



# **STANDING RULES**

**2015**

## **ACHA Standing Rules**

### **A. GENERAL RULES AND CAUTIONS**

1. All ACHA approved shows shall be conducted under the rules of the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA).
2. NCHA rules for judging shall apply to all shows and classes.
3. Special rules for eligibility shall apply to certain classes.
4. Dues are due December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, with a grace period extending to February 10 of each calendar year. It is the members' sole responsibility to be sure his/her membership is current at the time of showing in order for points to count. NOTE: If you pay your dues anytime during the year, you must be aware that you are paying dues for that year only and that dues are due again, in full, for the following year as of December 31 (with a grace period until February 10<sup>th</sup>).
5. It is the contestant's sole responsibility to determine his/her horse's eligibility to compete in any class entered.
6. It is the non-professional rider's sole responsibility to maintain his/her Non Pro status according to the rules of the NCHA. NCHA rules may be obtained from NCHA directly.
7. A Board member of the ACHA may not accept dues from a prospective member or any active member. Dues must be paid to the Secretary/Treasurer or show secretary and shall not be considered paid until said Secretary has so recorded.
8. All children must be supervised by a responsible adult in the show pen, practice pen and/or loping area. Proper show and safety requirements are mandatory in these areas at all times.
9. Only one rider is permitted to ride one horse in the show pen, practice pen and/or loping area. Infants (48 months or younger) are not allowed in any of these areas at any time.
10. Ponying a horse in the warm up area is not permitted.
11. ACHA Year end is October 31 of each year.
12. ACHA is to establish a sustainability fund. The minimum amount to be maintained in this fund will be \$50,000 which is to be held in a separate account from general revenue. In the event the ACHA requires these funds, a special meeting of the membership must be called to approve the use. Members must be given fifteen (15) days written notice of this meeting in accordance with Societies bylaws. The use of the funds must be approved by 90% of the membership present at the meeting.

### **B. BOUNDARIES**

1. The boundary for show approval is the Province of Alberta and any other show co-hosted by the ACHA.

**C. ELIGIBILITY**

1. Horse and rider will graduate from classes after December 31 each year.
2. The point year (standings year) begins immediately after the calendar year end.
3. For year-end awards, a horse may be shown in any class for which it is eligible. Money won in a particular class will count toward yearend awards in that class only.
4. To be eligible for annual awards, or to be listed in the standings, both owners and or riders must be members in good standing of the ACHA, and the money won must be earned at a show approved by the ACHA.

**SHOWS**

**1. APPROVALS**

All show will be ACHA approved with adequate representation of CCHA and NCHA approved shows to meet the diversified goals of the ACHA membership. Request for Association approval must be in the Secretary's hands at least sixty-five (65) days prior to the show time. NCHA show approvals are 40 days prior to entry close. ACHA show approval shall be at the discretion of the ACHA Show Committee. Approval request must be in writing and include the following information:

- a) Name of the show
- b) Name of the secretary
- c) Starting time and location
- d) Name of the Judge
- e) Purses, fees, added moneys and other charges
- f) Entry deadlines – Closing date and time
- g) Date and time of draw
- h) Classes offered and pay outs therein

**2. SPECIAL NOTICE**

- a) All approved shows shall be published at least thirty (30) days prior to the close of entries.
- b) All first time Show Managers must submit Purse Money to the ACHA office 60 days prior to the show.

**PROXIMITY**

The ACHA will not approve two shows on the same day.

### **3. FEES**

- a) NSF CHEQUES. NSF Cheques will be handled in accordance with the NCHA rules and guideline. The Association will cover a NSF cheque received by show management in ACHA approved classes only provided said request is made within 60 days of the show's closing date.
- b) APPROVAL FEES. Show management shall charge a \$12 ACHA additional fee per cutting entry, per approved class, not including youth classes. This fee shall be collected and forwarded, along with the show report of results, to the Association Secretary. These fees are not to be included as office and cattle fees nor entry fees. These \$12 fees shall not be included when computing the 8% due to the NCHA (for those classes, which are NCHA approved), nor will these fees affect the amount jack potted to each class.

Failure on the part of show management to remit the Association fees and show results to the Association office within seven (7) days after said show will result in the Association not approving the same show for two subsequent years.

### **4. NUMBER OF ENTRIES**

The NCHA rules will apply to the number of times a horse and/or rider may exhibit in NCHA classes.

### **5. ENTRIES**

- a) All exhibitors are required to provide the show secretary with a copy of the official registration papers for each horse being entered.
- b) Unless advertised as "No late entries" an entry will be accepted until the draw is made. Any late entry so accepted must work last in the first available set of cattle (NCHA rule).
  - i) A late entry is an entry made after the closing date for entries and prior to the draw of the class in question.
- c) Telephone entries: The person making the telephone entry is the person responsible for paying that entry, even though he/she was simply making the entry for someone else.

### **6. THE DRAW**

- a) The draw may be made at any time following the closing date in accordance with NCHA rules.
- b) In case of an error or omission on the part of show management with regards to the draw, corrections will be made in accordance with NCHA rules.

- c) The order of the draw will be read and posted prior to each class. Contestants are responsible to notify show management of any error or omission prior to the start of the class.

## **7. WITHDRAWING FROM A CLASS**

Any entrant in a show wishing to withdraw from the contest must do so before the draw. In order to facilitate any contestant's need to withdraw from a class, it is the obligation of show management to make themselves available to the contestants at all times prior to and during the show.

If the entrant's name goes into the draw and he has made no attempt to withdraw his name from the class, that entrant is obligated to pay all fees (office charges, cattle fees, association fees and entry fees) as his entry fee would have been figured in the payout. If said entrant does not meet this obligation, he/she may be denied privileges of membership.

## **D. CLASSES**

### **1. ELIGIBILITY**

- a) To participate at an ACHA Show an ACHA membership is required. Shows may also be NCHA and/or CCHA approved. NCHA/CCHA memberships are required to participate in NCHA/CCHA approved classes.
- b) **RESPONSIBILITY:** The contestant is responsible to determine his/her horse's eligibility for any particular class.
- c) **NON PRO ELIGIBILITY:** A current NCHA Non Pro card is a requirement for all Non Pro classes. See NCHA rules regarding Non Pro eligibility.
- d) **AWARDS ELIGIBILITY:** In determining eligibility for ACHA year end awards the eligibility of a horse or rider as listed by the NCHA will be used.
  - i) In regards to eligibility for year-end awards, money won in Association approved classes will count towards that class for that year.
  - ii) To be eligible for year-end awards for the ACHA the rider and owner must be ACHA members.
- e) **YOUTH** class earnings do not count toward lifetime or eligibility earnings of either horse or rider.

### **2. RESTRICTED CLASS AND LIMITED CLASS EARNINGS**

- a) **Restricted class defined:** Registered cutting horse contests of any and all breeds (breed shows), limited age events, and any cutting horse contest where entry is restricted to a specific breed or age of horses. AQHA cutting horse shows, Futurity's, Derby's, etc. are restricted classes.
  - i) All money earned in Restricted and Youth classes shall not count against lifetime earnings of a horse for purposes of Novice Horse eligibility.
  - ii) NCHA records of money won shall be used to determine eligibility of the horse and rider.

iii) For purposes of eligibility for year end awards in ACHA approved Novice horse and rider events, eligibility earnings as determined by NCHA only, shall be the sole determining factor.

### **3. APPROVED CLASSES FOR ACHA**

- a) Open - No Dollar limit on horse or rider.
- b) Non Pro Open – No dollar limit on horse or Non Professional rider.
- c) 35,000 Non Pro – No limit on the horse and a \$35,000 limit on the Non Pro rider.
- d) 15,000 Novice Horse Non Pro Rider - \$15,000 limit on the horse and no dollar limit on the Non Pro rider.
- e) 5,000 Novice Horse Non Pro Rider - \$5,000 limit on the horse and no dollar limit on the Non Pro rider.
- f) 50,000 Amateur – No limit on the horse and a \$50,000 limit on the Amateur rider.
- g) 15,000 Amateur - No limit on the horse and a \$15,000 limit on the Amateur rider.
- h) 15,000 Novice Horse - \$15,000 limit on the horse and no limit on the rider.
- i) 5,000 Novice Horse - \$5,000 limit on the horse and no limit on the rider.
- j) 2000 Limit Rider/Any Horse – No limit on horse and a \$2,000 limit on rider. The rider may ride anyone’s horse.
- k) Senior Youth – No money limit on horse or rider. Rider age must be age 14 to 18.
- l) Junior Youth – No money limit on horse or rider. Rider age must be age 13 or under.
- m) ACHA Never Won a Buckle Class – Open to any rider that has never won a buckle cutting.

### **4. RULES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR APPROVED CLASSES**

In all approved classes owners and riders must be current ACHA members in good standing for points to count for year-end awards. In each class, money won in that class will count for year-end awards for that class only.

- a) Open
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) This class is open to any horse and any rider regardless of eligibility earnings of either.
  - iii) Riders may ride two (2) eligible horses.
  - iv) For year-end awards money won counts on the horse.
- b) Non Professional
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current Non Pro card issued by the NCHA. This class is open to any horse and non pro rider regardless of eligibility earnings of either.

- iii) For year-end awards, money won counts on the rider.
- c) \$35,000 Limit Non Professional
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current Non Pro card issued by the NCHA.
  - iii) For year-end awards, money won counts on the rider.
- d) \$15,000 Novice Horse/Non Professional
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current Non Pro card issued by the NCHA. This class is open to horses having eligibility earnings of \$15,000 or less as determines by NCHA.
  - iii) Riders may ride two (2) eligible horses.
  - iv) For year-end awards, money won counts on the horse.
- e) \$5,000 Novice Horse/Non Professional Rider
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current Non Pro card issued by the NCHA. This class is open to horses having eligibility earnings of \$5,000 or less as determines by NCHA.
  - iii) Riders may ride two (2) eligible horses.
  - iv) For year-end awards, money won counts on the horse.
- f) \$50,00 Limit Amateur
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current NCHA Amateur card issued by NCHA. See NCHA rules for restrictions. This class is open to any horse regardless of eligibility earnings.
  - iii) For year-end awards, money won counts on the rider.
- g) \$15,000 Amateur
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Rider must hold current NCHA Amateur card issued by NCHA. See NCHA rules for restrictions. This class is open to any horse regardless of eligibility earnings.
  - iii) For year-end awards, money won counts on the rider.
- h) \$15,000 Novice Horse
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) This class is open to all horse having eligibility earnings or \$15,000 or less as determined by the NCHA. This class is open to any rider regardless of eligibility earnings. A horse may be ridden by any combination of riders.
  - iii) Riders may ride two (2) eligible horses.
  - iv) For year-end awards, money won counts on the horse.
- i) \$5,000 Novice Horse
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) This class is open to all horse having eligibility earnings or \$5,000 or less as determined by the NCHA. This class is open to any rider regardless of eligibility earnings. A horse may be ridden by any combination of riders.
  - iii) Riders may ride two (2) eligible horses.

- iv) For year-end awards, money won counts on the horse.
- j) 2000 Limit Rider/Any Horse
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) This class is open to any rider having cutting competition earnings of \$2000 or less as determined by the NCHA.
  - iii) Any horse may be ridden regardless of ownership and amount of eligibility earnings.
  - iv) For year-end awards, money won counts on the rider.
- k) Senior Youth
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Open to any horse regardless of eligibility earnings. Riders are reminded that horse owners must also be ACHA members for money earned to count for year-end awards.
  - iii) Open to any youth ages 14 through 18 years. Age is determined at the beginning of the NCHA point year.
  - iv) For year-end awards, money earned counts on the rider.
  - v) Maximum cattle charge may be \$50
  - vi) An entry fee may be charged. However, year-end awards are determined based on money earned.  
Youth Riders are not permitted to show a stallion.
- l) Junior Youth
  - i) NCHA Rules
  - ii) Open to any horse regardless of eligibility earnings. Riders are reminded that horse owners must also be ACHA members for points to count for year-end awards.
  - iii) Open to any youth ages 13 years or under. Age is determined at the beginning of the NCHA point year.
  - iv) For year-end awards, points earned counts on the rider.
  - v) Maximum cattle charge may be \$35
  - vi) An entry fee may be charged. However, year-end awards are determined based on points.
- m) ACHA Never Won A Buckle Class
  - i) This class is open to any contestant that has never won a buckle in a cutting competition. The rider must start and finish the season on the same horse. The rider does not have to own the horse.
  - ii) All contestants must be members in good standing of the ACHA before entering the class.
  - iii) Youth buckles previously won are exempt.
  - iv) Contestants are solely responsible for determining eligibility.
  - v) Once a contestant has won a buckle in this class he or she will no longer be eligible to compete in this class until the Final Show of the ACHA point season when all buckle winners are invited to compete for an overall prize.
  - vi) The entry fee for the class will be set at \$75 per contestant. Entry fee will be jackpotted and paid per NCHA rules.
  - vii) Contestants will be guaranteed at least 2.5 head of cattle.



- viii) Video fees and association fees may be charged for this class.
- ix) ACHA will provide each winner of this class a buckle (see Section F – Pay outs for Tiebreak Rules). This class will only be offered at select shows determined by the show committee.
- x) Any horse may be ridden regardless of ownership and amount of eligibility earnings. Non Pro riders are cautioned to be familiar with Non Professional rules.

#### **E. PAYOUTS**

1. All classes will be paid according to NCHA mandatory payment schedule.
2. TIES
  - a) In case of ties, the placing and percentages will be added together and split evenly. A tie for second between two entries will split second and third. Second and third money will be added and split evenly.
  - b) In case of ties for a trophy/saddle/buckle: This will be determined by a coin flip or if either contestant desires, a ride-off will occur, using the first available pen of cattle as determined by show management.

#### **F. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. The Board of Directors may suspend or deny privileges to any member or non-member whose actions it deems detrimental to the best interest of the Association. For further reference concerning this action, refer to NCHA rules.
2. Any member may file a written complaint with the executive committee against any member or non-member who is out of line. This complaint must be filed within 30 days of the alleged complaint.
3. There will be a penalty for working a horse in a class, for which it is ineligible, whether or not it was intentional. The Board of Directors will set the penalty, depending on the circumstances. It is the sole responsibility of the owner and/or rider of the horse to determine that he/she or the horse is ineligible for the class entered. The minimum penalty will be a forfeiture of entry fees and all money won to the Association in the form of a fine.

#### **G. ACHA POLICIES**

1. The ACHA collects personal information as a manner of course to conduct and perform its business operations and only information deemed as reasonable necessary to conduct day to day Association business will be collected from our members. The information collected complies with all applicable laws and statutes to meet our business needs. Use and disclosure of this shall be only for the purpose that it was collected for or as required by legal authority, laws and statutes. This disclosure will only be to the extent that we are compelled or requested to do so. As required, the information collected will be held only as long as the ACHA deems necessary for its intended purpose and as required by applicable laws and statutes.

2. Safety is everyone's responsibility. If a member observes an unsafe situation it is their responsibility to advise the Show Management and the ACHA Director in Charge of the Show. All participants involved in the cutting competitions do so at their own risk.
3. The Rules Committee for the ACHA will from time to time make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding changes, additions or interpretation of these rules.
4. No equipment belonging to the ACHA may be loaned out without a signature of the person borrowing said equipment.
5. Payment for advertising in the newsletter will be considered delinquent after sixty (60) days, and the owing member shall be subject to suspension.
6. It is recommended that the ACHA sponsor and promote cutting and judging clinics whenever and wherever possible.
7. The Board of Directors will approve all awards and prizes purchased on behalf of the ACHA.
8. The Executive Committee must approve all Association purchases over \$1000.00.
9. All fund raising events must be approved and administered by the Association.