Northern Arizona Cutting Horse Association (NACHA, Inc.)

Rule Book

*Revised* – March 2019

# Section I – General Rules

## AFFILIATION

The Northern Arizona Cutting Horse Association (referred to as NACHA throughout this rule book) is an affiliate of the National Cutting Horse Association. All NACHA classes will be judged by the same rules of competition as recorded in the *NCHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations*. The exceptions will be the Ranch Cutting classes, whose rules are in a separate document, and any specialty classes offered from time to time.

## MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are available on an annual (calendar year) basis. Memberships available are as follows:

Individual $35.00

Family $45.00

Youth – (18 and under) $15.00

Arena Help (with no points eligibility) $10.00

Memberships must be paid on or before the first NACHA show of the year in order for points to count. If a membership is purchased after the first show of the year, points will count from that date forward. All owners and riders *MUST BE NACHA MEMBERS, IN GOOD STANDING, IN ORDER FOR POINTS TO COUNT.*

## NACHA APPROVED SHOWS

NACHA approved events are restricted to NACHA members in good standing. Point earning eligibility will be acknowledged at the time of paid membership and at no earlier time.

* Failure to pay membership fees, entry fees or related show charges, within 15 days of request for payment, will result in suspension and cancellations of all accumulated points for the show point year.
* Riders must have an NACHA or NCHA affiliate membership in order to be inside the arena(s) at any time during an NACHA show due to insurance requirements.
* Contestants showing in the Non-Pro division must meet the same requirements of eligibility as in the NCHA rulebook.
* Contestants are not required to join NCHA, although it is strongly encouraged. Contestants are expected to have knowledge and understanding of the NCHA rules as related to competitions and judging.
* All registered horses MUST be shown under the name assigned to them by their breed association. Failure to show under the horse’s correct name shall result in disqualification from the class and from point standings in any class. Owners must submit a copy of the horse’s registration papers to the show secretary at the horse’s first show or upon any ownership change if the horse has previously shown with NACHA.

## PROPER TACK & EQUIPMENT

*NACHA adoption of NCHA Judging Rule 16 (2019) - Verbatim*

* Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. All bridles on horses must have split reins. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. Braided rawhide balls across the horse’s nose are not permissible. *See Ranch Horse class rules for requirements specific to those classes.*
* A judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse’s nose.
* Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse’s neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where an NCHA approved or sponsored event is being held. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible.
* Leather curb straps or curb chains must be at least 3/8 of an inch in width and must be attached to the bit by nylon string, nylon straps, or leather straps. Decorative knots, rawhide balls or tassels are not permitted on curb devices.
* Breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse’s neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal.
* Chaps and spurs may be worn.
* A competing horse’s tail cannot be tied in any manner which would restrict movement of the tail.
* A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him/her if he/she is suspicious of any infraction of this. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he/she shall be disqualified.

All horses must comply with above rule while in the arena.

## Appropriate Western Attire

*NACHA adoption of NCHA Judging Rule 16 (2019) - Verbatim*

Any person on horseback in the arena (both in and outside the working area), after the start of an NCHA event, must wear western attire, including hats.

* The hat requirement may be waived, both in and outside of the working area of the arena, at outdoor shows in extreme weather conditions with the consent of both show management and the judge(s). Contestants must wear long sleeved shirts with collars and buttons or snaps completely down the shirt front. Tank tops, T-shirts, and all types of sweatshirts are not permissible. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Long sleeves must be worn rolled down.
* Under the advance approval of show management, safety helmets are permissible in place of a western hat.
* Cell phone use will not be allowed by herd settler or by one of the four helpers when the judges are in the stands. The herd settler cannot be on the phone at any time.

# Section II – Competition Classes - Definitions & Eligibility

There are up to eight (8) classifications of NACHA approved competitions. Classes may be changed from year to year, subject to a vote by the NACHA Board of Directors. One or more entries will be needed to make a “class”.

## JUDGING

NACHA classes are judged using NCHA’s official judging rules. Please refer to the *NCHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations* for the full set of the latest rules. There are minor exceptions for NACHA specialty classes. Refer to the separate rules documents for those classes.

## CLASS DEFINITIONS

### OPEN

Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex or previous performance. Open to any rider whether professional or non-pro. Riders can show up to four (4) horses.

### NON-PRO

Open to all NCHA non-professionals or amateurs, as defined by NCHA rules, riding any horse, provided that the horse is owned by the rider showing the horse. Riders can show up to (2) two horses, but must declare which horse he/she is getting points on at their first show of the season due to the points being awarded to the rider and not the horse.

### $25,000 NOVICE HORSE

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of $25,000, or less, as determined by the combined records of all cutting horse associations on the first day of the current NCHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse’s lifetime earnings. The contestant may ride any horse regardless of ownership.

### $5,000 NOVICE HORSE

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of $5,000, or less, as determined by the combined records of all cutting horse associations on the first day of the current NCHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse’s lifetime earnings. The contestant may ride any horse regardless of ownership.

### $15,000 AMATEUR

Open to all amateur riders having lifetime earnings of $15,000 or less. Horse must be owned by the rider, the rider’s spouse, child, parent or grandparent.

### $2,000 RIDER

Open to all riders having a lifetime earnings of $2,000, or less, as determined by the combined records of all cutting horse associations on the first day of the current NCHA point year. The contestant may ride any horse regardless of ownership.

### YOUTH

Open to riders who are (19) years of age or younger on the first day of the current NCHA point year. The contestant may ride any horse regardless of ownership.

### RANCH CUTTING

Ranch cutting classes open to all riders. These classes are intended to provide horses not yet ready for regular cutting classes the opportunity to show. Separate classes are offered for junior and senior horses. Horses for these classes may come from an assortment of backgrounds so as an incentive to show, the membership rule requiring the actual owner of the horse to be a NACHA member is waived. Riders must still be a paid member in order to show and to earn point towards year end awards. Refer to the separate document covering rules for Ranch Cutting. *See the specific rule book for this class in a separate document.*

### COWBOY CUTTING

The Cowboy Cutting class is an entry level class for any NACHA member who has three (3) or less years on limited cutting experience. Riders may show any horse regardless of ownership or money won. No professional horse trainers are permitted in the class. The membership rule requiring the actual owner of the horse to be a NACHA member is waived. Riders must still be a paid member in order to show and to earn point towards year end awards. Refer to the separate document covering rules for Cowboy Cutting. *See the specific rule book for this class in a separate document.*

### SPECIALTY CLASSES

The Board of Directors may include specialty classes from time to time. These classes include any specialty one-time events, circuit events or other specialty events. Rules and eligibility shall be announced when such classes are offered.

### JACKPOT CLASSES

$15.00 per horse in a jackpot class goes towards the jackpot payout and will be paid out to contestants per NACHA rules.

# POINTS

Points will be awarded and counted from the time the contestant’s membership was paid. All owners and riders *MUST BE NACHA MEMBERS, IN GOOD STANDING, IN ORDER FOR POINTS TO COUNT.* Points will be given to every entry in the class for **any** score. A 0 score and a 60 score are included. Points in each class shall be awarded as follows:

* 10 (ten) or more riders: Top finisher shall receive a point for each horse in the class plus one. Example; 10 horses showing: 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 9 (nine) riders: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 8 (eight) riders: 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 7 (seven) riders: 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 6 (six) riders: 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 5 (five) riders: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2
* 4 (four) riders: 5, 4, 3, 2
* 3 (three) riders: 4, 3, 2
* 2 (two) riders: 3, 2
* 1 (one) rider: 2

# ELIGIBILITY FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

The horse or rider (as defined by the class) must compete in one more than half of the shows in a class in order to be eligible for year-end awards in that class. The owner does not necessarily have to ride, but both owner and rider must be members in good standing of NACHA. *See exception for Ranch Cutting and Cowboy Cutting.*

## YEAR-END CLASS AWARDS

In the OPEN, $25,000 NOVICE HORSE AND $5,000 NOVICE HORSE classes, the horse must compete in one more than half of the shows offered, during the show year for that class, to be eligible for year-end awards. In those classes, the horse is eligible even if the rider or owner changes during the show year, provided the new rider or owner is a member in good standing.

In the rider classes, NON-PRO, $2,000 RIDER, YOUTH AND RANCH HORSE CLASSES, the rider is eligible for awards if he/she has shown in one more than half of the shows offered during the show year for that class, regardless of what horse(s) he/she rode during the year.

## HIGHT POINT HORSE AWARDS

The NACHA High Point Horse Award shall be awarded to the horse accumulating the most points in any, and all, classes except the Youth class, the Ranch Cutting and the Cowboy Cutting classes. More than one person can ride the same horse in different classes, but not in the same class at any one show. All points will count towards the high point horse award.

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Rookie of the Year will be awarded to the rider in their first or second year of showing cutting horses. Riders must have no more than $100 in total earnings at the beginning of the point year and who accumulated the most points in all combined classes during the year, including both horse and rider classes. The NACHA Board of Directors has final say over this award.