

# **CODE OF ETHICS FOR JUDGES OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION**

This Code of Ethics contains the general standards for behavior for NCHA judges. All judges have a duty to the National Cutting Horse Association (the "**Association**") and its members to act ethically and with the highest level of competency, fairness, integrity and impartiality in performing their duties judging cutting horse competitions sponsored by the Association.

As part of their obligations to the Association, members, and each other, judges should be familiar with the rules and regulations of the Association, all amendments to those rules and regulations, and issues affecting the judging of cutting horses competitions. All judges should be diligent in preparing themselves to judge competitions and continually attempt to maintain and improve the standards of judging. Judges should also strive to identify and take action to eliminate any practices which may damage the Association, or which might discredit or bring dishonor to the Association or its members.

As a condition to becoming a judge, all judges for the Association shall accept the obligations of this Code, agree to act in accordance with this Code and agree to be bound by this Code and all provisions of the NCHA Constitution, Bylaws, rules and regulations (collectively, the "**NCHA Rules**") in all of their activities.

## **Article 1. Maintaining Integrity and Independence of the Judging System**

A judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and enforcing high ethical standards of conduct for judges and should personally observe those standards so that the integrity and independence of the NCHA judging system is preserved. The provisions of this Code are to be construed and applied to further that objective.

**Article 2. Impartiality of Judges**

A judge shall treat all competitors honestly and act objectively in performing his duties. This includes, but is not limited to, strictly adhering to all NCHA Rules concerning the judging process. A judge shall not be swayed by personal interests or fear of criticism in performing his duties and shall perform his duties without any personal bias or prejudice.

**Article 3. Avoiding Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety**

A judge shall always comply with all NCHA Rules and act in a manner that promotes confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judging system. A judge shall not allow any relationship to influence his conduct or judgment. A judge shall not use his position as a judge to advance the private interests of the judge or others; nor shall a judge convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence the judge.

**Article 4. Diligence in Performing Duties**

A judge must be knowledgeable of the NCHA Rules, and any amendment thereto, and shall perform his duties in accordance with those Rules. A judge should act diligently in his preparation for judging competitions and in discharging his responsibilities at such competitions. A judge who has knowledge of or receives information that another judge has committed a violation of this Code, the NCHA Rules or has otherwise engaged in any activity constituting unfairness, willful discrimination or dishonesty that raises a question as to the other judge's fitness to judge shall promptly inform the NCHA Executive Director, or the NCHA Director of Judges of such activities. Similarly, a judge who receives information that a contestant has committed a violation of NCHA Rules shall inform the NCHA Executive Director or the NCHA Director of Judges of such activities.

**Article 5. Minimize the Risk of Conflicts**

A judge shall conduct all activities so that they do not cast doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge or interfere with the judge's proper performance of his duties. A judge shall refrain from financial and business dealings that tend to reflect adversely on the judge's impartiality, interfere with the proper performance of his duties or exploit his position.

Judges may participate in other committees of the Association. A judge should not participate in any committee process which concerns the actions of that judge or actions occurring at an event in which that judge participated as a judge.

**Article 6. Respect of Other Judges**

A judge will treat his fellow judges with respect. In situations where information about another judge is requested by the Association, the information will be provided in an honest and respectful manner and will not be influenced by any personal motivation or potential personal gain. **In situations where a judge is asked to review or comment on another judge's call in a particular run, said judge shall inform the inquiring party to speak to the Director of Judges about their concern.**

**Article 7. Cooperation with Association Officials**

A judge should give his full cooperation to NCHA officials and show management and act in a timely manner to ensure that the competition, and his duties performed at that competition, are conducted in a professional manner and in accordance with NCHA Rules.

**Article 8. Outside Activities**

Judges shall not engage in activities other than those authorized with the NCHA rules and regulations, or by prior approval of the NCHA Director of Judges, while providing judging services to the Association.

**Article 9. Code Not Exclusive**

This Code of Ethics is intended as a general guideline for judges' behavior and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of conduct for NCHA judges. Judges conduct is also governed by NCHA Rules. This Code is intended, however, to state basic standards which should govern the conduct of all judges and to provide guidance to assist judges in establishing and maintaining high standards of conduct.

***This Code of Ethics generally identifies the ethical obligations of judges and does not substitute for, nor is it intended to substitute for, or in any way alter or modify the NCHA Rules.***

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Signature of NCHA Judge or Judge Applicant

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NCHA Membership #

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Date