

NCHA Judge Card Applicants For \$50,000+ Winners

(Checklist as of August 2020)

1. All applicants must be over 19 years old, must be an active member and must have been a member for at least five (5) years. _____

2. The applicant shall not have a record of suspension or probation for the three (3) year period preceding the application. Any person seeking approval must have been an active competitor for the past three (3) years and must have won a lifetime minimum of \$50,000. _____

3. Each application must be endorsed by one (1) current Director in the applicant's area. _____

4. Each applicant must have three (3) endorsements on separate reference forms which are in this packet. _____

5. A non-refundable fee of \$150 must accompany all applications and the Open Book Test and mailed back to NCHA. _____

6. After passing the test with a minimum score of 80% and after all endorsements are received, the applicant will be tested through live or video judging pending the approval of the Director of Judges. _____

7. All applicants must send in a signed copy of the NCHA Judge's Code of Ethics before they can be approved. _____

APPLICANTS WILL NOT BECOME A JUDGE UNTIL ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

You will be tested on three sets of works. The applicants must score 75% or higher on all three sets to become an approved judge.

**National Cutting Horse Association
Attn: Judges Department
260 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76107**

**NCHA Phone # 817-244-6188 Ex. 158
tkimmel@nchacutting.com**



**JUDGES
APPLICATION
FORM**

NCHA
NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



JUDGES APPLICATION FORM

I hereby apply for approval as a judge of cutting horses at contests and shows approved or conducted by the National Cutting Horse Association. I further agree to abide by and be bound by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the National Cutting Horse Association . I understand that NCHA judge approval is a privilege and not a right, and that such approval may be terminated at any time by the procedures provided in the Association Rules.

I am at least 19 years of age, and if I am 60 years old or older I will abide by NCHA Standing Rule 26.a.; I have been an active NCHA member continuously for five (5) years with no record of suspension, probation or reprimand by the Association for the three (3) year period immediately proceeding this application; and I have been an active competitor during the past three (3) years and have won a lifetime minimum of \$10,000 or more.

APPLICANT

(Please print or type)

NAME _____ NCHA ID# _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # DAY () _____ NIGHT () _____

NCHA MEMBER SINCE _____ BIRTH DATE _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Married or Single _____ Spouse's Name _____

Primary Occupation _____ Secondary Occupation _____

Education:

High School _____ College or University _____

Are you a member of any other local or state equine association? _____

If so, give name(s) association(s) _____

Have you ever held an office in a state or local equine association? _____

If so, explain _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

I am a current Director of the National Cutting Horse Association in the Area where the Applicant resides, and hereby endorse the Applicant as a candidate for NCHA approved judge status.

Director Signature _____

NCHA ID # _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Have you ever been active in the management or training of a cutting horse? _____

Explain: _____

List any other persons for which you've trained or worked: _____

Are you presently active in cutting? _____

If so, at what level and how long? _____

How much money have you won in cutting?

Weekend shows \$ _____

Limited Age Events \$ _____

If so, list horses' names and dates: _____

Have you ever owned a cutting horse, or do you now own one? _____

NCHA JUDGES APPLICANT REFERENCE LETTER

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's City & State: _____

Designation as an NCHA approved judge is a privilege and not a right and is bestowed to those individuals whose cutting horse knowledge and personal character merit the honor. An individual's conduct as a member and exhibitor must be exemplary.

1. Knowledge of Applicant's expertise regarding cutting horses: _____

2. Knowledge of Applicant's show experience: _____

3. Knowledge of Applicant's conduct as an NCHA member: _____

4. Comments concerning Applicant's character: _____

5. Additional comments: _____

I understand the above named individual is applying for approval as an NCHA judge. I am aware of the seriousness of this position and that being an NCHA judge requires integrity and character as well as cutting horse knowledge. With this in mind, I submit the above information for your review regarding this applicant.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NCHA Approved Judge

THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WHICH MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO NCHA BY THE PERSON SIGNING THE REPORT.

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Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's City & State: _____

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CODE OF ETHICS FOR JUDGES OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

(revised 7-20)

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.

Signature of NCHA Judge or Judge Applicant

NCHA Membership #

Date

NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION

JUDGES APPLICANT CLINIC TEST

(updated 1-18-19)

- PLEASE READ THE QUESTIONS CAREFULLY. Answer the questions completely.
- Identify the rule, ruling, note, example, guideline or name of reference which answers the question.
- This is an "open book" test. You should refer to the current NCHA Official Handbook.
- You must score at least 80% to be invited to continue with the Judge Applicant Clinic.

1. When can a contestant ask for a rework?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

2. Can you show a horse in an NCHA approved cutting with roping reins?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

3. What is the difference in a failure to separate and a lost cow on a cut?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

4. What is the point value of a horse pawing a cow?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

5. How many points can a judge take away for excessive help?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

6. What is the basic meaning of Rule 21?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

7. How many cows can a contestant work during a run?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

8. Is "dying in the herd" a penalty?
Answer _____ *Reference* _____

9. When would coming off of the side fence with a cow be a credit?
Answer _____ *Reference* _____

10. If a cutter drives four cows out of the herd, he cannot legally leave these cattle and cut a cow that has voluntarily left the herd. True or False?
Answer _____ *Reference* _____

11. The horse which allows its stock to run from wall to wall because he is trailing, or rolls out on its turns and lacks control, shall not be credited under what rule?
a) Rule #11
b) Rule #2
c) Rule #4

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

12. The cutter drives a group of six cows away from the herd. Before visibly committing to any of them, three of the cows escape between the turnback horses and leave the working area. The cutter does not want to cut one of the three remaining cows and returns to the herd to get another group. The judge should:

- a) reduce a run content for poor herd work
- b) assess a 5-point penalty for failure to separate

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

13. During a run, it becomes obvious to the judge that the cutter had worked longer than 2½ minutes or the clock has not started. The judge should:
- a) stop the work and score the run
 - b) give the cutter a choice of his score or a re-run
 - c) grant a re-run if the run was free of a major penalty
 - d) grant a mandatory re-run whether there was a major penalty or not

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

14. A cutter indicated he is ready to begin working by releasing his horse on the desired cow. Because he still had other cattle around him (traffic), he has to pick his hand back up to keep his horse from taking the wrong cow. The judge should:
- a) assess no penalty because he was still in traffic
 - b) assess a 1-point penalty each time he reins his horse to separate it from the other cattle

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

15. All four feet must be on the ground for a cow to be considered legally stopped. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

16. The board or markers used to designate the back fence are not considered to be part of the back fence. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

17. A cutter is trying to show a horse that is not working well. He is not training or abusing his horse in any way, but he has scattered the cattle more than once. The judge should:

- a) whistle the rider out and terminate the run
- b) continue to mark all penalties and score the run

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

18. The cutter legally quits a cow while in working position. The judge believes that the cutter's horse has lost contact with the cow. The judge should:

- a) assess a 5-point penalty
- b) reduce the run content of the cutter's run
- c) assess a 3-point penalty

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

19. As the buzzer sounds, the cutter is trailing a cow that has crossed the plane of the horse and is returning to the herd. The judge should:

- a) assess no penalty
- b) assess a 5-point penalty for lost cow.
- c) assess a 1-point penalty for being out of position

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

20. The cutter is working a cow that is giving a strong challenge. This forces the cutter back very near the herd causing disturbance of the herd. The cutter quits legally and simultaneously two cows leave the herd and enter the working area. The judge should:

- a) assess no penalty but reduce run content
- b) assess a 3-point penalty for picking up cattle
- c) assess a 5-point penalty for lost cow

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

21. The cutter is working a cow. Another cow that has previously escaped the turnback horses decides to return to the herd. As the returning cow approaches the cutter, his horse switches its attention and actually makes a move with the other cow. The cutter reins the horse back to the original cow. The judge should:

- a) assess a 5-point penalty for changing cattle and a 1-point penalty for reining
- b) assess a 1-point penalty for reining

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

22. The working area of the horse is described as an imaginary line paralleling a straight line connecting the outer limits of the back fence and being in front of the horse's head. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

23. After granting a re-run, the judge must decide if the cutter is to work immediately or last in that group. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

24. The Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) is used to:

- a) give the judge a second chance to determine run content
- b) review all penalties
- c) review only three (3) or five (5) point penalties

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

25. Judges are required to be available for communication with their Field Monitor for a minimum of fourteen (14) days from the end of the show. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

26. A 5-point penalty will result when a horse goes past a cow that has turned away or stopped, resulting in an obvious loss of working advantage, and it was obvious to the judge that the horse was not going to stop or turn without assistance from the rider. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

27. The class representative is responsible for:

- a) drawing the working order
- b) acting as a liaison between contestants and the judge
- c) acting as a liaison between contestant and the show management

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

28. While making a cut, the term “clear” means the cutter is far enough away from the body of the herd that he has a reasonable opportunity to begin working, and that all other cattle are at least behind the horse’s buttocks. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

29. The cutter’s horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves and the horse remains still. The cutter reins the horse back to the cow. In the judge’s opinion, the cutter reined the horse because the horse quit the cow. The judge should:

- a) assess a 5-point penalty for horse quitting a cow
- b) assess a 1-point penalty for reining
- c) assess a 5-point penalty for horse quitting, and a 1-point penalty for reining

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

30. The distance the cutter goes by the cow to turn it determines whether or not the cutter has lost working advantage. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

31. Under no circumstance can the herd-holders ever help the cutter drive the cattle out. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

32. If a contestant's reins are short enough to cause the judge to focus on them, but does not bump the bit, what should happen?

- a) Ignore the situation.
- b) Reduce run content.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

33. Good herd work is expected, therefore:

- a) No credit will be given.
- b) Only penalties will be given and marked accordingly on the judge's card.
- c) Credit for good herd work will be given.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

34. When a horse loses his working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position; he will be penalized (a) 1/2 point, (A) 1 point, or (F) 1 point: True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

35. The "Zero Tolerance" policy is strictly the responsibility of the Show Management? True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

36. If the judge must ask himself, "Was that a penalty?" the benefit always goes to the Cutter. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

37. A cutter is working his third cow and the gate behind the cattle comes open, or the cattle push the pen down. At the time of the disturbance the judge had called a three (3) point or five (5) point (major) infraction. The judge should:

- a) The judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run.
- b) The judge shall not stop the run.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

38. If the contestant leaves the working area before the time expires:

- a) The judge shall grant a re-run.
- b) The judge shall give an automatic score of zero.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

39. A Cutter may legally quit a cow under any circumstances so long as the cow is behind both turnback horses even if the turnback horses are behind the time line or the cow has left the working area. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

40. A Cutter moves away from the herd driving a group of cattle in front of him but goes back into the herd without working a cow. The judge should:

- a) Whistle out the contestant.
- b) Assess a (5) five-point penalty.
- c) Assess a (3) point penalty.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

41. A judge is required to mail a copy of the judge sheets and videos to the Field Monitor no later than two (2) days after the show. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

42. A Cutter may not avoid a one (1) point penalty for losing working advantage by quitting a cow, even though the quit is legal. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

43. A Cutter commits to a single cow, not a group of cattle. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

44. When a Cutter allows a cow that is being worked to move inside of the back-fence marker within one step or three feet of the fence the judge should:

- a) Assess a five (5) point penalty.
- b) Assess a three (3) point penalty.
- c) Give an automatic score of sixty (60) points.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

45. Judges are allowed to communicate with their Field Monitors while they are judging a show. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

46. If the show has two or three judges and during a run one judge calls a major penalty three (3) or five (5) points and the judges do not call a review. The judges should:

- a) Discuss the situation among themselves and adjust the score accordingly.
- b) All judges must look at that particular situation separately with no communication among them.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

47. If the show has two or three judges and one judge uses the “R” and the others did not. What is the proper procedure?
- a) The judge(s) marking the “R” will review the situation first. If they do not change their score, the other judges(s) will not be required to look at the run.
 - b) Under all circumstances all of the judges must look at that particular situation separately with no communication among them.

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

48. The Cutter enters the herd near the center and turns to his right. He drives one (1) cow out and as that cow moves around him, a group of cattle come out of the herd from the left side. The cow that the Cutter is driving is joined by the group of cattle. The Cutter releases his original cow and cuts one of the group.

- a) Assess a 5-point penalty
- b) Assess a 3-point penalty
- c) Assess no penalty

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

49. While making his cut, the Cutter moves his hand up and down, side to side while selecting a cow to work. He then places his hand near his horse’s neck in the beginning of the run, and then raises it above the saddlehorn while working.

- a) Assess no penalty
- b) Assess a 1-point penalty
- c) Assess a 3-point penalty

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

50. A cutter is working and his headstall breaks causing the horse to lose the bit. In the confusion the horse quits working and the cow returns to the herd. Before the rider can continue, the buzzer sounds ending the run. The cutter immediately asks for a re-run. You should:
- a) Score the run accordingly
 - b) Grant a rerun
 - c) Give an automatic score of zero (0).

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

51. A judge may not discuss with a contestant previous scores or events within thirty (30) days after a contest at which the judge has officiated. True or false?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

52. A cutter can only initiate his quit with the hand that is holding the reins. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

53. While working, additional cattle from the herd have joined the cow being worked. The cutter must separate his original animal before he is allowed to quit. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

54. A judge can be removed from the Judges List for failing to judge a show he has accepted. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

55. Under normal circumstances, when a cow takes a Cutter deep to either side of the arena and the cow turns into his horse, a hot quit will be called; however, if the Cutter waits until the cow has traveled a sufficient distance to clearly show the judge the animal is moving away from his horse, a hot quit will not be charged. True or False:

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

56. The cow being worked stops, and the Cutter's horse stops. Both cow and horse are completely still. The Cutter picks up his horse so that it is reasonable to assume that he intends to quit the cow. The cow then moves and the Cutter's horse counters that move even though there is tension on the bridle reins. The Cutter then continues to pull his horse off the cow.
- a) assess a 3-point penalty for a "Hot Quit"
 - b) assess no penalty

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

57. While making a cut, no credit shall be given the horse which is reluctant to take an indicated cow, or which obviously resists its rider's choice. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

58. Judges are not required to communicate with their Field Monitor as long as they send in their tapes and judge sheets. True or False?

Answer _____ *Reference* _____

59. While working, the cutter's horse goes past the cow and loses his working advantage. The cow and horse stop and then the cutter quits without regaining his working advantage. The judge should:
- a) assess a 5-point penalty for horse quitting
 - b) assess a 1-point penalty for having lost the working advantage
 - c) assess a 3-point penalty for an illegal quit, and a 1-point penalty for losing working advantage

Answer _____ *Reference* _____