

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7-8, 2023
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Monday and Tuesday, August 7-8, 2023, beginning 8:00AM central time daily.

All Executive Committee members were present: President Toddy Pitard, President-Elect Mark Senn (via phone Monday), Vice President Barnwell Ramsey, Kristen York, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Skip Jones, Kathleen Moore, Cara Brewer and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Seiz, Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams, Director of Youth Rianna Storey, Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker, NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold and our NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

MONDAY – AUGUST 7, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:02AM and roll call was taken.

President Toddy Pitard welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and opened with encouraging words of prayer while focusing on the protection of our members and the horses in our competitions.

Regional Director Kirby Smtih of Region 3 addressed the members of the Executive Committee by 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 – TODDY PITARD

President Toddy Pitard offered a recap of the proper procedures and policies with the information shared and acted on during these Executive Committee meetings for all the members of the Executive Committee including the newly elected members. The importance of confidentiality was emphasized again at this time as well. All announcements will be shared with the approval of the minutes unless otherwise discussed for direct action of committees or special announcements.

Toddy also reiterated that any assistance required from the office needs to be handled through Jay so he can appropriately direct staff through other obligations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

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

Inaugural Military Cutting – Summer Spectacular

Jay opened with a video highlighting this experience that took place during our Summer Spectacular with the 1st Annual NYCHA Military Cutting Challenge with an elite special operations team of military members, some have never been astride a horse. The past couple of years we have worked with Bravehearts to create this experience but have been faced with some scheduling challenges and decided this year and moving forward to produce the event in house.

<https://vimeo.com/851928355/1becb6d8ec>

Summer Spectacular

Jay provided an update as a result of the summer show which was a great success overall. There were a few challenges with the AC at the facility, some tough cattle and long nights. There was a considerable increase in entries.

Weekend Show Request

Show Producer Beth Shaw has requested to reduce the number of days for the show in Shelbyville, KY from 4 days to 3 days due to the number of entries. This is coming before the EC as for action as it falls within the timeframe for no changes unless special circumstances are to be considered.

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve Beth Shaw to reduce her show in Louisville, KY to 3 days in August as requested. **MOTION PASSED.**

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Kirby Smith to authorize the NCHA show department and management permissions to evaluate and make operational changes for the weekend shows as requested. **MOTION PASSED.**

European Championships Support

European Director Denis Pini from Italy have requested to consider an increase in the amount the NCHA supports the European Championships from \$20K to \$25K due to increase in production costs and growth of attendance.

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve this request and increase the amount for European Championship support from \$20K to \$25K on an annual basis effective immediately. **MOTION PASSED.**

NCHA Staff Updates

Executive Director Jay Winborn updated the Executive Committee with some recent additions to the marketing and show departments. Recently NCHA has added a Marketing Manager Jessica Gryder who has jumped in with both feet during the show and been a great asset to the team. We also have extended an offer to our marketing intern to join us full-time as an assistant to that department.

Communications from the Office

In addition to sending out communications via email, NCHA will focus efforts on communicating by videos over the social media platforms. Videos have proven to be more effective as there continues to be many that unsubscribe with each email notification released.

Our video production team is currently relocating from Monroe, LA to Fort Worth, TX by the end of the year and will look at tenant space in the building at 260 Bailey.

Jay was excited to announce that effective January 1st, NCHA will be launching a YouTube channel to help streamline our content and events for continual viewing.

UPDATES FROM THE CONVENTION

President Toddy Pitard asked Cathy Marie Aleff to present the updates from the 2023 Annual Convention. The 2023 Annual Convention that was held at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV was a huge success. Some stats from that event are provided below:

- Convention Attendees in person – 363 including 15 staff members
- Virtually General Member Attendance – 449 max; 248 total duration (208 computer/40 call-in)
- Directors Attendance (In Person) – 132 average
- Directors Attendance (Virtual) – 20 average
- Regular Members in Attendance – 130 (plus 13 other); 38 Members in 2022)
- Excused Requests from Convention - 54 total
 - 41 Directors
 - 12 Standing Committee Members
 - 1 Member
- Hall of Fame Gala Attendees - 373
- Hotel Rooms booked – 678 room nights
- Districts Represented – All US Districts and Canada (East, Central and West)

After much discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to propose that the 2024 Annual Convention will be held in Nashville, TN pending further information on venues. **MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCIAL REPORT – DENISE SEIZ

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

National Cutting Horse Association Finance Commentary June 2023

Statement of Position

The Association ended the month with total assets of \$23.1 million, which represents an increase of \$366K from the previous month. Below is a summary of what constitutes this increase:

Cash had a slight decrease of \$97K in Operating and an increase of \$14K in Stallion Foal

The primary reason for the decrease in operating cash is due to the Association paying convention related expenses as well as expenses related to getting ready for Summer Spec. The primary reason for the increase in Stallion Foal cash is the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month.

Accounts receivable increased by \$47K.

The increase in accounts receivable is primarily due to the billing of Summer Spec box seat tickets towards the end of the month. The rest of the change is due to normal monthly activity.

Prepaid expenses increased by \$49K.

The increase in prepaid expenses is primarily due to the net effect of incurring expenses related to Summer Spec and recognizing all convention related expenses that had been in prepaid expense accounts. The largest prepaid expense incurred related to Summer Spec was almost \$70K in awards.

Total liabilities increased \$415K from the previous month. Most of the increase is in Event Deferred Revenue which relates to the receipt of entry fees for the 2023 Summer Spectacular as well as Youth World Finals & Scholarship Cutting. A large increase was noted in accounts payable due to having a large batch of payments to process after month end primarily related to convention as well as \$90K of the increase being attributed to the payroll batch that wasn't paid until 7/5 but related to June payroll. The decrease in accrued expenses was primarily due to the net effect of accruing for the South Point hotel bill and paying off some outstanding items from Super Stakes, including \$50K in LNC invoices and \$17K in medication testing. Membership deferred revenue is down due to the quarterly recognition of life memberships. Sponsorship deferred revenue is up \$20K due to the receipt of a few futurity jacket patch sponsorships. Lastly, Stallion & Foal deferred revenue is up \$14K due to the receipt of foal nominations & stallion subscriptions during the month.

Net assets decreased by approximately \$49K, which represents the net loss for the month of June.

Statement of Activities

Before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association has posted a YTD net profit of \$1,697,346 which is \$866,826 or 104.37% better than the budgeted YTD net profit.

For the month of June, before the impact of the unrealized gain/loss on investments, the Association reported a net loss of \$372,980 while the budget anticipated a net loss of \$357,771. As such, the Association had an unfavorable variance to the budget of \$15,209.

There are a few variations to note for June that caused this unfavorable variance. First, there was an unfavorable variance of \$31K in sponsorship cash which was primarily due to the change in the payment schedule for the Beechfork Ranch contract. There was also an unfavorable variance noted in membership revenue due to not having the volume of membership renewals in the month that we had budgeted for. There was a favorable variance noted in approved shows revenue due to continued increased participation in weekend shows as well as the timing of receiving some of the show revenue. There was also a favorable variance in interest income primarily related to interest earned on the short-term investment account that was not budgeted for. Lastly, there was a favorable variance noted in other income of \$26K which was due to the sale of gala tickets that was not budgeted for.

From an expense standpoint, cattle expenses were more favorable than budget due to the receipt of the LNC commissions which we recorded for both Futurity & Super Stakes. Home office expenses were less favorable than budget which was due to the timing of payments for new printing machines as well as repairs & maintenance on the AC unit that were needed. Office expenses were less favorable than budget by \$10K which was due to having more credit card charges for the month than we had budgeted for because the effective date for the 3% fee being charged on credit card transactions was not until July 15th. Lastly, there was an unfavorable variance of \$64K in other expenses which was due to the HOF Gala occurring during convention which was not considered during the budgeting process. The remaining expense categories remained consistent with our budgeted expectations.

A **MOTION** was made by Kristen York and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet approve the June Financials for 2023 as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – STEVE SMITH

Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee Steve Smith addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations from the Finance and Audit Committee to be considered.

1. Investment Report

Recommend amending the Investment Policy Statement to incorporate the new short-term investment portfolio.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Kathleen Moore to adopt the amendments proposed to the current investment policy to incorporate the new short-term investment portfolio. **MOTION PASSED.**

In addition to these discussions, Steve Smith emphasized that the Finance and Audit Committee members had an involved discussion at convention about investments. He assured the EC that members of his committee take this fiduciary responsibility for our investment accounts seriously and make every effort to obtain the best results for the association as stewards of the members money.

NCHA utilizes Frost Bank, a large investment firm, to manage our portfolios for the association. Smaller boutique firms have higher overhead costs, in and out of the market, high turnover costs and not long-term investors which don't really fit our non-profit model. At Frost Bank, NCHA is not the largest investment accounts, but they treat us like we are and keep us up to date with the current market trends. We are in a much better position now than years ago.

There have been some sidebar conversations lately questioning our actions which is disappointing. Sometimes those who claim to be financial geniuses really don't have the best track records when you start looking at their history. If there are any concerns with the return NCHA is getting on our investments, please contact a member of the Finance and Audit Committee to discuss.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommends that that association secure 3 years' worth of reserves and raise cash reserves amounts to \$10M (\$9.7M currently) to prepare for any financial hardships with an unstable economy and threats of a recession. This will allow the association to not skip a beat, operationally.

2. New Business

Recommend passing a resolution that the Association will maintain reserves equal to at least 3 years of operating costs.

A **MOTION** was made by Tommy Williams and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to increase the NCHA reserves from two (2) years to three (3) for operating expenses. **MOTION PASSED.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Steve Smith

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Jim Haworth

At Large Executive Committee Member Cara Brewer stated her that the meeting at the convention where both the EC and Finance Committee members met together was a positive experience and that meeting format should become a new standard for future annual meetings.

In closing, Steve Smith announced that the budget process is around the corner. The office is currently preparing materials to gather preliminary budget numbers with each department for FY2024.

President Elect Mark Senn tasked the Finance and Audit Committee to evaluate the net operating costs of the shows; Jim Haworth will be taking the lead on that effort for the

association and details will be forthcoming.

President Toddy Pitard thanked Steve Smith for chairing this committee and dedicating his time to the NCHA.

EC LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

President Toddy Pitard updated the EC members with the newly appointed assignments as liaisons to the Standing Committees. This liaison position has benefited bridging the communications between the EC and the standing committees. The following assignments were presented.

NCHA	Staff Liaison	Staff Leader	EC Liaison
Standing Committees			
Affiliate Officers/Secretaries	Linda Smith	Shianne Megel	Kirby Smith
Amateur	Linda Welborn	Julie Davis	Tommy Williams
Approved LAE Show Producers	Linda Smith	Shianne Megel	Phil Benadum
Finance and Audit (Investment Sub-Committee)	Ashley Early	Ashley Early	Mark Senn
Governance	Cathy Aleff	Julie Davis	Skip Jones
Growth and Development	Carley Myers	Carley Myers	John Lavelle
Judges Rules	Tammy Kimmel	Andy Adams	Cara Brewer
Limited Age Events	Emily Finch	Shianne Megel	Barnwell Ramsey
Non-Professional	Julie Davis	Julie Davis	Casey Green
Professional Trainers	Jessica Gryder	Jessica Gryder	Phil Benadum
Stallion Owners and Breeders	Allison Walker	Jay Winborn	Kathleen Moore
Weekend Show	Linda Smith	Shianne Megel	Sharon Overstreet
Youth	Rianna Storey	Rianna Storey	Kristen York

AMATEUR COMMITTEE – JENNIFER PALMER

Chairman of the Amateur Committee Jennifer Palmer addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations to be considered.

1. Inclusion of other association earnings in the \$15,000 and \$50,000 Amateur classes.

The Amateur Committee recommends upholding the previous motion to adopt the same language used in the 2000LR rule change for all weekend \$15,000 and \$50,000 Amateur. 2000LR new verbiage: In order to qualify to show in this class, riders cannot have earned more than a total of \$2000 (**\$15,000, \$50,000, etc.**) in lifetime earnings in all cutting horse competitions at the beginning of the point year, whether NCHA or any other equine association. The rider has the burden of proof that he/she meets the eligibility requirements to compete in this class.

A **MOTION** was made by Tommy Williams and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to accept the recommendation to adopt the same eligibility language as the 2000LR rule change for all weekend \$15,000 and \$50,000 Amateur and also the \$35,000 Non-Pro classes effective 2024 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Consider combining NP/Unlimited Amateur with independently produced small LAE shows.

The Amateur Committee recommends giving the small LAE Producer the option to combine the Non-Pro/Amateur (all levels) at aged events.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Review Amateur Exceptions

The Amateur Committee recommends changing the 3YR/\$50,000 Amateur Exception to a 5YR/\$15,000 Exception.

~~3-year/\$50,000~~ 5 year/\$15,000 Exception (for previous trainer's spouses, children and lopers) An applicant may be granted Amateur status if the applicant has never been involved as a trainer or assistant trainer of cutting horses for direct or indirect remuneration in any amount and has never been an apprentice cutting horse trainer and the applicant for more than a **three five year** period prior to the date of application: (i) has not been married to a person had a cohabitational relationship with a person or resided with a person who is engaged in activities that would require that person to be classified because of the activities then occurring as a Professional by the provisions of Rule 51.a.3; (ii) has not resided with or on the premise with a parent, step-parent or foster parent who was, during the previous three-year period, a Professional; (iii) has not been directly or indirectly employed by a Professional and performed the duties of employment on the premises of a horse training operation astride a horse; AND (iv) has not received ~~\$50,000~~ **\$15,000** or more in lifetime total earnings in cutting horse competition and breed associations of all types. This includes cutting horse winnings in all breed associations and any and all cutting competitions regardless by whom such competitions are produced, sponsored, or approved.

The Executive Committee made the decision that this recommendation if approved would not be effective until the 2025 point year and issued a directive to the Youth, Non-Professional, Weekend Show, and Professional Trainers committees to evaluate further and report back to the EC by the October Meeting.

4. Entry Structure – Consider the use of Watt:

The Amateur Committee recommends allowing show management to utilize the Watt Arena for the Limited Amateur. The Amateur committee would like to see the workings of the revised schedule as to how this will work.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

Elected as Chair: Jennifer Palmer
Elected as Vice Chair: William Cole

Regional Director John Lavelle representing Region 4 suggested that the NCHA issue a survey to all Amateur riders that entered the Summer Spectacular for suggestions on how to better the schedule and address the long days in the Amateur classes at Triple Crown Events and reduce the long duration between advancements in each class.

President Toddy Pitard thanked Jennifer Palmer for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS COMMITTEE – KATHY DAUGHN

Chairman of the Professional Trainers Committee Kathy Daughn addressed the Executive Committee with the recommendations to be considered from this committee.

1. Change Leveling Terminology for Open

Recommendation:

NCHA adopt the use of Open I, Open II, and Open III to replace the current Limited, Intermediate, and Open terminology.

A **MOTION** was made by Phil Benadum and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to accept the recommendation and adopt the new classification titles as presented for the Open I, II, and III to replace the current Limited, Intermediate, and Open terminology with the top level being called Open III effective 2024 point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

In addition, the Executive Committee issued a directive for the Amateur, Non-Professional and the Approved LAE Show Producers Committees to consider this terminology change for all divisions and report back to the Executive Committee by the October Meeting.

2. Aged Event Shoot out Proposal

Recommendation:

Proceed with the Shoot-out format for the 2024 show season. A sub-committee consisting of Jay Winborn, Shianne Megel, Jesse Lennox, Coleta Rosson, Phil Benadum, Casey Green, Jennifer Palmer, and Sherry Graham has been developed to iron out additional details for the program. The Professional Trainers Committee is not looking for approval from the EC at this time as this proposal is still undergoing numerous revisions in an attempt to have majority supported by all the committees involved, they would just like to get backing to continue efforts in finding the best program possible. It is being proposed that if we can't have a working finals for all levels that we at the very least recognize those finalists in the non-working finals with an incentive package, such as an entry package for the next triple crown event.

The Executive Committee made the decision that this recommendation would be issued as a directive to the Amateur, Non-Professional, and the Approved LAE Show Producers committees to evaluate further and report back by the EC at the October

Meeting. Multiple versions of this aged event shoot out proposal along with HOY formats were distributed with this directive.

**Re-Elected as Chair: Kathy Daughn
Elected as Co-Vice Chairs: Jesse Lennox and Kenny Platt**

President Toddy Pitard thanked Kathy Daughn for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – DEAN REBHUHN

Growth and Development Committee Chair Dean Rebhuhn presented recommendations to be considered.

- 1. Recommend a "Monday Minute" style weekly communication from NCHA to members.**

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation as it is an operational action that will be handled by the NCHA office. A format will be developed and issued as a means of communication from the office starting with the 4th quarter of this year.

- 2. Recommend forming an Ad Hoc group to investigate updating class limits.**

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

**Re-Elected as Chair: Dean Rebhuhn
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Joseph Kalt**

President Toddy Pitard thanked Dean Rebhuhn for chairing this committee and dedicating his time to the NCHA. Also, personally thanked Dean for his efforts in the NCHA Annual Convention planning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session.

GENERAL SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

NON-PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE – SHERRY GRAHAM

Chairman of the Non-Professional Committee Sherry Graham presented her committee's

recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Consider combining Unlimited Ama and NP at independently produced small LAE shows.

Recommendation:

Give LAE Producers the option to combine the Non-Pro/Amateur (all levels) at small limited aged events.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

2. Non-Parity Open/Non-Pro added money at weekend

Recommendation:

No change to the current rule relating to Open/Non-Pro parity of added money on the weekend level.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Julie Hansma Sportsmanship Award

Recommendation:

Non-Professional sportsmanship award. Beginning with the 2023 Point Year

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to support and adopt the Julie Hansma Sportsmanship Award for the Non-Professional division effective 2023 Point Year to be awarded at the Futurity in the same format as the Mary Kingsbury Award. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Non-Pro Rider of the Year

Recommendation:

Non-Pro Rider of the year, all money.

The Executive Committee requested this to go back to the Non-Professional Committee to research whether or not the Senior and Gelding sub classes need to be included with these earnings and bring it back to the EC by the October Meeting.

Re-Elected as Chair: Sherry Graham

Elected as Vice Chair: Jamie Sokol

President Toddy Pitard thanked Sherry Graham for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

LIMITED AGE EVENTS COMMITTEE – ERIC VAN BOEKEL

Chair of the Limited Age Events Committee Eric Van Boekel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with the recommendations for consideration from the Limited Age Events committee.

Timeline for Publishing Payouts

The committee agreed to publish projected payouts following the draw for each Triple Crown Event.

Event Set Up

The committee agreed to make available additional practice pen and block work options at the Triple Crown events.

Schedule

Use of the Watt

The committee discussed a variety of scheduling options to move classes to the Watt to maximize schedule efficiency.

Start Times

Earlier start times were discussed for longer days.

Entry Structure

Amateur Division

Investigate Amateur Triple Crown entry format in cooperation with the Amateur Committee.

Owner's Night

Develop a task force to focus on an Owner's Night at future events.

New Business

Jesse Lennox proposed the idea of creating a top 15 Horse of the Year finals during the 2023 Futurity.

The Limited Age Events Committee plans to meet a couple of weeks after the summer show to connect with members and address any concerns that need to be discussed post-convention.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on items from this committee.

Elected as Chair: Eric Van Boekel

Elected as Vice Chair: Monty Buntin

President Toddy Pitard thanked Eric Van Boekel for chairing this committee and dedicating his time to the NCHA.

AFFILIATE OFFICERS/SECRETARIES COMMITTEE – CAREN BIRDWELL

Chair of the Affiliate Officers/ Secretaries Committee Caren Birdwell addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations brought forth from her committee.

- 1. Discuss non parity Open/Non-Pro added money at the weekend level. Leave it up to each Affiliate/Producer what works best in their area.**

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this item.

2. Circuit Points – Challenger/Championship same number of points.

Recommendation to separate Challenger Shows from Championship Shows and have Award program for the Challenger Shows.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Co-approved other Associations NCHA Affiliates in the region may be consulted before approving on top of their shows.

Recommendations to table at this time for further clarification.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

Elected as Chair: Caren Birdwell

Elected as Vice Chair: Vickie Green

President Toddy Pitard thanked Caren Birdwell for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

The Executive Committee members accepted a short break and went on a guided tour of the offices in the building to visit with staff.

REGIONAL REPORTS

President Toddy Pitard welcomed the each of the members to report on their regional updates.

Region 1 – Kristen York provided an update from Region 1 that Idaho is getting ready for a big show working through payouts for the Cascades. Members in the region are optimistic about the circuit changes. Wyoming CHA had a huge show and picked up some youth members on the way to the High School finals. Cutting is alive and well with the weather on their side.

Region 2 – Phil Benadum reported that Region 2 has had a couple of shows that were canceled due to the cattle issues and low entries. The Pacific Coast Derby is up 25% but cattle continue to be a challenge.

Region 3 – Kirby Smith emphasized that cuttings have been slow since the NCHA Days due to the weather. The next eight weekends have shows which members are excited about. There has been a significant amount of cattle lost due to the extreme temperatures. Circuit members are excited about the circuit shows and cuttings are doing well.

Region 4 – John Lavelle provided an update that cattle issues are still problematic. Multiple shows have been canceled. The Challenger Shows are popular and doing well. A facility on the Indiana border has been identified for the Circuit Finals. There has been an overwhelming interest in the lower-level classes at these shows, which is encouraging. Region 4 has gained

more directors which posed a communication challenge across the two area circuits.

Region 5 – Sharon Overstreet reported that Tobacco Road had a show in June and is preparing to produce a show in South Dakota. Region 5 has a major show coming up, the Peach State Futurity in Perry, GA. They are expecting a big turn out as one of the only air-conditioned shows in the area in July/August. Unlike the other regions, cattle concerns are not a problem in Region 5. Preparation has begun for the shows in September, which will be well attended. The World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL is a state-of-the-art equine facility that continues to be an option for 2025 shows.

Region 6 – Tommy Williams stated that the show in Memphis that held the NHCA Days was a huge success and well attended with a lot of youth. The new Arkansas affiliate had a show in the spring and one coming up in the fall that is expected to do well. The Circuit Finals will be held in Hattiesburg, MS this fall.

Region 7 – Skip Jones expressed that Region 7 was also dealing with show cancellations due to heat concerns. The 4th of July show was large and there was a successful show for Panhandle CHA that was well attended. The Panhandle show was affected by the NP and AM entries due to those that made finals at the end of the summer show. The West Texas Futurity entries are being affected by the Run for the Million event since those riders have to be there early for presentations but getting ready anyway.

Region 8 – Kathleen Moore reported that cuttings are hot and a concern. Region 8 does offer a lot of facilities with A/C but systems are still trying to keep up. Kathleen attended a WCHA show recently that was well produced and show management was excited to co-sanction with the NCHA at the show.

At Large – Cara Brewer had nothing to report at this time.

At Large – Casey Green reported that the Derby was good, and the cattle worked well. The extra practice pen helped and should continue to be considered.

Vice President – Barnwell Ramsey conveyed that he is still trying to get his feet wet and take it all in. Heard positive comments from contestants at the Derby overall. The scores were relatively low but consistent from the Judges.

President-Elect – Mark Senn had nothing to report at this time.

Executive Director Jay Winborn expanded on highlights from the Summer Spectacular stating that the concessions faded off and were limited by the last weekend. Some staff members suffered some illnesses from ingesting food purchased at the show. The facility overall was the cleanest that we have seen in a while, and they seem to be more attentive to issues that came up. Even though restrooms were more functional, they were lacking tissue and paper towels. There was a water main break on the last day of the show that caused horses to be rerouted as they entered the coliseum. This water issue caused the restrooms to be shut down on the west side of the building. Overall, Jay was pleased with the appearance of the facility during the show but concerned with the air conditioning.

Jay also announced that NCHA was aired on the local news channels addressing how our members and horses are battling the heat and highlighting the cryotherapy process with one of our newest cold therapy sponsors.

NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM – SKIP JONES/ALLISON WALKER

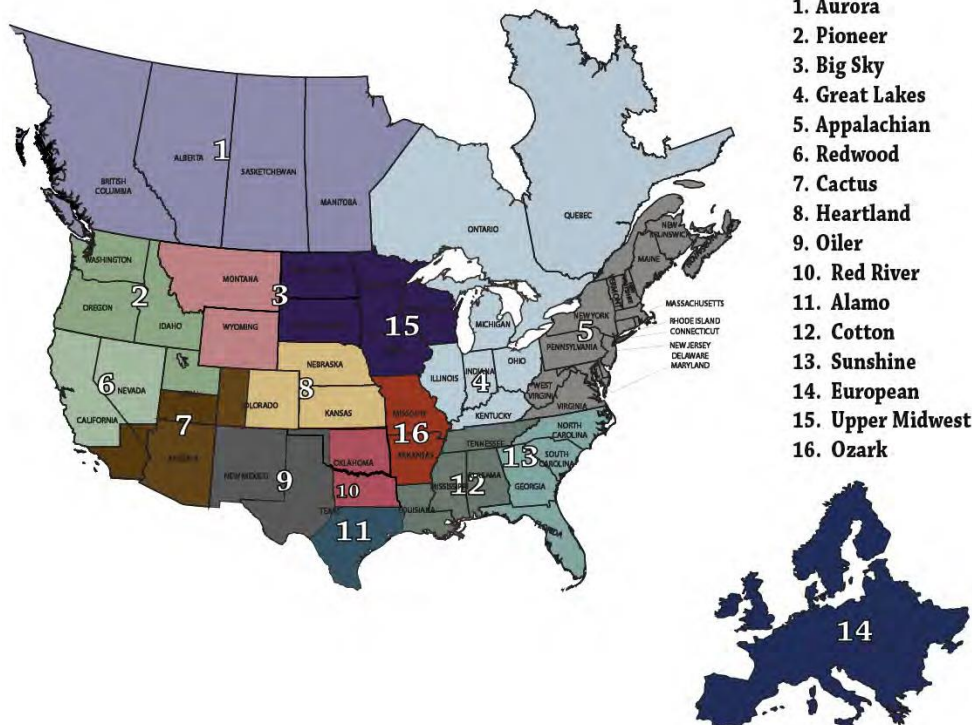
Manager of Circuit Program Allison Walker updated the Executive Committee on the National Circuit Seminar during the annual convention.



1. Circuit Map for the 2024-Point Year

- a. The map on the proceeding page was well received at the National Circuit Program seminar. Only two requests were made during the seminar, which are included in this map.

Proposed Circuit Map
2024-Point Year



A **MOTION** was made by Tommy Williams and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to adopt the proposed circuit map for the 2024 point year as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

Circuit #	CIRCUIT NAME	EXISTING "ALL"	OLD %	PROPOSED "ALL"	NEW %
11	Alamo	755	5.9%	755	5.9%
5	Appalachian	742	5.8%	1381	10.8%
2	Pioneer	1033	8.1%	1033	8.1%
3	Big Sky	729	5.7%	554	4.3%
7	Cactus	959	7.5%	791	6.2%
12	Cotton	1820	14.3%	1320	10.3%
4	Great Lakes	1156	9.1%	534	4.2%
8	Heartland	919	7.2%	611	4.8%
9	Oiler	486	3.8%	559	4.4%
10	Red River	2089	16.4%	1558	12.2%
6	Redwood	931	7.3%	931	7.3%
13	Sunshine	1150	9.0%	773	6.1%
15	New Moonshine			923	7.2%
16	New Ozark			1046	8.2%
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:		12769	100.0%	12769	100.0%

Circuit #	CIRCUIT NAME	EXISTING "SHOWING"	OLD %	PROPOSED "SHOWING"	NEW %
11	Alamo	334	6.4%	334	6.4%
5	Appalachian	161	3.1%	161	3.1%
2	Pioneer	455	8.7%	455	8.7%
3	Big Sky	345	6.6%	173	3.3%
7	Cactus	434	8.3%	409	7.8%
12	Cotton	706	13.5%	432	8.2%
4	Great Lakes	431	8.2%	409	7.8%
8	Heartland	408	7.8%	233	4.4%
9	Oiler	227	4.3%	252	4.8%
10	Red River	899	17.1%	1096	20.9%
6	Redwood	418	8.0%	418	8.0%
13	Sunshine	427	8.1%	427	8.1%
15	Upper Midwest			219	4.2%
16	Ozark			227	4.3%
TOTAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:		5245	100.0%	5245	100.0%

2. Joint Circuit Approval

- a. Taking effect in the 2024-point year, joint circuit approval will be eliminated from the circuit program.
 - i. Seminar attendees polled:
 - Do not eliminate JCA – 4
 - Eliminate JCA – too many to count

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to eliminate joint circuit approvals for the National Circuit Program effective 2024. **MOTION PASSED by majority with one (1) opposition.**

3. NCHA-Sponsored Show Host Selection Process

- a. Starting in the 2024-point year, we will ask the directors inside of each circuit be more involved in the selection of their NCHA Weekend and Circuit Championships hosts. This host selection process is not turning out to be the bidding process that was originally envisioned. The directors are our boots on the ground that know the local venues, affiliates, who produce the best shows, etc. They should be the ones to make the selection.

See MOTION stated below for action on #3, 4, and 5 combined.

4. 2025 NCHA Weekend Dates

- a. Each circuit has their own challenges with weather, high school rodeo state finals, venue schedule, etc. Seminar attendees expressed the most interest in making NCHA Weekend dates flexible. If a protected weekend was needed, the second weekend in May was the most well-received weekend. However, this does conflict with the Breeder’s Invitational. For the 2025-point year, we are looking into making May NCHA Month and allowing hosts to hold their NCHA Weekend any weekend in May.

See MOTION stated below for action on #3, 4, and 5 combined.

5. Challenger Show Point Scale

- a. In the seminar, it was expressed that points awarded at challenger shows should better reflect the level of the show. It was requested by many for challenger shows to award 1/2 points and championship shows continue to award the standard full point.

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to accept the recommendations being proposed from the National Circuit Program for items # 3, 4, and 5. **MOTION PASSED.**

NCHA WEEKEND		
Subsidy		\$8,000.00
Awards & Shipping	\$	3,422.77
		\$11,422.77

CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS & YEAR END		
Subsidy		\$16,000.00
Awards & Shipping	\$	47,517.23
		\$63,517.23

Financial impact of
adding two circuits: \$74,940.00

no change in awards or subsidies reflected

The Executive Committee made the decision that a directive be issued for the Finance and Audit Committee to investigate the financial impact of the National Circuit Programs approved changes in adding the two new circuits and report back to the Executive Committee at the October meeting.

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams presented provided updates and recommendations to be considered by the Judges Department to the Executive Committee.

Proposed Videographer Policy Change

Dear NCHA Videographers and Show Management, the following are the new guidelines for Videographers. There is a high percentage of videographers who are noncompliant with the rules associated with annual certification. Videographers in compliance will not be required to pay the new recertification fee until 2024. Videographers out of compliance have until January first to be recertified and will be required to pay the recertification fee as the new rule states. If a videographer does not recertify by January first, they will be inactivated as a NCHA Videographer, until they do so. Please note all rule changes are in **RED, please read carefully, these rules will be enforced.**

New Procedures for Videoing NCHA Approved Events

- 1. All NCHA approved classes must be video recorded.*
- 2. The Videographer must have the understanding that their first responsibility is to make quality videos for NCHA reviewing purposes. Only NCHA certified videographers can be used. All videographers, including replacement or fill-in videographers must be certified and a current NCHA member. The NCHA membership fee will be waived for videographers who do not compete in NCHA approved shows. There will be a \$150 fee to apply and or recertify.*
- 3. All applicant videographers must register and pass the on-line NCHA Videographer test with a minimum of an 80% score. This site is located at www.nchavst.com. After passing the on-line NCHA videographer test you will enter a probational period. All applicant videographers will be required to send a copy of their first video footage of the year with two classes (ex. Open and Non-Pro) to Video West Productions (see #21 this section) for review and approval to become a NCHA Videographer.*
- 4. All NCHA videographers are required to recertify every (2) two years. All NCHA videographers will be required to send a copy of their last video footage of the expiring year, with two classes (ex. Open and Non-Pro) to Video West Productions (see #21 this section) for review and approval to remain a NCHA videographer. Show producers must ensure the videographer has the proper certification and are aware of and complying with the requirements prior to the start of the show.*
- 5. While videoing classes, videographers must not talk on a cell phone, or talk to contestants, and have only limited communication with the judges. It is very important that the judge or monitor reviewing the video hear all the arena sounds and should not be distracted by ongoing conversations on the video.*
- 6. NCHA will only accept DVD-Rs, SD cards, thumb drives, or USB 3.0 external hard drives.*
 - a. The Videographer will turn in a Weekend Field Monitor's Report along with all the video runs and judges' sheets to the designated judge at the immediate conclusion of the show.*
 - b. All video media should be labeled with the name of the show, date, classes, and judge name. Retrieving a specific horse and rider video is important throughout the show and after the show. Each set, class and day needs to be easily identified to assure that information retrieval is guaranteed. All videos stored on DVDs, USB external hard drive, SD cards or thumb drives need to be organized, so that a specific horse, rider, set, class, and day of the show can easily be identified for review purposes at any time.*
- 7. Videographers may be requested to forward additional videos to the Director of Judges for review.*
- 8. Camera should be positioned as near the center of the arena as possible and should be at approximately the same height as the judge's stand.*
- 9. Do not leave the camera stationary.*
- 10. Take all precautions to ensure the lighting is proper.*
- 11. Videos must have horse, rider, and cow in the picture always. Do not zoom in on rider too closely to prevent getting the overall action.*
- 12. Allow lead-in footage before horse begins to work and after buzzer sounds, the horse leaves the arena and is no longer in the judge's sight. Be sure the horn or buzzer sound is heard on recording as well as the announced score.*
- 13. If camera is not capable of producing titles, it should be left on long enough to obtain names of horses and or riders.*
- 14. Whether using DVD, SD card, USB or thumb drive media for storage purposes, individual video/movie files of each horse and rider must be produced. Each horse and rider exhibitor*

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

15. If the secretary receives numerous complaints regarding a judge's performance, the secretary may submit the video along with the judge's score card to the Director of Judges for review. This will not replace a formal protest.

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 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 slow motion and playback capability are required for the NCHA monitor.*

17. When a video is received at the NCHA office that is of poor quality, the NCHA Judges Department will:

- a. Notify the event's producer and show secretary and fine the videographer \$50.
- b. Additional footage may be requested and sent to the NCHA Video Support Team (VST) to be evaluated. The videographer *will contact the VST to seek assistance* in resolving the issue.
- c. Upon receiving a second inferior quality recording from the videographer, the videographer may be fined \$200, which must be paid prior to the videographer's next event and verified by the show management that the videographer has been cleared to video any upcoming show for them. *It is the videographer's responsibility to contact the VST to discuss the video quality notification.*
- d. Upon receiving a third inferior quality recording, the videographer may be fined *a minimum \$500 fine or revocation of videoing privileges, or both. All disciplinary actions listed in these rules are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his sole discretion, based on the severity of the violation in question.*

18. The Field Monitor system requires that each show reproduces and provide video copies for the NCHA Judge *at the end of* each show. The judge will have three days to mail the copies of their judges' sheets and a copy of their videos of the approved NCHA classes that they judge.

a. All weekend classes, including weekend Limited Age Event classes, will be included in the Field Monitor Program.

19. If it is a multiple judge Weekend show, only the lowest ranking judge and any fill in judge will take the videos and judges sheets home. If it is a multiple judge Limited Age Event with \$10,000 to \$60,000 added, the videos and judges' sheets will be given to the highest-ranking judge.

20. All United States, Canadian and European judges will report to an assigned Weekend Monitor.

21. Show Management should make sure that their Video Contractors are aware of and are complying with all NCHA requirements PRIOR to the show. See Guidelines for Weekend Monitor Program for Judges and Regulations for Limited Age Events. Contact for video training:

*Video West Production Ted Petit,
1739 Marion Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
Cell: 661-492-2621
Web site: www.nchavst.com
Email: ted.petit@yahoo.com*

See MOTION stated below for actions taken on all the Judges Department's recommendations.

Proposed Changes to the European Judges Application

European Judges Application

The National Cutting Horse Association Judging Department is committed to providing well trained judges for all NCHA-sanctioned cutting horse contests. Those NCHA members wishing to become judges must complete a rigorous training program and subsequent refresher clinics on the proper interpretation and application of the rules for judging cutting horse events to be considered a certified NCHA judge.

Certified judges are rated AA, AAA or AAAA, with the latter being the highest category. These ratings depend upon earnings and the number of events an individual has judged.

The process to become a judge starts with asking yourself a few questions:

1. Are you at least 19 years of age?
2. Have you been an active member of NCHA continuously for the last five (5) years?
3. During the last 3 years, you have NOT been suspended, put on probation, or reprimanded by the Association?
4. During the last 3 years, have you been an active competitor in NCHA approved events?
5. Do you have at least \$2,500 in lifetime earnings?

If you answered yes to all the above, you could start the process of becoming an NCHA judge.

Download and read the Judge's Code of Ethics

Use your lifetime earnings and fill out the appropriate application, each of which includes an Open Book test on which you must score 80% as well as the other requirements for becoming a judge.

- \$2,500 - \$49,999 in lifetime Earnings
- \$50,000 - \$99,999 in lifetime Earnings
- \$100,000 or more in lifetime Earnings

Send the application and all the items required by the application to the NCHA Judging Department. You're on your way!

See MOTION stated below for actions taken on all the Judges Department's recommendations.

**NCHA Judge Card Applicants
For \$2,500+ Winners
(Checklist as of August 2023)**

- 1.** All applicants must be over 19 years old, must be an active member and must have been a member for at least five (5) years.
- 2.** The applicant shall not have a record of suspension or probation for the three (3) year period preceding the application. Any person seeking approval must have been an active competitor for the past three (3) years and must have won a lifetime minimum of \$2,500.
- 3.** Each application must be endorsed by one (1) current Director in the applicant's area.
- 4.** Each applicant must have three (3) endorsements on separate reference forms which are included in this packet.
- 5.** A non-refundable fee of \$150 must

accompany all applications and the Open Book Test and mailed back to NCHA.

6. After passing the test with a minimum score of 80% and after all endorsements are received; the applicant will be tested through live or video judging pending the approval of the Director of Judges.

7. All applicants must send in a signed copy of the NCHA Judge's Code of Ethics before they can be approved.

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

You will be tested on 10 runs. The applicants must score 75% or higher to become an approved judge.

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to accept all the recommendations being presented by the Judges Department. **MOTION PASSED.**

JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams presented the recommendations from the Judges Rules Committee for consideration.

Judges Rules Committee

- 1. Recommend updating the Judges Score Card- run content box left empty to indicate an average run, same as a checkmark.**

Standing Rule 6 d. page 32

d. All NCHA approved events must use official NCHA judges' cards and forward same to the Association along with the completed NCHA result forms within five (5) days of the conclusion of the show. If show results are not forwarded to NCHA within five (5) days of the conclusion of the show, show management will be fined \$250. Judges shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided. It

is mandatory for judges to fill in run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:

Above Average Average Below Average
 + √+ √ √- -

Any empty run content box indicates average, same as √

Standing Rule 25 b. page 50

d. All NCHA approved events must use official NCHA judges' cards, and Judges shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided. It is mandatory for judges to fill in run content columns on the score cards with the following symbols:

Above Average Average Below Average
 + √+ √ √- -

Any empty run content box indicates average, same as √

OFFICIAL JUDGES CARD

NCHA
NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Show: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
 Class: _____ Go Round: _____ Class pays _____ places.

Run Content:

Herd Work: Driving a cow (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Controlling the cow: Working in center of arena (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Degree of Difficulty: (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Eye Appeal: (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Time Worked: (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Amount of Courage: (+)(√)(-)(\)(/)(.)

Loose Reins: (-) (only)

Horse Charging: (-) (only)

Forced Off a Cow: (-) (only)

Excessive Herdholder Help: (-) (only)

Any Empty Run Content Box Indicates Average.

One Point

(A) Mis-Loss of working advantage - 11
 (A)-1/2 Mis-Loss of working advantage - 11
 (B) Raking or visibility cutting - 10
 (C) Noise directed toward cattle - 5a
 (D) Tail lock or strike on shoulder - 8d
 (E) Hold on too long on a out - 8a
 (F) Working out of position - 11
 (G) Head too far forward - 9

Three Points

(A) Hit rail - 13
 (B) Cattle picked up or scattered - 6b
 (C) Second hand on the reins - 8b
 (D) Spur in the shoulder - 8c
 (E) Flawing or biting cattle - 12
 (F) Failure to make a deep cut - 1
 (G) Back Fatigue - 6

Penalties:

Five Points

(A) Horse cutting a cow - 14
 (B) Loading a cow - 9
 (C) Changing cattle after a specific commitment - 10
 (D) Failure to separate a single animal

60 - if horse turns tail - 7
 6 - if horse falls to ground - 17

Disqualification (score 0) - illegal equipment, or leaving working area before time expires, or inhumane treatment to the horse.

HORSE	SCORE	PENALTIES			RUN CONTENT																		
		1 PT	3 PTS	5 PTS	Herd Work	Cow Control	Degree of Difficulty	Eye Appeal	Amount of Courage	Time Worked	Loose Reins	Horse Charging	Forced Off	Herd Help									

Divisions within the penalty box represent 1st, 2nd or 3rd cow worked.

NCHA Membership No. _____ Judge's Signature _____

2024

2. **Recommend adding verbiage to the Judges Code of Ethics. Article 6 and adding it to the end of Standing Rule 21.**
3. **Recommend adding verbiage to: Regulations for Approved Limited Age Events: Add 4.g. Page 124.**
 - 4.g: Judges must get approval from the Director of Judges to judge consecutive aged events.
4. **Recommend a verbiage addition to Standing Rule 21. Page 47.**
 - Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, violations of the Judges Code of Ethics.
5. **Recommend changes to Standing Rule 27. Page 50-54 and Standing Rule 21.b Page 47:
Removal of all 1A rating wording to support changes to 2A rating.**
6. **Recommend additional wording in Standing Rule 28.a- Page 54 and in Standing Rule 29- Page 55.**

28.a: (in part)

 - The Director of Judges may take such disciplinary action as he determines in his sole discretion is appropriate, **based on the severity of the violation in question**, including temporary or permanent revocation of all privileges to serve as an NCHA judge.

Standing Rule 29: (in part)

 - **However, all disciplinary actions listed in this rule are guidelines only and may be increased or decreased by the Director of Judges, in his sole discretion, based on the severity of the incident in question.**
7. **Recommend changes to the Judge Challenge System at LAE Monitored Events Page 165-166 and Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System- Adding 5.a.1 Page 164:**

Judge Challenge System:

The Challenge System is to be used at all LAE monitored events. ~~excluding World Series of Cutting 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 by a completed form and payment to the show management prior to the start of the next go-round.

In the event the challenge occurs from a final, the challenge must be submitted to show management before **the awards for that final are given. The results are made official.** If the challenge proves to be legitimate, 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. The extra horse will be added to that round, but the bubble score required to advance to the next round will

never be changed. If the next round is a semifinals or finals round, the contestant will be hand-drawn into the round, never changing the bubble score. Both monitors and all five judges will review all challenges submitted.

5.a.1: Page 164:

- In finals only, in a case where an R is either placed on the scoreboard or announced by error (when all 5 judges called same penalty), the monitor will contact contestant to make them aware of the error.

8. Recommendation to add to number 8 of the Approved Limited Aged Events. Page 125:

- NCHA Self-Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) may be used with three (3) judges or less. **All shows using more than (3) judges must use a NCHA monitor.**

9. Protest Timeline. Page 51. Remove wording.

- For limited age events, the filing deadline. ~~is seven (7) days from the end of the show.~~

10. Recommended changing/adding verbiage to Judging Rule 5.b-Page 132 and Judging Rule 5.b - Example 5-Note- page 133.

Judges Rule 5.b-Page 132:

Each time a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd while working or picks up **one or more cow's** cattle-through fault of the horse, it will be penalized three (3) points. Note: At the first sound of the buzzer, the run is terminated.

Judges Rule 5.b - Example 5-Note- page 133:

- **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).**

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to accept all the recommendations being presented by the Judges Rules Committee. **MOTION PASSED.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Tim Smith

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Dave Stewart

ADJOURNMENT

The EC Meeting was adjourned the first day and reconvened Tuesday, August 8th at 8:00AM central time.

TUESDAY – AUGUST 8, 2023

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:03AM by President Toddy Pitard.

WEEKEND SHOW COMMITTEE – BRADEY DAVIS

Weekend Show Committee Chairman Bradey Davis presented the recommendations from his committee.

- 1. Discuss non parity Open/Non Pro added money at weekend level. Leave it up to each Affiliate/Producer what works best in their area.**

Recommend to make no change

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

- 2. Discuss if a rule change is implemented it goes into effect the following point/show year. It cannot affect the current year unless it is an extreme emergency.**

Recommend no action

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

- 3. Discuss raising entry fee at the World Finals for the Open/Non-Pro class.**

Recommend support of the concept with input from the Finance Committee

The Executive Committee made the decision that a directive be issued for the Finance and Audit Committee to investigate raising the entry fee at the World Finals for the Open and Non-Pro classes and report back to the Executive Committee at the October meeting.

- 4. Clarification rider shows in World Finals excluded from National Circuit Championships. Recommend exception be granted if horse is sold that was in the Top 15 Open/Non-Pro be allowed to be shown in other classes.**

A **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to take NO ACTION on this recommendation for an exception be granted if horse is sold that was in the Top 15 Open/Non-Pro be allowed to be shown in other classes by the Weekend Show Committee.
MOTION PASSED.

- 5. Discuss the approval of Championship Shows with no added money can now be true jackpot (entry fee cap \$350) shows which would count for the World Finals and change 8% fee to flat fee at the weekend level (example \$10 per entry).**

Recommend concept with cap have Finance Committee vet and report back 8% vs flat fee

The Executive Committee made the decision that NCHA show management review this recommendation and report back to the Executive Committee at the October meeting.

Re-Elected as Chair: Bradey Davis

Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Chris Howell

President Toddy Pitard thanked Bradey Davis for chairing this committee and dedicating his time to the NCHA.

APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS COMMITTEE – COLETA ROSSON

Chair of the Approved LAE/Show Producers Committee Coleta Rosson addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations brought forth from her committee.

1. This Committee exempt from the rule all regions had to be represented wants LAE Show Producers on this Committee.

Recommend that the Governance Committee review equal representation for Premier Show Producers Committee considers each Premier Show to have a representative on this committee in addition to the already established regional representation, then report back to this committee or submit to Executive Committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to take NO ACTION on this recommendation for the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee to be exempt from the rule all regions had to be represented. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Standardize class Names/Eligibility

Recommend standardization across all approved Premier LAE shows to follow the NCHA leveling format in regard to class names and dollar amounts with the option to include/omit Hall of Fame roll back at the discretion of show management.

A **MOTION** was made by Mark Senn and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve standardization across all approved Premier LAE shows to follow the NCHA leveling format in regard to class names and dollar amounts with the option to include/omit Hall of Fame roll back at the discretion of show management. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. NCHA Monitor expense/compensation

Recommend support of the concept to compensate Monitor's daily fee, but since the Monitor is an employee of NCHA, Producers request the additional money come from the 2% fee paid from LAE shows.

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Mark Senn to approve the support of the concept to compensate Monitor’s daily fee, but since the Monitor is an employee of NCHA, Producers request the additional money come from the 2% fee paid from LAE shows pending the approval of the Finance and Audit Committee. Director of Judges Andy Adams will need to weigh in on this rate. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. 2024 Proposed LAE show dates (January-April)

Recommend approval of calendar with changing start date Abilene to January 2nd and if possible, mark the calendar in RED for Run for the Million and The American show dates when provided.

NCHA PRODUCERS CALENDAR													
2024 Requested	days	Added \$	2023 Requested	days	Added \$	2022 Requested	days	Added \$	Show Name	Show City	State	Secretary	
Jan 1-9	8	\$156,000	Jan 5-13	9	215,000	Jan 2-10	9	\$158,000	Abilene Spectacular Cutting Event	Abilene	TX	Coleta Rosson	
Jan 14-21	8	\$292,000	Jan 15-21	7	200,000	Jan 16-22	7	\$166,000	42nd Annual Augusta Futurity & Classic	Perry	GA	Gwen Coie	
Jan 24-Feb 4	12	\$208,500	Jan 25 Feb 4	11	178,500	Jan 27-Feb 6	11	\$178,500	The IKE (Tunica)	West Monroe	LA	Della Hillerman	
Feb 14-25	12	\$185,000	Feb 14-26	13	185,500	Feb 21-28	7	\$160,500	Arbuckle Mountain Futurity & Classic	Ardmore	OK	Della Hillerman	
Mar 3-10	8	\$137,000	Mar 3-12	10	135,000	March 6-13	8	\$135,000	The "Cattlemens" Derby & Classic	Graham	TX	Donna Bachand	
Feb 29-Mar 9			Mar 1-11			Mar 3-12			Eastern Nat'l Championships	West Monroe	LA	NCHA	
Mar 5-10	6	\$54,000	Mar 7-12	6	54,000	Mar 8-13	6	\$54,000	PCCHA Trainers Gold Club Rounup	Paso Robles	CA	Tami Rodman	
Mar 20-Apr 14			Mar 23-Apr 15			Mar 24-Apr 16	25		NCHA Super Stakes	Fort Worth	TX	NCHA	

A **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Phil Benadum to approve the 2024 proposed LAE show calendar as presented with Abilene starting on January 2nd. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. Aged Event Shoot-Out Proposal

Recommend supporting the concept presented for Horse/Rider of the Year across all classes and levels.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation as this concept is undergoing further research.

Re-Elected as Chair: Coleta Rosson
Elected as Vice Chair: Della Hillerman

President Toddy Pitard thanked Coleta Rosson for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel addressed the members of the Executive Committee with updates from the Show Department.

Summer Show

Shianne provided an update as a result of the summer show that once numbers are finalized the practice and stalls both showed an increase over the previous year and settling times averaged 28 minutes for the Non-Pro which was the longest, 25 minutes for the Open and only 20 minutes for the Amateur.

Futurity

Shianne provided some exciting entry numbers for the Futurity. Currently, there are 774 entries in the Open, 211 in the Non-Pro, 48 Intermediate Amateur Combo entries, 65 in the Amateur and 12 entries in the Limited Amateur. The trends look positive for a successful show. The Futurity schedule will be reviewed by the Limited Age Events Committee and is being proposed to run the same format as last year with a potential swap of the Non-Pro Finals with the Open Semi-Finals to give some of these horses a day in between performances.

World Finals Added Money

During these discussions, an announcement on World Finals added money is to be released soon.

Standing Rule 5 Clarification (Page 31)

Some members of the Executive Committee requested clarification on the following:

...NCHA Affiliates cannot approve having a joint show with a competing association with the exception of AQHA, APHA, High School Rodeo and organizations that host an NCHA Championship Show or NCHA Challenger Show...

A **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Kathleen Moore that co-sanctioned approvals can be bi-directional from competing organizations. **An AMENDED action is provided and voted on below.**

An amended **MOTION** was made by John Lavelle and **SECONDED** by Kathleen Moore to direct the Weekend Show Committee to research verbiage in the Official NCHA Rulebook on page 31 regarding co-sanctioned applications and provide clarification to the language in the rule while coordinating efforts with NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel. **MOTION PASSED.**

President Toddy Pitard congratulated Shianne Megel and her team for producing a great summer show.

STALLION OWNERS AND BREEDERS COMMITTEE – ROCK HEDLUND

Chairman of Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee Rock Hedlund addressed the Executive Committee with a summary of the topics discussed at the convention. NCHA Manager of the Stallion Foal Program Allison Walker was also present to support the committee during the presentation to the Executive Committee.

Newly elected Chair Rock Hedlund updated the Executive Committee with a summary of actions from the convention meeting which included the following:

It was determined not to move forward with a \$400 weanling nomination fee for 2024. Foal nomination fees will remain the same.

Frank Merrill recommended seeking an alternative investment company to manage the Super Stakes Portfolio. The NCHA Foundation just went through an RFP process and selected a different management company. Frank Merrill gave Denise Seiz approval to share the NCHA Foundation Investment Management Company analysis.

A revision of the current logo will be done. Update font, outline shape and change "Program" to "Incentive." A booth will not be made until a logo is selected.

Rock Hedlund created the following sub committees:

- Fee Structure Research – Madison Krum Smith, Burt Bull, Suzy Silverberg and Michelle Cowan
- Investment Account Manager Analysis – Suzy Rodoni-Silverberg and Michelle Cowan
- Aged-Out Horse Incentive – Julie Clark, Mike Wood, Crystal Dewitt and Lauren Kimble. This would help incentivize some potential weekend horses.

In closing, Chairman Rock Hedlund stated that this committee would have a call in the weeks to come and any recommendations would be brought back to the Executive Committee for consideration at the October Meeting.

Elected as Chair: Rock Hedlund

Elected as Vice Chair: Todd Quirk

President Toddy Pitard thanked Rock Hedlund for chairing this committee and dedicating his time to the NCHA.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – AMY LIPPINCOTT

Chairman of Youth Committee Amy Lippincott addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations to be considered.

1. Levels of Excellence Academic Program (LEAP)

Recommend developing the growth of the NYCHA Leap Form to coincide with the update and growth of opportunities available to our youth members.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve the proposed changes to the NYCHA LEAP form. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. National Youth Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame

Revisions and updates were recommended to be made to the National Youth Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame Criteria.

The Youth Committee recommended to change the verbiage of the NYCHA Horse Hall of Fame to state that to be considered for the Youth Hall of Fame, an NCHA youth member is eligible to apply *"upon the completion of a high school diploma or GED equivalent as long as the meet the rest of the criteria"*.

Also recommends changing the verbiage of the NYCHA Hall of Fame criteria to state,

- “Have been in the Top Fifteen Youth World Standings or Finalist at Eastern, Western, or Summer Spectacular at least once.”
- Make the addition of listing all NYCHA Officer/Director positions on the NYCHA Hall of Fame application during the submission process.
- Incorporate the addition of two letters of recommendation required to be included when NCHA Youth members submit their NYCHA Hall of Fame applications.
- Deny the request to have the NYCHA Hall of Fame Committee, including the NCHA Youth Director, have final approval on NYCHA Hall of Fame honorees. This will alleviate any personal opinions from the NYCHA Hall of Fame selection process.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Sharon Overstreet to approve the proposed changes to the NYCHA Hall of Fame criteria. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. National Youth Cutting Horse Association National Officer/Senior Regional Director/Area Director Applications

Due to a lack of participation, and the hardships of communication between all leadership positions in the National Youth Cutting Horse Association, the discussion of attendance was brought forward. For the 2022/2023 year, several NYCHA leadership position responsibilities were not fulfilled due to the lack of instruction on the current Officer and Director Applications. The committee recommends the verbiage to include the following:

- 1) If I miss two meetings, I will have a meeting with the NCHA Youth Director and the NCHA Youth Committee Chair
- 2) If I miss three meetings, I will automatically be terminated from the NYCHA Officer/Director Position

A **MOTION** was made by Kathleen Moore and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the proposed changes to the NYCHA governing position applications as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Amy Lippincott
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Kristen York

President Toddy Pitard thanked Amy Lippincott for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES – RIANNA STOREY

Director of Youth Rianna Storey and NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold addressed the Executive Committee with updates from Youth Week during the 2023 Summer Spectacular.

Rianna provided a summary of the successful Youth Week:

2023 Youth Week in Review

- Youth World Finals

- Senior World Champion – Brinley Lippincott of Cypress, Texas on Lotta Skeet, the horse owned by Lippincott Performance Horses, LLC
- Junior World Champion – Josey Sikorski-Bell of Madisonville, Texas riding Catchyalater, the horse owned by Mark Johnson
- NCHA Foundation Youth Scholarship Cutting
 - Senior – Reese Collins, Washington, Texas on SJR Kit D Vine, the horse owned by Rebecca Drake
 - Junior – Ryder Flynn of Weatherford, Texas on Stylish Top Brow, the horse owned by Ryder Flynn
- NYCHA Hall of Fame
 - Karrigan Audrey Cagley – Kentwood, Louisiana
 - Faith Farris - Midway, Texas
 - Ryann Packard – Mineral Wells, Texas
 - Lexington Brooke Slaughter – Hempstead, Texas
- NYCHA Horse Hall of Fame
 - A Cat Named Sue – owned by Gavin Mesalam of Versailles, Kentucky
 - Big Shoes to Phil – owned by Faith Farris of Midway, Texas
 - Brinks Banker – owned by Cooper Cogdell of Silverton, Texas
 - Dually Lena – owned by Mica Chartier of Weatherford, Texas
 - Peppys Bo Diddle – owned by Robert Daniel Keene Sr. of Unadilla, Georgia
 - Velvets Revolver – owned by the Crown Ranch LP of Weatherford, Texas
- 1st Annual NYCHA Military Cutting Challenge
 - A group of special operations members experienced cutting for the first time.

Youth Scholarships

NCHA Foundation Director Julia Buswold provided an update that the NCHA Foundation awarded approximately \$125K in Senior Youth Scholarships and \$80K in Junior Youth Scholarships during the 2023 Summer Spectacular.

Youth Talents Highlighted

In support of the theme for Youth Week "*Life Outside of the Arena*", Rianna provided a summary of some artwork that was demonstrated at Youth Week from some of the current NYCHA members. She shared a framed piece of art that Tucker Harrison created of a horse named *Clyde* as an example of some of the items that were on display.



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – SHARON BEACH

Chairman of Governance Committee Sharon Beach addressed the Executive Committee with recommendations to be considered.

Training Updates (Sharon Beach)

Sharon Beach provided the committee with an update on the training efforts in progress, Standing Committee/Directors guidelines continue to be distributed from NCHA. In addition to that, NCHA has proposed a "TEACH" program to be included as a tool and reference element for our members. Standing Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs recently had a productive call with our new parliamentarian Joannah Schumacher which was well attended and received to help prepare and answers questions for the annual convention. The purpose of this call was to provide quick tips for parliamentarian procedures to be followed as they conduct their meetings. This type of call is recommended prior to each annual convention. This was an informational update, and no further action was taken by the committee in the form of a recommendation for the EC at this time.

Quorum Discussion (Dan Agnew)

Dan Agnew led the discussion on quorum requirements, particularly for special member meetings. This will take some time to vet and evaluate as there are a lot of factors to be considered primarily focusing on demographics of our membership and effectiveness of the electronic meeting and voting. This was an open discussion with some great suggestions among those in attendance, and the Governance Committee will continue to consider this topic and formulate a potential recommendation that hopefully we can bring to the next annual meeting. No further action was taken by the committee in the form of a recommendation for the EC at this time.

Bylaw Review Updates (Dan Agnew)

Dan Agnew provided an update from Executive Director Jay Winborn with the status of the RFP to solicit an outside firm to evaluate and comment on our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the association. Jay reached out to a several firms and eventually found an attorney that does not have a leg in the race and can give this project an unbiased review. This was an informational update, and no further action was needed by the committee in the form of a recommendation for the EC at this time. In addition, Jay will set up a meeting with the GC and this outside resource during the Summer Show to advance the initiative.

Sharon shared an statement of qualifications (SOQ) from a local attorney that is not a current NCHA member with a quote to rewrite the NCHA Constitution and Bylaws for informational purposes.

New Business

- Investigate advertising/running informational NCHA Committee and Director training/education tips during cattle changes at the Triple Crown events.
- Implementing ZOOM participating disclosure and terms/conditions to the NCHA Membership Application and the NCHA Director Consent Form.
- Consider some supporting language in the bylaws to clarify the parliamentarian procedures that the NCHA meetings should adhere to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting into executive session to discuss governance issues.

GENERAL SESSION

President Toddy Pitard placed the meeting back into general session.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on items from this committee.

Elected as Chair: Sharon Beach

Elected as Vice Chair: Dan Agnew

President Toddy Pitard thanked Sharon Beach for chairing this committee and dedicating her time to the NCHA.

LEGAL UPDATES – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Counselor Jim Morris addressed the members of the Executive Committee with some legal updates.

OLD BUSINESS

Future EC Dates

During the old business, the Executive Committee discussed future EC Meeting dates which are tentatively determined but wanted to secure a merged call scheduled with the Finance and Audit Committee to discuss the FY2024 Budget. This call will take place on or around September 19th at 2pm Central time via Zoom.

Futurity Payouts

John Lavelle inquired about the status of the Futurity payouts. This is awaiting final payments from the Amateur classes to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Under the new business section of the meeting, Angie Highland, President & CEO of Highland Market Research, joined the meeting with updates from meetings with the City of Weatherford regarding the proposed equine complex project on economic development.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Kirby Smith and **SECONDED** by Kristen York to adjourn the meeting at 2:26pm. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**