



# NCHA Judge Card Applicant – Check List

(Checklist as of August 2023)

1. Applicant is over 19 years old, must be an active member and must have been a member for at least five (5) years. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Applicant does not have a record of suspension or probation for the three (3) year period preceding the application. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Applicant has been an active competitor for the past three (3) years and meets the lifetime NCHA earnings minimums based on the location of their residence: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$10,000 and resides in the United States or Canada OR
  - \$2,500 and resides outside the United States or Canada.
4. Applicant has at least one (1) endorsement from one (1) current Director in the applicant's region. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Applicant has three (3) Non-Director endorsements on separate reference forms. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Applicant has signed and returned the NCHA Judge's Code of Ethics. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The non-refundable fee of \$150 has been received by NCHA. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The completed Open Book Test has been sent to NCHA. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Applicant has passed the Open Book Test with a minimum score of 80%. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Applicant has scored 75% or higher live or video judging (10 runs) and is pending the approval of the Director of Judges. \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANTS WILL NOT BECOME A JUDGE  
UNTIL ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS  
ARE MET.

**National Cutting Horse Association Attn: Judges Department**  
**260 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107**

**NCHA Phone# 817-244-6188**  
[judges@nchacutting.com](mailto:judges@nchacutting.com)



**JUDGE APPLICATION – MEMBER CERTIFICATION & DIRECTOR ENDORSEMENT**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NCHA ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be an NCHA judge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been, or are you now an approved judge for any association or group? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If Yes, please list the association / group(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever judged a cutting horse event for another cutting horse association? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for approval as a judge of cutting horses at contests and shows approved or conducted by the National Culling Horse Association. I further agree to abide by and be bound by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the National Cutting Horse Association. I understand that NCHA judge approval is a privilege and not a right, and that such approval may be terminated at any time by the procedures provided in the Association Rules.

I hereby certify the following:

1. I am at least 19 years of age AND if I am 60 years old or older, that I will abide by NCHA Standing Rule 26.a.
2. I have been an active NCHA member continuously for five (5) years.
3. I have no record of suspension, probation, or reprimand by the Association for the three (3) year period immediately preceding this application.
4. I have been an active competitor during the past three (3) years.
5. I meet the lifetime NCHA Earnings requirement:
  - a. \$10,000 in NCHA earnings if I reside within the United State or Canada
  - b. OR \$2,500 if I live Outside the United States and Canada

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DIRECTOR ENDORSEMENT**

I am a current Director of the National Cutting Horse Association in the Region where the Applicant resides, and hereby endorse the Applicant as a candidate for NCHA approved judge status.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
NCHA ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## JUDGE APPLICANT – REFERENCE LETTER

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's City / State: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation as an NCHA approved judge is a privilege and not a right and is bestowed to those individuals whose cutting horse knowledge and personal character merit the honor. An individual's conduct as a member and exhibitor must be exemplary.

1. Describe your experience with the Applicant's conduct as an NCHA member: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Comments about the Applicant's character: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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I understand the above named individual is applying for approval as an NCHA judge. I am aware of the seriousness of this position and that being an NCHA judge requires integrity and character as well as cutting horse knowledge. With this in mind, I submit the above information for your review regarding this applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NCHA Approved Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
NCHA ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WHICH MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO NCHA  
BY THE PERSON SIGNING THE REPORT**



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3. Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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NCHA ID #

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Date

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## CODE OF ETHICS FOR JUDGES OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

This Code of Ethics contains the general standards for behavior for NCHA judges. All judges have a duty to the National Cutting Horse Association (the "Association") and its members to act ethically and with the highest level of competency, fairness, integrity, and impartiality in performing their duties judging cutting horse competitions sponsored by the Association.

As part of their obligations to the Association, members, and each other, judges should be familiar with the rules and regulations of the Association, all amendments to those rules and regulations, and issues affecting the judging of cutting horses competitions. All judges should be diligent in preparing themselves to judge competitions and continually attempt to maintain and improve the standards of judging. Judges should also strive to identify and take action to eliminate any practices which may damage the Association, or which might discredit or bring dishonor to the Association or its members.

As a condition to becoming a judge, all judges for the Association shall accept the obligations of this Code, agree to act in accordance with this Code and agree to be bound by this Code and all provisions of the NCHA Constitution, Bylaws, rules and regulations (collectively, the "NCHA Rules") in all of their activities.

### Article 1. Maintaining Integrity and Independence of the Judging System

A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining, and enforcing high ethical standards of conduct for judges and should personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the NCHA judging system is preserved. The provisions of this Code are to be construed and applied to further that objective.

### Article 2. Impartiality of Judges

A judge shall treat all competitors honestly and act objectively in performing his duties. This includes, but is not limited to, strictly adhering to all NCHA Rules concerning the judging process. A judge shall not be swayed by personal interests or fear of criticism in performing his duties and shall perform his duties without any personal bias or prejudice.

### Article 3. Avoiding Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety

A judge shall always comply with all NCHA Rules and act in a manner that promotes confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judging system. A judge shall not allow any relationship to influence his conduct or judgment. A judge shall not use his position as a judge to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge.

### Article 4. Diligence in Performing Duties

A judge must be knowledgeable of the NCHA Rules, and any amendment thereto, and shall perform his duties in accordance with those Rules. A judge should act diligently in his preparation for judging competitions and in discharging his responsibilities at such competitions. A judge who has knowledge of or receives information that another judge has committed a violation of this Code, the NCHA Rules or has otherwise engaged in any activity constituting unfairness, willful discrimination or dishonesty that raises a question as to the other judge's fitness to judge shall promptly inform the NCHA Executive Director, the NCHA Executive Committee or the Judges



## CODE OF ETHICS FOR JUDGES OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Committee of such activities. Similarly, a judge who receives information that a contestant has committed a violation of NCHA Rules shall inform the NCHA Executive Director or the NCHA Executive Committee of such activities.

### Article 5. Minimize the Risk of Conflicts

A judge shall conduct all activities so that they do not cast doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge or interfere with the judge's proper performance of his duties. A judge shall refrain from financial and business dealings that tend to reflect adversely on the judge's impartiality, interfere with the proper performance of his duties or exploit his position.

Judges may participate in other committees of the Association. A judge should not participate in any committee process which concerns the actions of that judge or actions occurring at an event in which that judge participated as a judge.

### Article 6. Respect of Other Judges

A judge will treat his fellow judges with respect. In situations where information about another judge is requested by the Association, the information will be provided in an honest and respectful manner and will not be influenced by any personal motivation or potential personal gain. In situations where a judge is asked to review or comment on another judge's call in a particular run, said judge shall inform the inquiring party to speak to the Director of Judges about their concern. **A judge shall not, at any time, make comments by electronic or social media regarding the judging or rulings on a penalty made by a fellow judge.**

### Article 7. Cooperation with Association Officials

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

### Article 8. Outside Activities

Judges shall not engage in activities other than those authorized with the NCHA rules and regulations, or by prior approval of the NCHA Director of Judges, while providing judging services to the Association.

### Article 9. Code Not Exclusive

This Code of Ethics is intended as a general guideline for judges' behavior and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of conduct for NCHA judges. Judges conduct is also governed by NCHA Rules. This Code is intended, however, to state basic standards which should govern the conduct of all judges and to provide guidance to assist judges in establishing and maintaining high standards of conduct.

*This Code of Ethics generally identifies the ethical obligations of judges and does not substitute for, nor is it intended to substitute for, or in any way alter or modify the NCHA Rules.*

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Applicant's Signature

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Date

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NCHA Membership #



**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCHA #:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. On a short clock, a contestant will only be granted a rework if their run was free of a 3 or 5-point major penalty at the sound of the buzzer.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. On a long clock or no clock, a rework is mandatory whether a major penalty has occurred or not.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. Before the buzzer sounds, the gate comes open and all the cattle escape from the arena. The Cutter is unable to complete their run because they have no cattle to work. In this scenario, the run has terminated itself. If the judge has called a 3 or 5-point major penalty, the Cutter shall be scored a zero. If the judge has not called a 3 or 5-point major penalty the Cutter shall be granted a re-run.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. It is acceptable for a judge to talk beyond the exchange of normal greetings with exhibitors, owners, and trainers, either verbally or through social media during the show.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. A judge who fails to judge after accepting an assignment will be subject to removal from the NCHA Approved Judges List as well as additional disciplinary action.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
6. A horse that continually works the first cow short to the right and long to the left should be penalized one point (F for working out of position) and lower run content by putting a minus in (controlling the cow).
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
7. A Cutter is working a cow, and the cow falls completely down on its side. The cow is scrambling to get back up when the Cutter quits the cow. The judge should assess a 3-point hot quit penalty.
  - a. True
  - b. False



**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCHA #:** \_\_\_\_\_

8. All reviews on (Rule #10) change of cattle must be reviewed at normal speed (no slow motion).
- a. True
  - b. False
9. As a judge, it is your responsibility to know the number of placings in each class.
- a. True
  - b. False
10. All judges are required to leave the show with a copy of the judges' sheets, a copy of the video of all classes judged and complete the weekend monitor's report from the videographer. The judge is required to mail all these items to the assigned Weekend monitor no later than the Wednesday following the show.
- a. True
  - b. False
11. What is the difference between a large "A" and a small "a" as it pertains to a miss (losing working advantage)?
- a. Eye appeal
  - b. The distance the horse travels past the cow
  - c. The distance that the horse must travel to regain working position
12. If a rider that showed earlier in the set comes to you two horses later and asks for a rework, what should you do?
- a. Grant them a rework
  - b. Go back and review their run and determine if they get a rework
  - c. Once the next horse crosses the timeline the option is over for asking for a rework
13. The Contestant's run has just finished, the Contestant is riding out and starts excessively training their horse, what should you do?
- a. Blow the whistle and score the run accordingly
  - b. Blow the whistle and score the run a zero
  - c. Call the rider to the judges stand and ask them to stop abusing the horse
14. A rider can quite a cow that is clearly backing up in any direction.
- a. True
  - b. False

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCHA #:** \_\_\_\_\_

15. How important is it to fill out the credit side of your judges' card accurately?
- a. Not important
  - b. Very important
  - c. It doesn't matter
16. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any NCHA contest, the use of abusive language, showing favoritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a horse performing in a contest, or any other action unbecoming to one in their position will result in:
- a. Minimum \$500 fine
  - b. Minimum 90-day suspension
  - c. A or B, or possibly both combined
17. The Cutter fails to make a deep cut on their first and second cow, then rides deep into the herd and separates the third cow but fails to get their hand down before the buzzer sounds. The following penalty should be applied:
- a. 5-point failure to make a deep cut
  - b. 3-point failure to separate a single animal
  - c. 3-point failure to make a deep cut
  - d. No penalty
18. While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has two cows separated from the herd. As the Cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the two cows move to the back fence inside the back fence markers, then move back to the working area. The judge should apply:
- a. No penalty because a single animal was not yet separated
  - b. 5 total penalty points
  - c. 3-point penalty
19. A Cutter legally quits a cow, and immediately 3 cows leave the herd. The judge rules that the horse disturbed the herd causing the cattle to leave. Which of the following should be applied?
- a. No penalty because the rider had already legally quit working
  - b. 3-point penalty for picking up cattle

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCHA #:** \_\_\_\_\_

20. While working a cow, the Cutter picks their hand up to quit that cow, but realizes the cow is not turned away. They immediately puts their hand back down and works the cow for another 10 seconds, then legally quits the cow. The judge should:
- a. Assess a 3 point hot quit penalty
  - b. Assess a reigning penalty
  - c. Assess no penalty
  - d. Reward the Cutter for realizing the cow was not turned away
21. At what slow motion speed does a judge review a slow walking hot quit?
- a. 1/2
  - b. 1/4
  - c. 1/16
22. A judge who fails to whistle out a Contestant for excessive training to the horse will be:
- a. Fined \$300
  - b. Removed from the approved judges list
  - c. Lowered one rating classification
  - d. None of the above
23. When a cow is in an obviously stopped position, and is standing still, 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".
- a. True
  - b. False
24. How to properly document a Review on your judge's sheet using the SAM system?
- a. Write your score down with an R and circle both your score and penalty
  - b. If the score goes down write adjusted score to left of original score
  - c. Initial your new score and the circled penalty
  - d. All the above
25. If a judge blows a whistle two times due to the fact the Cutter did not stop after the first whistle, what happens next?
- a. Nothing
  - b. Contestant can be fined \$500
  - c. None of the above