



# 2025 NCHA International Circuit Championship

Held during the 2026 NCHA Super Stakes

## 1) Classes Offered:

Class	NCHA Added Money	Entry Fee
Open	\$27,000	\$1,080
Non-Professional	\$27,000	\$1,080
Unlimited Amateur	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$25,000 Novice Horse	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$25,000 Novice Horse/ Non-Pro Rider	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$5,000 Novice Horse	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$5,000 Novice Horse / Non-Pro Rider	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$50,000 Amateur	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$35,000 Non-Professional	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$15,000 Amateur	\$27,000	\$1,080
\$2,000 Limit Rider/ Any Horse	\$27,000	\$1,080
Junior Youth	\$1,500 scholarship	\$530
Senior Youth	\$1,500 scholarship	\$530
NHSFR Invitational	Jackpot & Awards	\$530

## 2) Qualification Methods – participants / horses must qualify prior to entry.

### a. Non-Youth Classes:

- i. A rider / horse will only receive one invitation per class via the following two (2) qualification methods:
  1. Circuit Championship Qualification - The champions and reserve champions (plus ties) from the working or non-working finals of each local Circuit Championship class.
  2. Circuit Year End Qualification - The top ten (plus ties) in the circuit year end standings from each class in each circuit.
- ii. In the event a local circuit championship champion or reserve champion is also in the top ten circuit year end standings, qualification will extend to the 11th or 12th place (plus ties) in the circuit year end standings.
- iii. Qualification Exceptions:
  1. World Finals Competitors:
    - a. Any rider and/or horse that competed in the 2025 NCHA World Finals are not eligible to compete at the 2025 Circuit Championships in the same class(es) in which they competed in the 2025 NCHA World Finals.



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### 2. World Finals Standings:

- a. Open Division – Any horse that finished in the top 15 of the 2025 NCHA World Finals standings in the Open division is ineligible to compete in any class at the 2025 Circuit Championships except the Jr. / Sr. Youth / NHSFR.
- b. Non-Pro Division – Any horse that was shown by a Non-Pro in the 2025 NCHA World Finals in the Non-Pro division is ineligible to compete at the 2025 Circuit Championships in any class except the Jr. / Sr. Youth / NHSFR.

- b. Youth Classes - there is no qualifying requirement for Youth class entries. Any age eligible youth in the current point year may enter.

### 3) Class Types and Entry Stipulations

- a. Horse Classes - Entry / qualification is made by horse.
  - i. Exhibitors in horse classes are allowed to show two qualified horses.
  - ii. Qualified horses may be shown by any Open rider or CURRENT member. Previous ownership of the horse and any honors won by the horse (except competition in the NCHA World Finals Open / Non-Pro class) shall not exclude the current owner or any trainer from showing a qualified horse.
  - iii. Qualifying was determined as of end of the 2025 point year. Horses may compete in any qualified class regardless of current earnings.
- b. Novice Non-Pro Horse Classes – Entry / qualification is made by both the horse and rider.
  - i. Exhibitors in horse classes are allowed to show two qualified horses.
  - ii. Qualified horses may be shown by any Non-Pro Rider with a valid relationship to the CURRENT owner of the horse.
  - iii. Riders must have the same circuit designation as the eligible horse.
  - iv. Qualifying was determined as of the end of the 2025 point year. Horses may compete in any qualified class regardless of current earnings.



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- c. Non-Youth Rider Classes - Entry / qualification is made by the rider.
  - i. Exhibitors in rider classes may only show 1 horse.
  - ii. Qualifying was determined as of the end of the 2025 point year. Riders may compete in any qualified class regardless of current earnings. However, riders entering any Non-Pro or Amateur class must hold a current Non-Pro or Amateur card to compete in those classes.
- d. Youth Classes - Entry is made by the rider.
  - i. The Youth class will be divided into two groups based on rider age: 13 and under; 14-18.
  - ii. Youth exhibitors may only show 1 horse.
  - iii. Youth eligibility is based on Approved Championship show rules and approval. Only riders of the current youth point year are eligible to enter and compete in the Youth classes. By this standard, new Youth Members who join in the current year will be eligible to compete.
  - iv. NHSFR cutting invitational will run separately from the NCHA classes.

#### 4) Entry Information

- a. Entries
  - i. All entries must be made in the name of either the horse (horse classes) or rider (rider classes).
  - ii. Entries are not "slots" and may not be sold between classes.
  - iii. Entries may be withdrawn prior to the draw without penalty for a full refund.
- b. Deadlines
  - i. **All entries must be DONE ONLINE BY 11:59pm Monday, March 9, 2026.**
  - ii. The draw for all classes will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.
- c. Late Entries
  - i. Entries submitted after the due date but prior to the draw are subject to a penalty of 25% of the entry fee (Jackpot + Office).
  - ii. Entries made after the draw pay 25% of the Entry fee (Jackpot + Office) penalty and an additional \$100 penalty. \$50 of that fee will be added to the jackpot and \$50 retained as an office charge. Late entries will only be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the day before a class starts. Late entries will be added last in a herd with no additional cattle.
- d. Horse / Rider Substitution
  - i. Horse Classes
    - 1. Horse Substitution



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- a. Prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts - Horse substitution may be allowed provided the substitute horse is owned by the same owner and its qualification is verified prior to substitution.
  - b. After 3:00pm the day before the class starts and BEFORE the class starts – \$500 penalty.
  - c. After the class starts – no substitution is allowed, and horses must be exhibited by the same rider throughout the competition.
2. Riders
- a. Riders must be named prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts.
  - b. Riders named AFTER 3:00pm the day before the class starts - \$500 fee.
- ii. Rider Classes
1. Naming Horses
- a. Horses must be named prior to 3:00pm the day before the class starts.
  - b. Horses named AFTER 3:00pm the day before the class starts - \$500 fee.
2. Substitution of Named Horses
- a. Prior to class start and before 3:00pm the day before the class starts – Horse substitution for named horses may be allowed provided substitute horse is owned by the same member or in the case of Non-Pro and Amateur classes member with a valid family relationship.
  - b. After 3:00pm the day before the class starts and before the class starts – horse substitution may be allowed with the same provisions with a \$500 fee.
  - c. After the class starts – Horse substitutions are not allowed. Riders must exhibit the same horse(s) throughout.

## 5) Entry Fees / Withdraws / Refunds

### a. Entry Fees

Jackpot	Office Fee	Total Entry Fee
\$510	\$570	\$1,080

Youth Jackpot	Office Fee	Total Youth Entry Fee
\$255	\$275	\$530

Blood samples will be taken in all classes throughout the show. Refusal to allow testing of a selected horse shall result in disqualification of the horse, and potential disciplinary action against the responsible party/parties.

NHSFR Jackpot	Office Fee	Total NHSFR Entry Fee
\$255	\$275	\$530



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### b. Withdraws and Refunds

- i. **Prior to the Draw:** Entries withdrawn prior to the draw are eligible to receive a full refund. Withdraw requests must be submitted in writing to the NCHA office. Refunds will be returned the original payor.
- ii. **After the Draw:** No refunds will be issued to entries withdrawn after the draw.

### 6) Show Format

- a. Clean-slate show. No prior points carry forward to the show.
- b. All classes will consist of one (1) one go-round and a clean slate working final.
- c. **Advancing calculations are determined at the time of the draw.** Late entries will not modify the finals counts. All monies will be paid in the working final.
  - i. Non-Youth Classes
    1. The high scoring twenty five percent (25%) plus ties in the go-round will advance to the clean slate working final. Maximum twenty-five (25). This may be amended for any class having less than 20 entries.
    2. No circuit points will be awarded.
  - ii. Youth Classes
    1. The high scoring twenty five percent (25%) plus ties in the go-round will advance to the clean slate working final. Maximum twenty-five (25). This may be amended for any class having less than 20 entries.
    2. Points counting toward Youth World Finals Year End will be awarded in the finals based on the number of entries shown in the first go. A maximum of 6 points will be awarded to the top spot in the finals. If fewer riders advance to the finals than points to be awarded, the next highest placing rider(s) from the first go will receive the remaining point(s).
    3. No circuit points will be awarded.
- d. The Draw
  - i. The tentative draw date for all classes is March 18, 2026.
  - ii. Only those horses & riders for which payment has been received in the NCHA office will be drawn.
  - iii. If an entry properly entered is left out of the draw, a redraw will not be held. To establish a working order for this entry, one number will be pulled from a list based on the original draw numbers. The omitted entry will be inserted into the draw behind the number pulled.



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### e. Payouts

- i. All monies will be paid in the working final.
- ii. All finalists will receive a Finalist Check equal to the Total Entry Fee.
- iii. Purse Calculation
  1. Determine the "Finalist Check Total" = Number in the finals x Total Entry Fee.
  2. Determine the "Purse Balance" = Subtract the "Finalist Check Total" from the Total Purse.
  3. Determine the "Premium Payout" = Cross reference the number of entries at draw against the Standing Rule 14.d chart to determine the number of finalists that will receive an additional premium payout.
  4. Multiply the "Purse Balance" by the NCHA Weekend Show payout percentages in the Standing Rule 14.e chart for the number of Premium Payout recipients.
  5. Add Finalist Check value to Premium Payout (if applicable) to determine the final payout for each placing.
- iv. Youth Scholarships will be distributed as follows:
  1. \$1,000 to first place
  2. \$500 to second place
  3. Adjusted for ties
- f. Ties: In the event of a tie for placings with awards, a work off will not be held to determine the winner.
  - i. Prize money will be divided equally among tied placings.
  - ii. Awards:
    1. Tie for Champion / Reserve Champion placings will receive duplicate awards.
    2. Ties for prizes for other placings (3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>) will be broken using the following methodology:
      - a. To split the tie, the scores from all 5 judges during the finals will be added together.
      - b. If still tied, the 3-judge score from the previous go-rounds will be added to the 5-judge total (8 scores).
      - c. If still tied, the additional 2 judge scores will be added to the preliminary 3 judge total (10 scores).
      - d. If still tied, the winner will be determined via a coin toss with the riders/owners. The winning entry will select first from the pool of awards, with remaining prizes being selected in alternating fashion.



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### 7) Judges

- a. Five judges will be used. The highest and the lowest score for each horse discarded. The total of the remaining three scores will be the official mark. No individual scores will be announced.
- b. Judges will be selected from those NCHA 5A, 4A and 3A rated judges available to judge the event.

### 8) Rules applicable to all entries

- a. All horses must meet the respective state health requirements.
- b. Monies earned will be recorded on horse and rider lifetime earnings.
  - i. Horse earnings will not count toward eligibility for Championship / Weekend classes.
  - ii. Rider earnings WILL count toward eligibility for Championship / Weekend classes in 2027.
- c. Medication & Testing Provisions
  - i. All entries are bound by all rules within the NCHA Rulebook, including Standing Rule 35 A. A positive prohibited medication test will result in the loss of all titles, awards, premiums and will result in a fine of \$2,500-\$5,000 for a first offense and will result in an automatic 6-month suspension.
  - ii. By submitting your entry, you acknowledge that you are familiar with and subject to the provisions of the Medication and Drug Rules and Guidelines contained in the NCHA Rulebook. You also agree that, if requested, you will provide blood samples from your horse to comply with the random testing provisions contained in those Rules and Guidelines.
  - iii. Blood samples will be taken in all divisions throughout the show. Refusal to allow testing of a selected horse shall result in disqualification of the horse, and potential disciplinary action against the responsible party/parties.
- d. Release and Indemnification By signing the entry form to participate in the NCHA Circuit Championship (the "Event"), being held at the Will Rogers Memorial Center (Fort Worth, Texas) the entrant acknowledges and agrees that there is inherent danger in participation in the Event due to potential exposure of the entrant and his/her horses to the Novel Coronavirus (the "Coronavirus") at the Event. By signing this entry form, the entrant acknowledges and agrees that: (i) prior to entering the Event, he/she was made aware of and understood the potential dangers presented by the Coronavirus at the Event; (ii) even though the NCHA and the Facility have taken all reasonable steps to present a safe environment for the Event, there are many factors beyond their reasonable control that could lead to potential



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exposure to the Coronavirus at the Event; and (iii) he/she is voluntarily assuming all risk of harm, illness or injury to themselves or any of their horses that may be incurred by participating in the Event, or activities associated with the Event, that are in any way related to the Coronavirus. The entrant further hereby releases the NCHA and the Event Facilities and their respective officers, owners, employees, agents, representatives, directors, shareholders, officials, administrators, contractors, vendors, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, attorneys, and the owners and lessors of animals used to conduct the Event (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasees") from any and all liability, claim, damages, injury, judgment, loss, liability, cost and expense (including, without limitation, attorney's fees and costs) incurred by the entrant or his/her horses allegedly arising out of or connected with his/her participation in the Event, or at any activities associated with the Event, that relate in any way to the Coronavirus. This Release includes, but is not limited to, claims for bodily injury and physical illness of the entrants and their horses in anyway relating to the Coronavirus, that were allegedly incurred or sustained during the Event or at any activities associated with the Event.

### 9) Circuit Team Challenge

- a. In addition to horses and/or riders competing for individual placings and awards, they will also be competing for their team/current circuit from which they qualified.
- b. The weighted point system will be used to determine the Circuit Team Challenge Champion. The weighted point approach prioritizes the value of the medal earned by horses in horse classes or riders in rider classes.
  - i. Gold medal is worth 3 points.
  - ii. Silver medal is worth 2 points.
  - iii. Bronze medal is worth 1 point.
- c. In all 13 NCHA-approved classes, gold medals will be awarded to the champions, silver medals will be awarded to the reserve champions and bronze medals will be awarded to the third-place finishers. No payouts or prize monies will be awarded in the Circuit Team Challenge.
- d. In the event of a tie for a "medal position," the tie-breaking methodology listed in section six of this document will be utilized to determine the winner of the medal.
- e. At the conclusion of the Circuit Championship show, the medal points earned will be calculated to determine the team challenge champion and team challenge reserve champion of the 2025 Circuit Team Challenge.
- f. The circuit in which the horse or rider qualified during the 2025-point year, will be the circuit represented for the Circuit Team Challenge.