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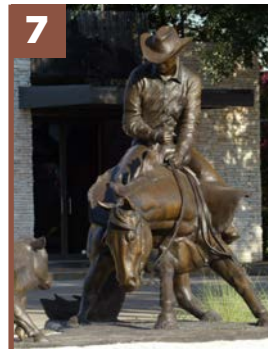
NATIONAL CATTLE HORSE ASSOCIATION



MEMBERSHIP
Guide

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Mission Statement

The National Cutting Horse Association promotes and celebrates the cutting horse, whose origin on Western ranches allows us to support ranching and its Western heritage.

By establishing rules for the conduct of cutting horse shows, NCHA strives to give cutters a level playing field and a progressive class structure which accommodates everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor.

NCHA draws on the diverse talents and background of its members and encourages their participation in helping it achieve these goals.

NCHACutting.com

Your #1 source for all things NCHA!

- How to Get Started
- NCHA Event Calendar
- Trainer Directory
- Industry News
- Horse and Rider Eligibility

Follow us on social media!



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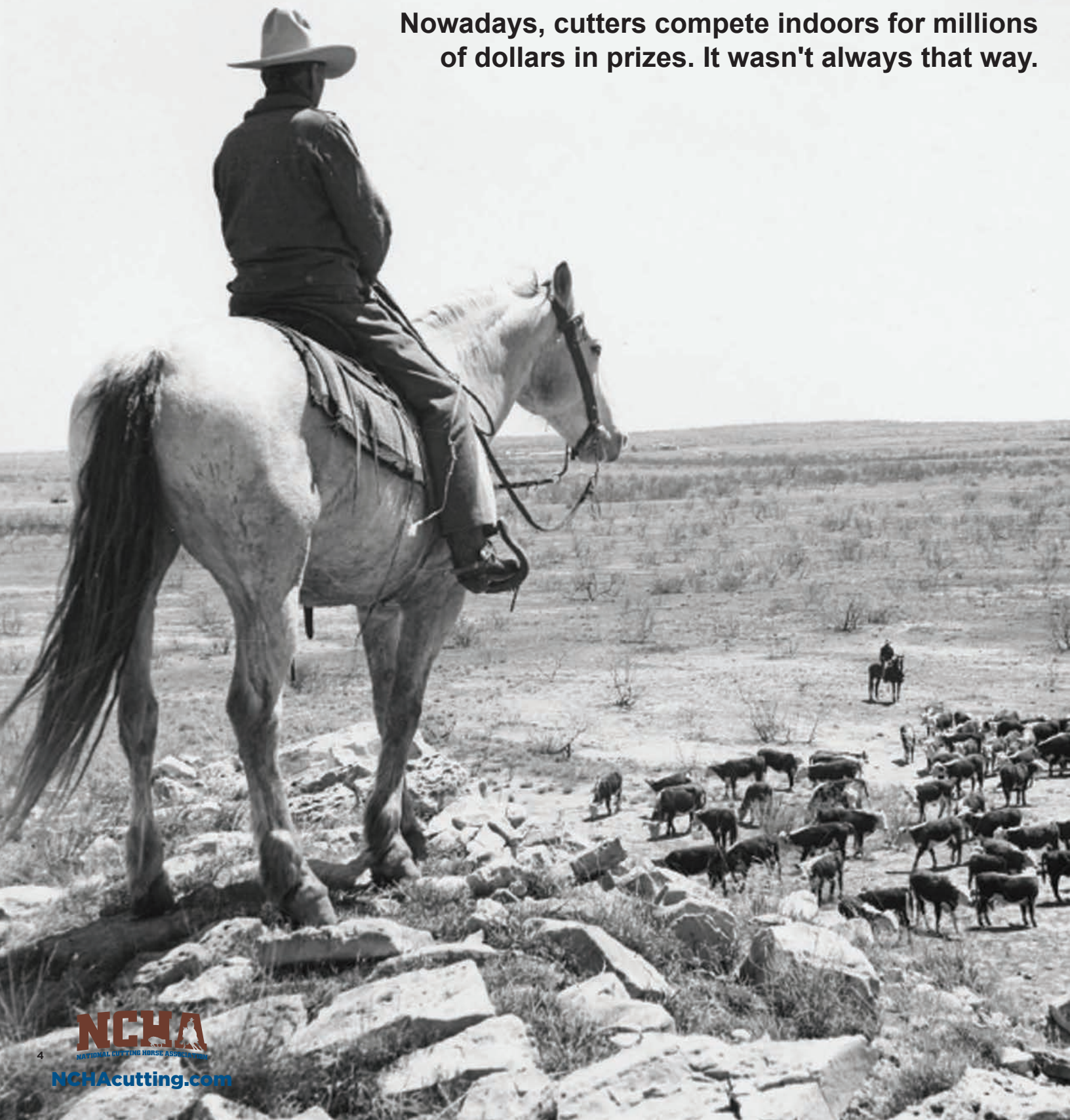
HUB is the operational system of record for the Association

- A listing and calendar view of all NCHA produced and approved events are stored and published via HUB, including special events and Association milestones.
- As a relational database, HUB stores NCHA approved events show results, calculates rider and horse earnings, class eligibility and a multitude of awards for members.
- Current and historical membership information is stored in the database to help track roles, membership tenures, sanctions, positions held and certifications (Show Secretaries, Show Producers, Monitors, Judges, etc.)
- Through the nchacutting.com webpage interface, NCHA produced events entries, draws and results are processed and stored in HUB.
- HUB stores the Association's Stallion Foal Program data, providing annual reporting for total program subscriptions and nominations.
- Over 70 reports of Show, Horse, Membership, Stallion Foal and Financial Transaction data are available in HUB for daily NCHA operations.



In the beginning, there was the horse...

Nowadays, cutters compete indoors for millions of dollars in prizes. It wasn't always that way.



A nineteenth century cowboy transplanted to the present day would probably be perplexed by the modern world's high tech marvels. But he'd still feel right at home at a cutting horse show.

When American cowboys of the 1800s began using their best horses to separate individual cows from a herd, it was part of the daily job. They would never have imagined cutting as one of the world's most popular equine sports. But each year, thousands of cutting events—from Austin to Australia—attract riders aged eight to eighty.

Cutting's heritage runs strong and deep, like the centuries-old mesquites that flourish on the Texas plains. From Chisholm Trail to present day, cutting horses have been indispensable tools in the cattle trade.

During the era of the open range, cattle from one outfit often drifted and mingled with those of other outfits. Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, neighboring ranchers would join in a roundup to sort out their brands.

Every outfit traveled with a remuda of horses. Within the remuda each cowboy had a string of horses, some of them more suitable for one job than another. For instance, a cowhand needed a steady mount to patrol the herd during the night, but in the morning he could ride last year's bronc to the far reaches of the roundup circle.

The cutting horse was an elite member of the remuda. A typical cutting horse might have started out in a cowboy's string, but his sensitivity to cattle brought him to the attention of the roundup boss. He was the horse that pricked his ears toward a cow and followed her with his eyes. He instinctively knew not to crowd her, yet was wary of her every move. He made the difficult job of separating

fast becoming obsolete. Today, the National Cutting Horse Association has given the cutting horse new life in one of the world's most exciting equine events.

The first advertised cutting contest was held at the 1898 Cowboy Reunion in Haskell, Texas. Fifteen thousand people, lured by ads in the Dallas News and the Kansas City Star, attended. Since the nearest railroad was fifty miles away, they came on



cattle easier and quicker. He even made it fun.

"It was worth the trip to brush country just to sit above Ol' Gotch and feel his shoulders roll, watch his ears work and his head drop low when he looked an old steer in the eye," said cowboy humorist Will Rogers after a visit to a South Texas ranch during the 1920s.

As big cattle outfits gave way to small farms and ranches in the twentieth century, pickup trucks and squeeze chutes took the place of cow horses. A few large ranches still rounded up cattle the old-fashioned way, but cutting horses were

horseback, or by wagon and hack.

The cutting contest offered a prize of \$150, a substantial sum in those days, and 11 riders entered. Old Hub—whose fans swore that he could work blindfolded and without a bridle—was brought out of retirement by Sam Graves for this one event.

Graves primed the 22-year-old horse with oat mash and prairie hay, then he tied Old Hub to the back of a hack and led him all the way to Haskell—a two-day journey. It was a trip into the history books, and Graves set aside half of his winnings to ensure Old Hub





Among the horses in this picture from a cutting horse event in 1948 are such greats as Snooks, Poco Bueno, Skeeter, Old Paint and Benny Binion's gelding that was NCHA's first World Champion. Riders include early NCHA Presidents Ray Smyth, Gay Copeland and H. Calhoun; and legendary riders Milt Bennett, Guy Harrell, Pine Johnson, Phil Williams and George Glascock. Photos by Frank Reeves, courtesy of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

had the best of care for the rest of his days.

The first record of cutting as an arena spectator event came at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, when a cutting horse exhibition was added to the annual rodeo in 1919. It became a competitive event the following year.

By 1946, there were so many cutting horse contests being held, under so many different sets of conditions and rules, that a group of 13 cutting horse owners met at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show and decided to form an association to establish standard rules and procedures for holding such competition.

One of the founders, Ray Smyth, said, "When the meeting broke up, we had formed what we thought would be more or less a local cutting horse association. Someone remarked that with luck, we might even get as many as 50 members by another year."

Later, at a meeting in Mineral Wells, Texas, the association was incorporated, and Pat Dalton suggested the name 'National Cutting Horse Association,' be-

\$35.4 million awarded in prize money at 2019 NCHA approved shows

All-time Money Earners

Rank	Horse.....	Earnings
1	Poco Quixote Rio.....	\$1,091,734
2	Red White And Boon.....	\$882,498
3	Sister CD.....	\$833,214
4	Dont Look Twice.....	\$824,546
5	Dual Rey Me.....	\$812,942
6	Woody Be Lucky.....	\$699,276
7	Meradas Little Sue.....	\$670,098
8	Gun Smokes Wimpy.....	\$661,431
9	Little Badger Dulce.....	\$657,276
10	Little Pepto Cat.....	\$624,820
11	Smooth Asa Zee.....	\$616,978
12	Docs Okie Quixote.....	\$599,109
13	Quintan Blue.....	\$594,637
14	Smart Little Lena.....	\$577,652

15	Metallic Cat.....	\$574,494
16	Faith In My Cat.....	\$559,706
17	Rey Lynx.....	\$559,422
18	Chiquita Pistol.....	\$545,001
19	Third Cutting.....	\$528,268
20	Junie Wood.....	\$525,744
21	Cash Quixote Rio.....	\$520,583
22	San Tule Uno.....	\$519,496
23	Redneck Yachtclub.....	\$518,799
24	Im Countin Checks.....	\$509,642
25	Jazzote.....	\$504,286
26	Spots Hot.....	\$502,682
27	High Brow CD.....	\$502,202
28	Miss Silver Pistol.....	\$500,876
29	Boon San Kitty.....	\$498,188
30	Little Pepto Gal.....	\$490,951

As of 2/10/2020

cause it looked as though it had the potential to grow into something big.

The first show was held in Dublin, Texas, in the fall of 1946.

Smyth recalled that secretary-treasurer Volney Hildreth guarded the association's resources "with a big stick. If we wanted anything that cost money, Volney would tell us to get enough new members to pay for it."

When NCHA was formed, most cutting horses were ranch geldings like Old Paint, a brown and white horse of unknown parentage that Smyth bought for \$40 at Weatherford trade days. Old Paint became one of cutting's first champions.

But some of the big

ranches had been breeding their own horses for years. The world famous King Ranch had a remuda of copper-colored horses descended from the Old Sorrel. Yellow Jacket horses, with golden coats and black manes and tails, filled the Burnett's Triangle Ranch pastures; while the Pitchfork Outfit was known for cast-iron cow ponies sired by Grey Badger.

By 1963, the association recorded the results of 727 events, of which 504 were recognized as NCHA championship events. In those days, cutters vied for a piece of \$404,183 in prize money. That included \$23,225 paid out at that year's NCHA Futurity.

Fast forward to to-

day, and the contestants at the NCHA Futurity will be divvying up more than \$3.5 million—over a hundred times the offering of that first year. Total purses at NCHA-approved shows now exceed \$36 million annually.

Yet for many, cutting's greatest rewards are intangible. The bond between people and horses that makes the sport so special, also links it to the sweat and dust of the Old West, and sets it apart from all other events.

"The people who brought cutting from the open range to the arena, and turned the skills of the horse and cowboy into the contest, were real sports," said Buster Welch, a legendary cutting champion. "That fine sportsmanship is still alive and well in cutting today." ■



NCHA Membership

NCHA offers multiple membership options so members are able to compete against peers of the same skill level. All riders and horse owners must be current NCHA members to show in NCHA events. See Rulebook for complete details. For the most up to date version of the rulebook, visit NCHACutting.com.

Amateur

Amateurs must have lifetime earnings of \$100,000 or less. In addition, an Amateur must not:

- a. have been paid to train or assist in training a horse or rider in any equine discipline
- b. have been married to, lived with, resided on the premises of or been employed astride by a professional horse trainer in any equine discipline.

Non-Pro

A Non-Pro may not receive direct or indirect remuneration for training horses astride in any cattle/cow related equine disciplines or remuneration to show, train or assist in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider.

Professional

Any rider who has been paid remuneration to show, train or assist in training a horse or rider in any equine discipline

Plan on Showing?

Before you show in an Amateur or Non-Pro class, you need to hold an Amateur/Non-Pro status. Applications for Amateur/Non-Pro status can be found on NCHACutting.com.





National Youth Cutting Horse Association

The National Cutting Horse Association was formed with its main goals being to promote cutting competitions, standardize contest rules and preserve the cutting horses' Western heritage. The National Youth Cutting Horse Association (NYCHA), was formed in 1993 to offer youth members the opportunity to develop their horsemanship skills, practice sportsmanship and discipline, develop leadership skills and learn responsibility in caring for their horses and themselves. The NYCHA strives to offer programs and opportunities to fit the needs and abilities of all horses and riders.



Youth Membership

NYCHA membership is open to all youth who are 18 years of age or younger.

There are two age divisions, Senior Youth (14-18) and Junior Youth (ages 13 and under).

■ **Youth Cutting and Special Events**

NYCHA World Finals, Summer Scholarship Cutting and Convention

Each summer, the NYCHA holds its World Finals, Annual Youth Convention and Scholarship Cutting in Fort Worth, Texas. During the event, youth members compete for scholarships, conduct business meetings, elect officers, participate in family fun night and attend educational workshops. The annual youth awards banquet is held in conjunction with the convention and cutting competition to recognize members' achievements throughout the year.

■ **Programs and Scholarships**

LEAP Program

The Levels of Excellence Award Program (LEAP) was created to recognize youth for their participation in NYCHA activities. Points are earned through participation in NYCHA activities such as attending workshops, community service, writing a newspaper article, helping with fundraisers or participating in cutting events. LEAP points become crucial when it comes to scholarship applications and other awards.

Scholarship Programs

More than \$150,000 in college scholarships are awarded each year through a variety of scholarship programs and youth scholarship cuttings. The scholarships are awarded based on involvement in NYCHA activities, academic achievements, financial need and community involvement.

Judging Programs

Additional opportunities for involvement outside of the cutting pen are available for members. Judging contests and other programs that aim to develop professional skills are offered throughout the year.

■ **Leadership and Education**

Leadership Opportunities

The NYCHA National Officers and Board of Directors conduct the business of the NYCHA. They are responsible for implementing NYCHA programs at the local level, promoting the sport of cutting and informing youth members about activities and fundraisers. ■

Shows



In addition to the 1,500-plus NCHA-approved shows held annually around the world, NCHA produces six shows each year. Three are major limited-age events held in Fort Worth, two are National Championships for weekend cutters and one is the World Finals for weekend cutters.



1. Weekend Shows:

Weekend shows are a great place for beginners all the way up to professional trainers. Shows feature a progressive class structure offering some or all of NCHA's 12 approved classes so everyone has the opportunity to compete against others at a similar level of achievement. At the end of the point year, anyone can enter the Eastern National or the Western National Championships, based on their eligibility on final day of that point year. Both of these events

have thousands of dollars in added money.

Also, at the end of the point year, the Top 15 in 10 of NCHA's approved classes may compete in the World Finals held in conjunction with the NCHA World Championship Futurity in Fort Worth, TX.

National Youth Cutting Horse Association (NYCHA) members can compete in Junior (age 13 and under) or Senior (age 14-18) classes at weekend shows. NYCHA members have the opportunity to compete

for thousands of dollars in scholarships each year. Their success at weekend shows will contribute to their future education. Each summer during the Summer Spectacular Cutting in Fort Worth, TX, the NYCHA holds its Youth World Finals and Convention.

2. Limited-Age Shows:

Fort Worth is home to three annual NCHA limited-age events, also known as the Triple Crown of Cutting. Each show has limited-age classes





offering millions of dollars to the payout. The first jewel is the **NCHA World Championship Futurity** held in December. The Futurity is for 3- year-old cutting horses that have never been shown before in competition. The second jewel in the Triple



Crown is the **NCHA Super Stakes** held in April for horses ages 4 to 6. The third and final jewel for the Triple Crown is the **NCHA Summer Cutting Spectacular** held in July. The derby portion of the event is offered for 4-year-olds and the

the classic portion is offered for 5 and 6-year-olds. A horse that wins the World Championship Futurity, the Super Stakes and the Summer Spectacular in the same point year is crowned as the Triple Crown winner. ■





are NYCHA Youth Members age 13 or younger (Youth point year June 1 – May 31).

7. Senior Youth – Riders who are NYCHA Youth Members age 14-18 (Youth point year June 1 – May 31).

HORSE CLASSES: Classes in which restrictions are based solely on the horse. Any rider can compete in these classes. The term “Novice” refers to the horse.

8. \$5,000 Novice – Open to all horses of any age that have \$5,000 or less of eligibility earnings at the beginning of the point year (excluding limited age events).

9. \$25,000 Novice – Open to all horses of any age that have \$25,000 or less of eligibility earnings at the beginning of the point year (excluding limited age events).

HORSE/RIDER CLASSES:

Classes in which there are restrictions on both the horse and the rider. The term “Novice” refers to the horse and the term “Non-Pro” refers to the rider.

10. \$5,000 Novice/Non-Pro – Open to horses with eligibility earnings of \$5,000 or less at the beginning of the point year (excluding limited-age events) and the rider has a Non-Pro card. The horse must be owned by the rider or rider’s family member.

11. \$25,000 Novice/Non-Pro – Open to horses with eligibility earnings of \$25,000 or less at the beginning of the point year (excluding limited-age events) and the rider has a Non-Pro card. The horse must be owned by the rider or rider’s family member.

12. Open – Any horse can be ridden by any rider. There are no ■

Different Types of Show Classes

Twelve standard classes are offered at NCHA events. Classes can be based on the qualifications of the rider, the qualifications of the horse or the qualifications of both horse and rider. Regardless of the class, Amateur/Non-Pro riders must own the horse they compete on.

RIDER CLASSES: Classes are based on the rider and his/her accomplishments.

1. \$50,000 Amateur – Riders holding an Amateur card with less than \$100,000 of lifetime earnings (\$50,000 Weekend/\$50,000 Limited Age) at the beginning of the point year. The horse must be owned by the rider or rider’s immediate family.

2. \$15,000 Amateur – Riders holding an Amateur card with less than \$15,000 of eligibility earnings

at the beginning of the point year. The horse must be owned by the rider or rider’s immediate family.

3. \$2,000 Limit Rider/Any Horse – The class of choice for members who are new to cutting. This class is open to all riders with lifetime earnings in cutting competitions of \$2,000 or less at the beginning of the point year.

4. Non-Pro – Riders holding a Non-Pro card and Amateur status are also allowed to enter this class. There is no limit on the amount of money which the horse or rider have won.

5. \$35,000 Non-Pro – Riders holding a Non-Pro card with less than \$35,000 of eligibility earnings at the beginning of the point year.

6. Junior Youth – Riders who



NCHA

NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM



1. *Aurora Circuit*
2. *Pioneer Circuit*
3. *Big Sky Circuit*
4. *Great Lakes Circuit*
5. *Appalachian Circuit*
6. *Redwood Circuit*
7. *Cactus Circuit*
8. *Heartland Circuit*
9. *Oiler Circuit*
10. *Red River Circuit*
11. *Alamo Circuit*
12. *Cotton Circuit*
13. *Sunshine Circuit*

The National Circuit Program develops 13 geographic circuits where cutters compete for points at every weekend competition approved by NCHA. The points will be tracked by NCHA and used for circuit standings and circuit finals qualifications. At the end of the circuit point year, all 13 circuits will host their NCHA Circuit Finals where the top 30 in each class will be invited to compete. After the NCHA Circuit Finals, the top 10 in the standings in each circuit will be invited to compete at the NCHA National Circuit Finals.

For more information and to find your NCHA Circuit visit nchacutting.com

NCHA \$1,000 Achievement Buckle



Once a rider wins \$1,000 in lifetime NCHA weekend earnings from approved classes, he/she is awarded a trophy Gist buckle, compliments of NCHA. Whether a person is a weekend warrior or World Champion, NCHA wants to congratulate them on their achievement. Every professional trainer started out as a beginner and worked their way up. Whether a person's goal is to become a World Champion or cutting is just their hobby, the first jewel in their crown is the NCHA \$1,000 Achievement Buckle. ■

How Do I Get Started?

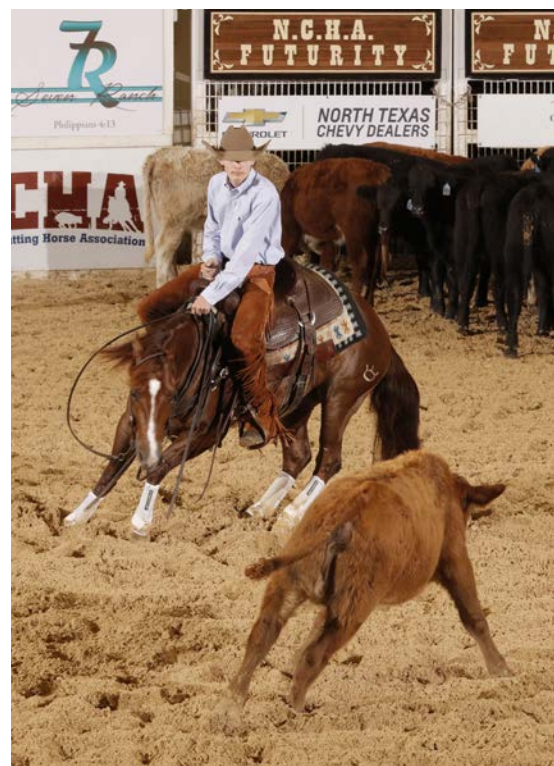
There are many ways to get further involved in the exciting sport of cutting.

Finding a Trainer

The best way to get more familiar with the sport is to spend some time with a local trainer who is an invaluable source of information. The NCHA provides a free digital trainers directory at NCHACutting.com that displays all of the local trainers in your area. These professionals can show and teach you every facet of the sport. They can be like your own personal coach.

Visit NCHACutting.com

NCHACutting.com is the official website of the National Cutting Horse Association. Whether you want to view the most up-to-date rule book, watch video tips and runs from past champions or look at the schedule of upcoming shows, NCHACutting.com is your resource for the most current information. ■



**National
Cutting Horse
Association**



FAQs

How long does my NCHA membership last?

NCHA memberships can be purchased for one year. One year of membership begins on January 1 and is valid through December 31 of the same year, whether it is purchased on January 1 or halfway through the year.

Do I have to ride my own horse to show in NCHA competition?

There are several NCHA classes in which the horse's rider does not have to be the owner of the horse (Open, \$5,000 Novice, \$25,000 Novice, \$2,000 Limit Rider, Junior Youth and Senior Youth) excluding Amateur/Non-Pro riders. Holders of Non-Pro/Amateur cards may compete in the \$2,000 Limit Rider on any horse, regardless of ownership, without jeopardizing their Non-Professional status. In all Amateur and Non-Pro classes, the horse must be owned by the rider or rider's immediate family.

The \$2,000 Limit Rider class is a great way for any member who is new to cutting to gain experience before stepping up against more experienced riders.

How do I find out where the weekend shows are being held?

There are two easy ways. The first place to find out about weekend events is on the NCHA website. You can search the comprehensive listings by state, city or month.

In the Cutting Horse Chatter, which members can elect to receive every month, turn to the "Coming Events" section. The first page of that section lists show locations and their dates in each state. Details for each event are listed in chronological order in the remainder of the section. Directions, class fees, stall information, judges and secretaries are all listed for each cutting.

Why does NCHA use five judges for the major limited-age events?

Nearly 20 years ago, NCHA instituted the Adjusted Monitor System in order to make judging fair for each contestant. The system is used at all major limited-age events with five judges and may be used at three-judge shows.

According to the system, the high and low scores are tossed out in a five-judge show, leaving three scores to be tallied. A monitor is assigned to make rulings on major penalty discrepancies and to evaluate the judges' performance during each go-round.

How do I obtain an Amateur or Non-Pro card?

Before entering any Amateur or Non-Pro class at an NCHA show, you must complete an Amateur/Non-Pro application, in addition to your membership, for approval to the NCHA office. Your approval status will be indicated on your membership card.

The normal approval turnaround time for receiving your card once received at NCHA is two weeks. However, if you need immediate approval because you are planning to show right away, call the Membership Department and they will make every effort to get your application approved sooner.

If you are planning to show in either an Amateur or Non-Pro class, your NCHA membership card should have "Amateur/Non-Pro" printed on the card. If your membership card does not have this printed, contact the Membership Department. ■

Because you don't just fall in love with
the sport....

you fall
in love
with the
athlete.



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