

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**  
**MAY 8, 2024**  
**2:00PM Central**

A conference call of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, beginning at 2:00PM central time.

Executive Committee members present: President Toddy Pitard, President Elect Mark Senn, Vice President Barnwell Ramsey, Kristen York, Phil Benadum, Kirby Smith, John Lavelle, Sharon Overstreet, Tommy Williams, Skip Jones, Casey Green, and Cara Brewer. Executive Committee member absent: Kathleen Moore. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams and Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance from the NCHA office.

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 2:01PM and roll call was taken.

President Toddy Pitard addressed the members of the Executive Committee with the purpose of the call to was to revisit the force majeure language on SR 13, discuss Circuit designations and Judges pay for the Derby.

**STANDING RULE 13 FORCE MAJEURE LANGUAGE – JAY WINBORN**

As a follow up from the April EC Meeting, Executive Director Jay Winborn sent the suggested change to SR 13 adding the force majeure language to legal for review. NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris suggested the following clarification with the added language to SR 13.

Regional Director Phil Benadum of Region 2 and Jay had a brief discussion about this change, and it was suggested that the new language needs to include the mandatory weekend payout schedule.

Jay will email the Executive Committee members the finalized language for SR 13 once compiled for a final consensus of the committee.

**Current Standing Rule 13:**

*A Weekend/Championship class may be offered with multiple go-rounds. When a class has more than the standard go-round, a final must be held **unless prevented by a force majeure event. For purposes of this rule, a force majeure event includes fire, flood, storm, act of God, order or action by any governmental authority, labor disputes, curtailment of transportation facilities, terrorist acts or threats, epidemic, pandemic or other national or regional emergency, riot, insurrection, war or any other cause which is beyond the reasonable control of the show producer.** The finals may be working or non-working. In all cases, the number of places paid AND the number taken to any final must be based on the Weekend Mandatory Payout Scale. In the case where a tie results in additional entries advancing to the final, the number of horses advancing will be the number used to determine the payout percentages. Example, a class has 27 entries – which advances 7 entries to the final. After the go-round, the results reflect a 3-way tie for 7th – resulting in 9 horses advancing to the final. The percentages used for the final's payout is based on 9 instead of 7. For classes held with a one go and a final (working or non-working), the payout must be calculated in one of the following two ways: a) Available purse is split in half with 50 percent paid in the go round and 50 percent paid in the final OR b) Available purse is paid 100% in the final For classes that are held with two or more goes and a final (working or non-*

*working), the purse must be split evenly between all goes and the final. For example: if two goes and a final are held, the purse would be split three ways – 33 percent to each go. For three goes and a final, the purse would be split four ways – 25 percent to each go, etc.) Exceptions to the above may be granted to state, regional, or county fairs or where a government agency stipulates how its money should be paid.*

## **NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS – JAY WINBORN**

The NCHA Office has received quite a few phone calls on inaccurate horse designations. All circuit designations default to the primary residence on the membership profile for horses and riders. Any change necessary must be initiated and requested by the member on both the horses and the riders. Members are calling in to designate themselves in a certain circuit but not changing designations for their horses until after they have earned points in a novice class. This communication has been posted boldly in multiple locations on the website and program rules. NCHA staff cannot make the determination on which circuit the horses need to reside, it is the responsibility of the owners to designate appropriately. This rule has been in place for over a year now, and the grace period is exhausted. Could members be circuit shopping? The NCHA Office is enforcing the rule unless they hear otherwise where exceptions need to be considered as a directive from the Executive Committee.

An inquiry was made by Regional Director John Lavelle of Region 4 to see if the IT department can offer a drop-down menu for online renewals where horses can be designated by the members appropriately. Jay acknowledged his suggestion and will discuss options with IT.

## **JUDGES PAY RAISE – JAY WINBORN**

Executive Director Jay Winborn is proposing that the Executive Committee contemplate increasing the compensation for judges at the Summer Spectacular event. This adjustment aims to attract more qualified judges to the event and brings their pay closer to that of Futurity judges. Presently, the monthly salary for monitors would remain unchanged. Implementing this raise would incur an additional expense of \$22,000 for the event. Pending approval from the Executive Committee, Jay and Denise will present the proposal to the Finance and Audit Committee for final approval during the upcoming meeting. This initiative, if approved, would support Director of Judges Andy Adams in securing judges for the Summer Spectacular event.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones that pending the Finance and Audit Committee approval, raising pay for the judges by \$200 dollars per day from \$800 to \$1,000 for the Summer Spectacular. **MOTION PASSED by majority of the members of the Executive Committee with one (1) abstention from Phil Benadum.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **2025 Eastern Nationals Tentative Show Dates**

The 2025 Eastern Nationals is tentatively scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in West Monroe, LA. The facility is offering NCHA an option to change the dates to May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. After further discussion among the members of the Executive Committee it was determined that these new dates offered would conflict with the Breeders Invitational which is

scheduled to run May 11<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The dates for the 2025 Eastern Nationals would remain as they stand February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in West Monroe, LA and any consideration for date changes would not be considered until 2026 and beyond.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

At this time, there is no new business to bring before the Executive Committee for discussion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by Barnwell Ramsey and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to adjourn the call at 2:49PM. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by all members of the Executive Committee.**