For rider classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes points will be tracked by the rider.
- c. Points shall be awarded according to the number of horses in the class up to ten. Examples: Any class with more than 10 horses shown will award points to the first ten placements in the class on a declining scale of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points). A class with 7 horses shown will award points to all 7 placements on a declining scale of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points).

HORSES IN CONTEST	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
3	3	2	1								
4	4	3	2	1							
5	5	4	3	2	1						
6	6	5	4	3	2	1					
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
10+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

- d. In the instance of a tie, each contestant in the tie will be awarded the points allocated for the highest placement within the tie. Thus, for example, if there is a tie for second and third in a class in which 10 horses are shown, the class winner receives 10 points, the two contestants tied for second and third each receive 9 points, the fourth-place contestant receives 7 points, and placements fifth through tenth with non-zero scores receive 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points, respectively. Scores of zero receive no points.
- e. Points are based on actual number of horses shown (i.e., scratches are excluded).

### 3. Circuit Designation

- a. Each contestant is automatically designated to the circuit that corresponds to the address on file at the NCHA office.
  - i. For horse classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro the designation will follow the horse.
  - ii. For rider classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes the designation will follow the rider.
- b. Each contestant may select their desired designated circuit. A different designated circuit may be selected by, and takes effect upon, notifying the NCHA.
- c. A contestant's circuit points are accumulated for purposes of circuit standings and possible qualification for Circuit Finals only in the designated circuit of that contestant. If a contestant changes their designated circuit at any given time in the point year, any circuit points accumulated in any previously designated circuit are not transferable and will be set back to zero upon the change of designation.

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- d. If a contestant competes out of circuit, they shall receive no points. The “in-circuit” competitors in such a class receive points matching their placement in the class according to the above point scale regardless of where any “out-of-circuit” contestant places on that scale. Thus, for example, an “out-of-circuit” contestant in a 11-horse class places second in the class in a Big Sky Circuit show. All other contestants placing first and third through tenth are Big Sky Circuit designated. In-circuit contestants receive 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively. Placements with scores of zero, placements by “out-of-circuit” contestants, and placements outside of the top ten placements receive no points in any circuit.

Place	Contestants	Points
1	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	10
2	<b><i>Out of Circuit Competitor</i></b>	-
3	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	8
4	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	7
5	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	6
6	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	5
7	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	4
8	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	3
9	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	2
10	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	1
11	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	0

### 4. Joint Circuit Approval

- a. A weekend show may request joint circuit approval. These events will award circuit points to contestants of those circuits listed in the joint approval.
- b. Joint approval of the event will be at the sole discretion of the NCHA Director of Shows based on the completion of all the following criteria.
  - i. The circuits share a border.
  - ii. The Show is held within 150 air miles from desired circuit’s border.
  - iii. The application is submitted within the 40-day approval period required for NCHA championship weekend shows.
  - iv. A letter of consent from impacted affiliate in the secondary circuit is received.
  - v. Letter of consent from an NCHA Director in the secondary circuit is received.

### 5. Youth

- a. The youth circuit point year begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- b. A rider’s eligibility is determined as of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. The circuit finals will be open to all youth contestants in their designated circuit.
- d. The circuit finals will not be a point earning NYCHA show. Youth exhibitors will compete at each circuit finals for prizes and if sponsors are obtained, scholarships. The circuit finals calculations will not count towards NYCHA World Finals standings.

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## 6. Circuit Finals Show

- a. Contestants finishing in their designated circuit's points year in the top 30 of that circuit's standings qualify for that circuit's Circuit Finals Show.
  - i. Contestants may only compete in their designated circuit finals show.
- b. For purposes of Circuit Finals qualification, standings in a circuit are based upon that year's accumulated points.
- c. The dates, location, producer, and format of each circuit's Circuit Finals Show will be determined by NCHA based upon bids submitted to NCHA by qualified affiliates, show managers, or other. Bids shall be submitted for consideration by NCHA on the NCHA's Circuit Finals Bid Solicitation Form. See the Form for bidder qualifications and bid requirements.