

# A proposal to combine Non-Pro and Amateur

Incoming NCHA President Bronc Willoughby details his concept for updating class structure

*Incoming NCHA President Bronc Willoughby has provided the following letter and proposal outlining the concept of changing the structure of the Non-Pro and Amateur divisions of the NCHA. This concept will be discussed by the appropriate NCHA Standing Committees at the NCHA Convention, to be held June 20-22 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Hotel.*

*No official action or position has yet been taken by any Standing Committee or the Executive Committee.*

To All NCHA Members,

As your incoming President, I believe that for years we have excluded a significant number of potential NCHA cutters by forcing them to compete in classes that they shouldn't have to. We exclude cutters from the lower level Weekend and the Limited Age Event classes because of their past employment or family relationship. They don't qualify for Amateur status under the current NCHA Non-Professional and Amateur rules. **I want to include every person who has a desire to be an NCHA member and cutter.** I am proposing that NCHA combine the Non-Pro and Amateur classes into one division and let money earnings determine class eligibility. NCHA determines Weekend eligibility by money won, either in the Novice classes or the Non-Pro and Amateur classes. Limited Age Event eligibility in the Limited Non-Pro and Amateur class is by money won.

The simplest and fairest way to determine what classes Non-Pro's are eligible to show in is by money earnings. I believe by doing this we attract more people who would like to enjoy our great sport.

Everyone who now holds an Amateur card also holds a Non-Pro card. So all Amateurs are also Non-Pros. Currently you lose your Amateur status when you have won \$50,000 at the weekend or \$50,000 at the Limited Age Events or any combination exceeding \$100,000. The cutters that show well move out of the Amateur classes fairly quickly. Over the last few years, added money has increased in the Amateur classes therefore more money to be won and Amateurs graduate out of the Amateur classes quicker.

I am proposing increasing the money limits at the weekend level to \$75,000 Non-Pro, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Non-Pro and \$5000 Limited Rider/any horse. Weekend earnings will be kept separate from LAE earnings. Weekend earnings will determine class eligibility for the Weekend classes. LAE earnings will determine class eligibility for the LAE's.

By changing the Weekend limits and allowing every Non-Pro to compete at a level equivalent to their talent level and money earnings, we will make NCHA grow into an even bigger and better sport.

I want all NCHA members to see the following proposal before the convention. I welcome comments and feedback from the members. You can contact me at: (940) 894-2120 or (940) 782-9129 or bo7pgk@wildblue.net

Thank you for your consideration on this very important issue.

Bronc Willoughby

## Proposal to combine Non-Pro and Amateur classes

All NCHA members who now hold a Non-Pro or Amateur Card will be reclassified as Non-Pro's. There will no longer be a distinction between Non-Pro and Amateur Status. Class Eligibility will be determined by total eligibility money earnings. Weekend and Limited Age Event earnings will count separate to determine eligibility. Only weekend eligibility earnings will determine eligibility for weekend shows and only LAE earnings will determine eligibility for LAE shows.

All Non-Pros must qualify under the existing Non-Pro Rules.

If accepted, this proposal would become effective with the 2009 Point year.

## Proposal to change weekend money limits

**Non-Pro:** No Change. Current rules for added money apply.

**\$75,000 Non-Pro:** Added money could be same as Non-Pro class but not to exceed Non-Pro. This replaces the \$50,000 Amateur.

**\$35,000 Non-Pro:** Added money allowed but at no more than 50% of what is added in the \$75,000 Non-Pro. This replaces the \$20,000 Non-Pro.

**\$10,000 Non-Pro:** No added money. This replaces the \$10,000 Amateur.

**\$2,000 Limit Rider:** Any horse, no money added. Rider does not have to own horse.

## LAE's Futurity, Super Stakes and Summer Cutting

**Non-Pro Class:** No Change. Current rules for added money will apply.

**\$125,000 Non-Pro Limited Class:** This replaces \$200,000 Limited Non-Pro. The \$200,000 counted lifetime earnings. The \$125,000 is for LAE earnings only.

**\$50,000 Non-Pro Limited Class:** Entry Level Class.

Added money and entry fee structure will not change from what is currently being used.

There will be no change to the Novice Horse and the Novice Non-Pro Classes ★

**Bronc's Proposal**

How many 2007 members have:	AMA	*NP Not AMA	NP + AMA
a. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$1-\$2000	2483	245	2728
b. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$2001-\$10,000	1884	321	2205
c. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$10,001-\$20,000	665	163	818
d. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$20,001-\$50,000	492	237	729
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5514</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>6480</b>

How many 2007 members have:	AMA	*NP Not AMA	NP + AMA	Trainers' Family	Trainers Family 2007 (\$0 in Earnings)
a. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$1-\$2000	2483	245	2728	51	28
b. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$2001-\$10,000	1884	321	2205	77	28
c. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$10001-\$35,000	1010	299	1309	101	27
d. Lifetime Weekend Earnings of \$35001-\$75,000	184	240	424	42	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5561</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>6666</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>94</b>

Out of 6,666 Non Pro and Amateur cardholders from \$1 - \$75,000:

271 trainer's families  
 94 \$0 Earned in 2007  
 15 over \$200,000 lifetime earnings  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 162

(162 out of 6666 Non Pro and Amateur cardholders are trainer's family members that won money in 2007 that would be eligible for the limited classes at the weekend.)

**How much money do trainer's family members win?**

2005- 2007 (Non Pro - \$20K Non Pro- \$10K Nov/NP - \$3K Nov/NP)

Area Leaders less than 10%

Eastern Nationals less than 10%

Western Nationals less than 10%

Top 15 in the World less than 15%

(Not eligible for Limited Classes) less than 10%

**Limited Aged Events**

Fort Worth Triple Crown Events (Non Pro & Limited Non Pro)

Finalists less than 20%

(Not eligible for Limited Classes) less than 12%

How many different Amateurs showed a horse in one of our Triple Crown events in 2007? 381

How many of these Amateurs won a check? 95

**How many total Amateur cardholders did we have in 2007 = 7568**

**How many of those won a check in ANY NCHA-approved event anywhere in the country in 2007 = 3032**

**Of these 3032 Amateurs how much money was won in Amateur versus Non-Amateur classes? =**

**Amateur Classes                    \$2,039,372.55**

**Non-Amateur Classes                \$7,374,072.85**

**Total won by Amateurs             \$9,413,445.40**

*In 2007 Amateurs won 75% of their money in non-Amateur classes. (Non Pro, \$20K Non Pro, \$10K Nov/Non Pro, \$3K Nov/Non Pro)*

*NCHA Membership in 2007*

*17514*      *paid memberships*  
*+2700*      *joint memberships*  
*20,214*      *total members*

*Amateur cardholders*

*7568- 37% of total members*  
*5290 have earned at least \$1 - 26% of total Amateur members*

*In 2007- Amateur cardholders-*  
*3032 earned checks*  
*3032 out of 7568- 40% of Amateur cardholders*

*3032 Amateur money earners in 2007*  
*3032 out 20,214- 15% of total members*