

Limited Age Event Class Structure Proposal

There will be three divisions: Open, Non-Pro and Amateur and within each division there will be 3 levels.

A rider can compete in whatever division he/she qualifies in as determined by the definitions of an Open, Non-Pro and Amateur rider in the NCHA Rule Book.

The levels within each division are based upon the Rider's Total Lifetime Earnings at the beginning of the NCHA point year. There is NO distinction between Limited Aged Event earnings and Weekend earnings. ALL earnings (i.e. senior, area work-offs, etc.) are now included in a rider's Total Lifetime Earnings.

Levels within each division are defined as follows:

<u>OPEN DIVISION</u>	<u>Rider Total Lifetime Earnings</u>
Open	\$750,000 or more
Intermediate Open	\$200,001 - \$749,999
Limited Open	\$0-\$200,000
<u>NON-PRO DIVISION</u>	<u>Rider Total Lifetime Earnings</u>
Non-Pro	\$500,000 or more
Intermediate Non-Pro	\$100,001 - \$499,999
Limited Non-Pro	\$0-\$100,000
<u>AMATEUR DIVISION</u>	<u>Rider Total Lifetime Earnings</u>
Amateur	\$100,000 or more
Intermediate Amateur	\$25,001 - \$99,999
Limited Amateur	\$0-\$25,000

The Limited class within each division is deemed to be an entry level class. NO rider with LTEs in excess of the amounts stated above can compete in the Limited class.

Each level within a division is its own class and a rider may enter up if they choose.

Senior (60 and up), gelding and novice classes will remain structured as is, a class within its respective division.

Senior Exception: Once a rider turns 70, the rider can drop down into the Intermediate class regardless of earnings. There is NO exception that allows a rider to return to the Limited class.

Revolving Door: If a rider is NOT in the Top 100 money earning riders for the previous point year in ANY division, they may drop back into the Intermediate. There is NO exception that allows a rider to return to the Limited Class once they advance out of it.

Earnings Cap:

Once an Amateur has won \$250,000 or more in Total Non-Pro LAE and Non Pro Championship Weekend money, they MUST make a choice: to remain an Amateur and compete exclusively in the Amateur Division or to compete in the Non-Pro Division. Non Pro Championship Weekend money EXCLUDES Novice Horse Non Pro and \$35k Non Pro earnings.

Once a Non-Pro has won \$250,000 or more in Total Open LAE and Open Championship Weekend Open money, they MUST make a choice: to remain a Non-Pro and compete exclusively in the Non-Pro Division or to compete in the Open Division. Open Championship Weekend money EXCLUDES Novice Horse earnings.

RIDER EXAMPLES:

Rider A is classified as an Amateur rider with LTEs of \$150,000. Rider A can show in the Amateur, the Intermediate Non Pro, the Non Pro, the Ltd. Open, the Intermediate Open and the Open classes.

Now, let's say Rider A was not in the Top 100 riders last year, they would be eligible to drop down to the Intermediate Amateur class.

Rider B is classified as a Non Pro rider with LTEs of \$175,000. Rider B can show in the Intermediate Non Pro, the Non Pro, the Ltd. Open, the Intermediate Open and the Open classes.

Now, let's say Rider B was not in the Top 100 riders last year, Rider B is NOT eligible to drop down one level because no rider can EVER drop down to the Limited Class.

Rider C is classified as an Open rider with LTEs of \$650,000. Rider C can show in Intermediate Open and the Open classes.

Rider D is classified as an Amateur rider with LTEs of \$50,000. Rider D can show in the Intermediate Amateur, the Amateur, the Ltd. Non Pro, the Intermediate Non Pro, the Non Pro, the Ltd. Open, Intermediate Open and the Open classes.

Rider E is classified as an Amateur rider with LTEs of \$225,000 and turns 70 years old. Rider E is now eligible to drop down to the Intermediate Amateur class regardless of LTEs.

Rider F is classified as a Non Pro rider with LTEs of \$1.2 million but was not in the Top 100 NP riders last year. Rider F would be eligible to show in the Intermediate Non Pro.