

# NCHA Eastern National Championships

## Presented by 6666 Ranch

### 1) Classes Offered:

Class	NCHA Added Money
Open	\$20,000
Non-Professional	\$20,000
\$35,000 Non-Professional	\$20,000
\$25,000 Novice Horse	\$20,000
\$25,000 Novice Horse/ Non-Pro Rider	\$20,000
\$5,000 Novice Horse	\$20,000
\$5,000 Novice Horse / Non-Pro Rider	\$20,000
Unlimited Amateur	\$20,000
\$50,000 Amateur	\$20,000
\$15,000 Amateur	\$20,000
\$2,000 Limit Rider/ Any Horse	\$20,000
Junior Youth	\$0
Senior Youth	\$0

### 2) Qualification Methods - participants must qualify prior to entry.

#### a. Classes Except Youth:

- i. Circuit Leader Qualification - the top thirty (30) 2025 circuit leaders, as determined by official Association records.
- ii. Affiliate Qualification - top ten as determined by records submitted to the association from Affiliate records.

1. Affiliate must host at least two (2) shows to submit affiliate standings report to NCHA.

#### iii. Exclusions

1. Any horse shown in the Open division of the 2025 NCHA World Finals is ineligible to compete in any class except Jr / Sr Youth.
2. Any horse that finished in the top 15 of the 2025 World Final Standings in the Open division is ineligible to compete in any class except Jr / Sr Youth.
3. Any horse shown in the Non-Professional division at the 2025 NCHA World Finals is ineligible to compete in any class except Jr / Sr Youth.

- iv. \*\* Non-Pro riders that competed in the 2025 World Finals in the Non-Pro may compete in the Non-Pro class at the National Championship provided they do so on a horse not shown in the Non-Pro at the World Finals.

- b. Youth Classes - there is no qualifying requirement for Youth class entries. Any age eligible youth in the current point year may enter.

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### 3) Class Types and Entry Options

#### a. Entries

- i. All entries must be made in the name of either the horse (horse classes) or rider (rider classes).
- ii. Entries are not "slots" and may not be sold between classes.
- iii. Entries may be withdrawn prior to the draw without penalty for a full refund.

#### b. Horse Classes - Entry / qualification is made by the horse.

- i. **Qualifying Entry:** Horses may be shown by any Open rider or CURRENT owner. Previous ownership of the horse and any honors won by the horse (except competition in the NCHA World Finals Open / Non-Pro class) shall not exclude the current owner or any trainer from showing a qualified horse.

ii. **"Bonus Entry":** Once a horse is entered in a qualified horse class, that horse may be entered in any/all other horse classes for which it was eligible during the 2025 point year.

1. Eligibility for additional class entry is determined as of November 10th, 2025 (last day of point year). Horses may compete in any qualified / entered class regardless of current earnings.

#### iii. Substitutions are NOT allowed in Horse classes.

#### iv. Naming of Riders

1. Riders must be named prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts.
2. Riders named AFTER 3:00pm the day before the class starts - \$100 fee.
3. Exhibitors in horse classes are allowed to show three horses.

#### c. Non Youth Rider Classes - Entry / qualification is made by the rider. Riders may compete in any qualified / entered class regardless of current earnings. However, riders entering any Non-Pro or Amateur class must hold a current Non-Pro or Amateur card to compete in those classes.

- i. **Qualifying Entry:** Exhibitors in rider classes are allowed to show two horses in the qualified class(es).

ii. **"Bonus Entry":** Once entered at least once in a qualified rider class, exhibitors may enter up to two horses in any/all other classes for which they were eligible during the 2025 point year.

1. Eligibility for additional class entry is determined as of November 10th, 2025 (last day of point year).

#### iii. Naming of Horses

1. Horses must be named prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts.
2. Horses named AFTER 3:00pm the day before the class starts - \$100 fee.

#### iv. Substitutions of Named horses:

1. Prior to class start and before 3:00pm the day before the class starts – Horse substitution for named horses may be allowed provided substitute horse is

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owned by a current member and in the case of Non-Pro and Amateur classes, member with a valid family relationship.

2. **After 3:00pm the day** before the class starts and before the class starts – horse substitution may be allowed with the same provisions with a \$100 fee.
3. After the class starts – Horse substitutions are not allowed. Riders must exhibit the same horse(s) throughout.

d. **Youth Classes** - Entry is made by the rider based on current point year eligibility.

- i. The Youth class will be divided into two groups based on rider age: 13 and under; 14-18. Youth eligibility is based on Approved Championship Weekend show rules and approval. Only riders of the current youth point year are eligible to enter and compete in the Youth classes. By this standard, new Youth Members who join in the current year will be eligible to compete.

ii. Youth exhibitors may show 1 horse.

iii. **Horse Naming**

1. A Youth's Horse must be named prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts.
2. A Horse named **AFTER 3:00pm** the day before the class starts - \$100 fee.

iv. **Substitutions of Named horses:**

1. Prior to class start and **before 3:00pm the day before the class starts** – Horse substitution for named horses may be allowed provided substitute horse is owned by a current member.
2. **After 3:00pm the day** before the class starts and before the class starts – horse substitution may be allowed with the same provisions with a \$100 fee.
3. After the class starts – Horse substitutions are not allowed. Riders must exhibit the same horse throughout.

#### 4) Entry Fees and Refunds

##### a. Entry Fees

Jackpot	Office Fee*	Total Entry Fee
\$320	\$650	\$970

Youth Jackpot	Office Fee**	Total Youth Entry Fee
\$75	\$125	\$200

\*Includes an NCHA fee (Excluding youth) & medication fee. Blood samples will be taken in all divisions throughout the show. Refusal to allow testing of a selected horse shall result in disqualification of the horse, and potential disciplinary action against the responsible party/parties.

\*\*If sponsors are obtained, office fee may be refunded.

##### b. Refunds

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- i. **Prior to the Draw:** Entries withdrawn prior to the draw are eligible to receive a full refund. Withdraw requests must be submitted in writing to the NCHA office. Refunds will be made the original payor.
- ii. **After the Draw:** No refunds will be issued to entries withdrawn after the draw.

### 5) Entry Deadlines / Penalties / Late Entries / ACH Limits

- a. **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE DONE VIA THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM.** Online Submissions must be received prior to 11:59 pm Central time ON JANUARY 30, 2026
- b. Entries done after the due date but prior to the draw are subject to a penalty of 25% of the entry fee (Jackpot + Office).
- c. Entries done after the draw will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the day before a class starts and are subject to an additional \$100 penalty. Late entries will be added last in a herd with no additional cattle.
- d. **Non-Payment:** Issuance of a check that is not honored for any reason or credit card payment that is declined for any reason to cover fees shall constitute non-payment. Entries that are deemed Non-Payment will have Penalties assessed according to the dates listed above.
- e. **ACH – Pending / Daily Limits:** ACH transactions are limited to \$10,000 in pending transactions at any given time. ACH transactions are suspended for 3-5 business days after that threshold is met. Reaching the \$10,000 limit will not be treated as a reason for a waiver of late fees. Payments that fail because the account hits the limit will be considered late if the balance cannot be processed prior to the deadline. **PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

### 6) Show Format

- a. All Championship classes will consist of one go-round and a Finals.
- b. Advancing calculations are determined at the time of the draw. Late entries will not modify the finals counts.
- c. Non Youth Classes
  - i. The high scoring forty percent (40%) in the go-round will advance to the Finals. This may be amended for any class having less than 20 entries.
  - ii. Minimum ten (10) / Maximum twenty-six (26)
- d. Youth Finals
  - i. The high scoring forty percent (40%) in the go-round will advance to the Finals.
  - ii. Minimum ten (10) / Maximum twenty-six (26)
- e. Payout
  - i. All monies will be paid in the working final.
  - ii. All finalists will receive a Finalist Check equal to the Total Entry Fee.

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### iii. Purse Calculation

1. Determine the "Finalist Check Total" = Number in the finals x Total Entry Fee.
2. Determine the "Purse Balance" = Subtract the "Finalist Check Total" from the Total Purse.
3. Determine the "Premium Payout" = Cross reference the number of entries at draw against the Standing Rule 14.d chart to determine the number of finalists that will receive an additional premium payout.
4. Multiply the "Purse Balance" by the NCHA Weekend Show payout percentages in the Standing Rule 14.e chart for the number of Premium Payout recipients.
5. Add Finalist Check value to Premium Payout (if applicable) to determine the final payout for each placing.

### 7) Points

- a. **Youth World Finals points** - Points awarded in both the go-round and the finals.
  - i. Go-Round
    1. Points are based on number of entries in the first go.
    2. A maximum of 6 points awarded in the top spot in the go-round.
  - ii. Finals
    1. Points start at 1 point less than the number of points based on first-go entries.
    2. A maximum of 5 points awarded to the top spot in the Finals.
- b. **No Circuit points will be awarded in any classes**

### 8) Judges & Judging

- a. Five Judges will be used. The highest and the lowest score for each horse discarded. The total of the remaining three scores will be the official mark. No individual scores will be announced.
- b. Judges will be selected from **NCHA 5A, 4A and 3A rated judges** available to judge the event.
- c. NCHA Judging Rules set forth in the Handbook will apply.
- d. The NCHA Adjusted Monitor System, and all rules and policies set forth by that system will be used.
- e. Each horse is allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work during a run. The working time starts when the rider crosses the official timeline.
- f. As soon as the horse, owner and rider's name are called to the herd by the announcer (the "rider announcement"), the announcer will start the 1-2 ½ minute clock to let the rider know how much time the rider must cross the official timeline and begin the rider's run.
- g. If the rider has helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has drawn back to back un the working order, the rider will have 2 ½ minutes from the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.

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- h. If the rider has not helped the contestant immediately preceding the rider's run or has not drawn back to back in the working order, the rider will have 1 minute from the time of the rider announcement to cross the official timeline and start their run.
- i. If the rider fails to cross the official timeline in the time allotted under the 1-2 ½ minute clock, a buzzer and an additional minute will be added to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock. (this is the only warning that the rider will receive relating to the 1- 2 ½ minute clock)
- j. If the rider receives any additional buzzers relating to the 1-2 ½ minute clock at any time during that show, it will result in a \$500 fine per occurrence. (i.e.- second buzzer is \$500 fine, third buzzer is an additional \$500 fine, etc.)
- k. All fines assessed under this rule must be paid prior to the rider's exhibiting a horse in any future NCHA produced show.
- l. All NCHA produced events will use the 1-2 ½ minute clock as described above in each class, including the finals.

### 9) 2027 Point Year Eligibility

2027 Point Year Eligibility for \$75K Amateur, \$50 Non-Pro, \$25K Amateur and \$4K Limit Rider will be based on LIFETIME earnings. All monies reported to NCHA will be included to determine class eligibility. That means that Monies from the Eastern National Championships / Area Work Off WILL COUNT toward horse and rider eligibility starting in the 2027 point year.

### 10) Rules applicable to all entries

- a. All horses must meet the respective state health requirements.
- b. Medication & Testing Provisions
  - i. All entries are bound by all rules within the NCHA Rulebook, including Standing Rule 35 A. A positive prohibited medication test will result in the loss of all titles, awards, premiums and will result in a fine of \$2,500-\$5,000 for a first offense and will result in an automatic 6 month suspension.
  - ii. By submitting your entry, you acknowledge that you are familiar with and subject to the provisions of the Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines contained in the NCHA Rulebook. You also agree that, if requested, you will provide blood samples from your horse to comply with the random testing provisions contained in those Rules and Guidelines.
  - iii. Blood samples will be taken in all divisions throughout the show. Refusal to allow testing of a selected horse shall result in disqualification of the horse, and potential disciplinary action against the responsible party/parties.
- c. Release and Indemnification By signing the entry form to participate in the NCHA Eastern National Championship or NCHA Western National Championship (the "Event"), being held at The Ike Hamilton Expo Center (West Monroe, LA) the entrant acknowledges and agrees

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that there is inherent danger in participation in the Event due to potential exposure of the entrant and his/her horses to the Novel Coronavirus (the "Coronavirus") at the Event. By signing this entry form, the entrant acknowledges and agrees that: (i) prior to entering the Event, he/she was made aware of and understood the potential dangers presented by the Coronavirus at the Event; (ii) even though the NCHA and the Facility have taken all reasonable steps to present a safe environment for the Event, there are many factors beyond their reasonable control that could lead to potential exposure to the Coronavirus at the Event; and (iii) he/she is voluntarily assuming all risk of harm, illness or injury to themselves or any of their horses that may be incurred by participating in the Event, or activities associated with the Event, that are in any way related to the Coronavirus. The entrant further hereby releases the NCHA and the Event Facilities and their respective officers, owners, employees, agents, representatives, directors, shareholders, officials, administrators, contractors, vendors, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, attorneys, and the owners and lessors of animals used to conduct the Event (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasees") from any and all liability, claim, damages, injury, judgment, loss, liability, cost and expense (including, without limitation, attorney's fees and costs) incurred by the entrant or his/her horses allegedly arising out of or connected with his/her participation in the Event, or at any activities associated with the Event, that relate in any way to the Coronavirus. This Release includes, but is not limited to, claims for bodily injury and physical illness of the entrants and their horses in anyway relating to the Coronavirus, that were allegedly incurred or sustained during the Event or at any activities associated with the Event.