

**Judge Rules Committee
2026 NCHA Convention Agenda
June 20, 2026 • 8:30 am – 10:30 am
Showroom
South Point Hotel • Las Vegas, Nevada**



1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Mission Statement
3. Standing Rule 34 Revision Pg. 68
4. Standing Rule 27 Revision Pg.63
5. Standing Rule 6, 2., 3. Pg. 37
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
9. Adjournment

STANDING RULE 34 pg. 68

At all cutting horse contests approved or sponsored by the NCHA, A contestant, trainer or helper shall not enter any part of the show arena ~~at any time~~ with any kind of device, tack, or equipment on a horse's head or around the horse's neck that is not permitted by the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses Contests (see Judging Rule 16.) ~~For facilities in which the practice pen is located within the show arena, training equipment shall be allowed only in those areas that are specifically designated as a preparation area by Show Management. This area shall be outside of the normal flow of traffic for the warm up area.~~

Schooling the horse or the use of any training device on a horse is prohibited in the show arena one (1) hour prior to the published starting time for the show and shall remain in effect until one hour after each day's performance is concluded at all NCHA approved shows/events. A practice pen located under the same roof or within the same building is permitted, so long as it is not inside the show pen itself and is clearly separated from the competition area.

STANDING RULE 27 Evaluation System 1. Pg. 63

EVALUTATION SYSTEM

A judge may be removed from the NCHA Approved Judges List or may be dropped to a lower classification for cause:

1. Complaints and/or protests may be made by active members of the Association only. In a Monitored Event, only the final placing of horses may be protested. Individual judges, individual penalties, go-rounds, and semifinals are not protestable in a Monitored Event. In a Non-Monitored Event, contestants may protest placing and major penalties only, subject to all other requirements of this rule.

2. Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may protest a judge's decision (from that class) upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a Judge Evaluation Form with an official protest. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the incident and must be accompanied by a cashier's check, money order, valid credit card number (Visa, Master-Card or American Express) or personal check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) for Non-Monitored Shows and one thousand (\$1,000) for LAE Monitored Events made payable to the NCHA.

a. Upon receipt of the official form and required payment, the judge's assigned Weekend Monitor will be asked to review the class. The NCHA Director of Judges may request the show sponsor to immediately forward the video of the class involved to NCHA if needed.

b. The video of the class will then be reviewed by a monitor. If a monitor is unavailable, the Director of Judges may appoint a 4A or 5A judge to participate in the review. The procedures for viewing videos were approved by the Executive Committee.

c. Review Process - A total of one hundred (100) points will be assigned to each class reviewed. The judge's score for the protested class will be based on points accumulated by comparing the judge's placings in the class to the official key, less a deduction of three (3) points for each misapplication of major three (3) or five (5) point penalties. A score of 75% or higher must be maintained.

I. Non-Monitored Events - The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the judge will be used to obtain the official key. Penalties are only deemed “Major” when both persons reviewing the protest assess the same penalty.

*II. Monitored Event or LAE finals with ~~3 or more~~ **multiple** judges- The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the actual placing of the horses in the class will be used to obtain the official key. This key would then be compared to the way the horses placed at the event. If the key results in a score of 75% or higher, then the protest would not be valid against any of the judges. If the key results in a score less than 75%, the key would then be matched against each individual judge’s score sheet to determine which judge passed or failed.*

Standing Rule 6 2., 3. Page 37

2. Judging Limits – Championship / Challenger / Non-Monitored Limited Age Events

~~a. Judges may not judge more than 150 horses per day. Shows can be fined based on the number of horses over 150. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge over 160 works. This rule is at the discretion of the Executive Director and this fine can be appealed. Fines are as follows:~~

~~i. 151–155 works = \$100~~

~~ii. 156–160 works = \$200~~

a. A standard judging day is defined as up to twelve (12) hours. The judging day will commence on the posted start time of the show, and the judging day will end with last horse judged by the judge(s) on that day. Judges may not exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.

~~b. When the number of works exceeds 150, a Judge has the option to stay and continue to judge additional horses. In this situation, the assessed fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judge working the event.~~

b. If a show requires judging beyond twelve (12) hours, overtime compensation for a judge will apply as follows:

- 12 to 13 Hours: \$100 per judge who works that extra time
- 13 to 14 Hours: \$200 per judge who works that extra time

Overtime compensation will be distributed by the Show Producer at the conclusion of the show. Show management and the judge(s) must document daily hours on the NCHA Daily Judging Log.

c. Show Management may use a judge who has been in the previous classes to replace a judge who has reached the fourteen (14) hours limit judged 150 works, providing that they are in compliance with all other rules pertaining to judging.

d. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show, unless entries exceed what can be judged within the fourteen (14) hours limit, go over the 150 entry limit, or if a partial show has been approved by the Director of Judges.

3. Judging Limits – Monitored Limited Age Events

~~a. Judges may not judge more than 150 horses per day. Shows can be fined based on the number of horses over 150. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge over 160 works. This rule is at the discretion of the Executive Director and this fine can be appealed. Fines are as follows:~~

~~i. 151–155 works = \$1,000~~

~~ii. 156–160 works = \$2,000~~

a. A standard judging day is defined as up to twelve (12) hours. The judging day will commence on the posted start time of the show, and the judging day will end with last horse judged by the judges on that day. Judges may not exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.

~~b. When the number of works exceeds 150, a Judge has the option to stay and continue to judge additional horses. In this situation, the assessed fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judges and monitor working the event.~~

b. If a monitored LAE show requires work beyond twelve (12) hours, overtime compensation for a judge and monitor will apply as follows:

• 12 to 13 Hours: \$100 per judge and monitor who works that extra time

• 13 to 14 Hours: \$200 per judge and monitor who works that extra time

Overtime compensation will be distributed by the Show Producer at the conclusion of the show. Show Management and the Monitor must document daily hours on the NCHA Daily Judging Log.

c. Under no circumstances will a LAE Judge or Monitor exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.

~~be allowed to judge over 160 works.~~

NCHA Daily Judging Log & Hours Report

(To be completed by the Show Secretary and Judge(s) or Monitor. For multiple pens, complete one form per pen.)

SHOW INFORMATION

Show Date: _____

Show Name: _____

NCHA Show Number: _____

Pen #: _____

DAILY TIME SUMMARY

Start Time: _____ AM / PM

Start time is defined as the posted start time of the show.

End Time: _____ AM / PM

End time will be the last horse judged by judge(s) on that day.

Total Time: _____

COMMENTS

SHOW SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

Name: _____

NCHA #: _____

Signature: _____

JUDGE / MONITOR CERTIFICATION

Name: _____

NCHA #: _____

Signature: _____