NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18-20, 2026
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 18-20, 2028, beginning at 8:00AM. All times are based on central time zone.

Executive Committee members were present: President Kathleen Moore, President-Elect David Costello, Vice President Chase Lackey, Les Jack, Phil Benadum (via phone), Ernie Beutenmiller Jr., Byron Green, Ora Diehl (via phone), Bradey Davis, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. Executive Committee Member Steve Smith was excused. NCHA Director of Membership Services Suzie Rupert, NCHA Membership Services Advisor Julie Davis, NCHA Manager of Membership Services Linda Welborn, NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams (via phone), NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey, NCHA Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker (via phone), NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris, NCHA Director of Marketing & Sponsorship Shannon Stewart, NCHA Communications Manager Logan Lynch, NCHA Produced Events Associate MaKinzie McFarland, and NCHA Approved Shows Associate Ashley Kanaman were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

TUESDAY – AUGUST 18, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00AM and roll call was taken.

President Kathleen Moore welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and led the attendees in prayer referencing the need for wisdom and insights as we navigate through this meeting.

Kathleen Moore asked all members of the Executive Committee to join in reciting the NCHA mission statement.

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.

PRESIDENT REPORT – KATHLEEN MOORE

Director Attendance

President Kathleen Moore touched on the poor attendance at this year's annual Convention. She shared that she was disappointed with the attendance with both the decline in directors showing up and the Standing Committees, some which did not even meet quorum. Kathleen shared that she wanted to meet individually with each region representative and talk about their directors and get an idea of who has and has not been participating in the regional meetings. She will also visit with the Standing Committee Chairs on this issue too.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – JAY WINBORN

Executive Director Jay Winborn provided the Executive Committee members with a forecast of what will be coming in the next couple of days during this meeting with specific details relating to Convention.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – DENISE WILLIAMS

NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams addressed the Executive Committee with our current state of May, June, and July financials for the association.

National Cutting Horse Association
Finance Commentary
May 2026

Statement of Position

The Association ended the month with total assets of $38.5 million, representing a slight increase of approximately $400k from the prior month.

Cash and investments increased by approximately $232k during the month, primarily due to unrealized gains within the long-term investment portfolio. Stallion and Foal Program cash and investments similarly increased by approximately $144k as a result of favorable investment performance.

Accounts receivable decreased approximately $109k during the month due to the timing of sponsorship collections and normal billing activity.

Prepaid expenses increased approximately $151k as deposits and advance payments were made for Convention-related activities.

Total liabilities increased approximately $758k from the prior month, primarily due to the receipt of Summer Spectacular entries and other deferred event revenue associated with upcoming events. This increase was partially offset by payment of show-related expenses associated with the Super Stakes and International Championship shows.

Statement of Activities – Year-to-Date

Year-to-date operations continue to outperform budget. Total revenue of $25.57 million exceeds budget by $1.88 million (7.9%), driven primarily by strong performance in:

• NCHA-produced show revenue (+$862,000)
• Sponsorship revenue (+$120,000)
• Horse sale commissions (+$306,000)
• Approved show revenue (+$148,000)
• Investment income (+$537,000)

Operating expenses are $1.03 million above budget, largely due to strategic project expense and increased legal costs partially offset by savings in marketing, personnel, office expenses, and other operational categories. As a result of these favorable revenue trends and continued expense discipline, operating income before MERP exceeds budget by approximately $848k through May.

Statement of Activities – May

The Association reported a monthly operating loss before MERP of $797,819, compared to a budgeted loss of $76,782. May results were significantly impacted by the Board-approved strategic project expenditure of $700,000 to Event Facilities Fort Worth, Inc. to support improvements to the Will Rogers Memorial Center. Excluding this strategic project cost, operating results were generally in line with expectations.

Monthly revenue of $499,311 exceeded budget by approximately $12,000 (2.5%). Positive variances were driven by investment income, protests and fines, seminars, and clinics revenue, and other miscellaneous income. These favorable items offset softer membership revenue and sponsorship collections during the month.

Operating expenses excluding projects were generally well controlled. Personnel costs were slightly favorable to budget, while office expenses, home office expenses, and professional fees remained near planned levels. Legal fees were higher than budget during the month but were partially offset by savings in consulting and other administrative areas.

Despite the significant one-time strategic project investment recorded during May, the Association continues to outperform budget on a year-to-date basis. Revenue growth remains strong, operating expenses remain well controlled, and the Association's liquidity and net asset position continue to strengthen. As the Association enters the final quarter of the fiscal year, financial results remain favorable relative to both budget and the prior year.

National Cutting Horse Association
Finance Commentary
June 2026

Statement of Position

The Association ended June with total assets of approximately $38.6 million, remaining relatively consistent with the prior month and representing an increase of approximately $6.3 million from June 2025.

Cash and investments totaled approximately $27.4 million, a decrease of approximately $396,000 during the month, but remain approximately $3.8 million, or 13.7%, higher than June 2025. The year-over-year increase reflects favorable market performance within the investment portfolio, along with effective cash management throughout the year.

Stallion and Foal Program cash and investments increased approximately $37,000 during June to approximately $5.4 million and are approximately $924,000, or 17%, higher than June 2025. The year-over-year increase reflects both favorable market performance within the program's investment portfolio and continued growth in the Stallion and Foal Program.

Accounts receivable increased approximately $305,000 during the month, primarily reflecting normal billing and collection timing. Prepaid expenses increased approximately $136,000, primarily due to advance payments associated with upcoming activities and events.

Total liabilities increased approximately $854,000 during June, primarily due to an increase in deferred event revenue as Summer Spectacular entries and other amounts related to future events were received. Despite the increase in liabilities, the Association continues to maintain a very strong balance sheet and liquidity position.

Statement of Activities - Year-to-Date

Year-to-date operations continue to outperform budget. Total revenue through June was approximately $26.04 million, exceeding budget by approximately $1.97 million, or 8.2%.

- NCHA-produced show revenue: approximately $862,000 ahead of budget
- Sponsorship revenue: approximately $158,000 ahead of budget
- Horse sale commission revenue: approximately $306,000 ahead of budget
- Approved Shows revenue: approximately $200,000 ahead of budget
- Investment portfolio income: approximately $528,000 ahead of budget

Total expenses through June were approximately $25.79 million, or approximately $1.42 million above budget.

The unfavorable variance is largely attributable to the two strategic project expenditures, the $500,000 scholarship expenditure, and the $700,000 grant to Event Facilities Fort Worth, Inc. to support improvements to the Will Rogers Memorial Center. Additionally, it should be noted that higher legal costs ($129k over budget) contributed to the unfavorable variance. These items were partially offset by favorable variances in personnel, show marketing, office expenses, convention expenses, Hall of Fame expenses, and other operating categories.

Despite these additional expenditures, operating results remain significantly ahead of plan. Net income before MERP was approximately $250,000 compared with a budgeted loss of approximately $304,000, representing a favorable variance of approximately $554,000.

After recognizing approximately $3.49 million of MERP revenue, year-to-date net income was approximately $3.74 million, or approximately $1.52 million ahead of budget. Including unrealized investment gains, year-to-date net income was approximately $4.32 million.

Statement of Activities – June

The Association reported a monthly operating loss before MERP of approximately $747,000, compared with a budgeted loss of approximately $452,000.
June results were significantly impacted by the $500,000 scholarship expenditure, which was not included in the original operating budget. Excluding this expenditure, monthly operating results would have been substantially more favorable.

Monthly revenue of approximately $475,000 exceeded budget by approximately $93,000, or 24.4%. Favorable revenue variances were primarily driven by sponsorship revenue, Approved Shows revenue, and other income. Sponsorship revenue exceeded budget by approximately $39,000, while Approved Shows revenue exceeded budget by approximately $52,000. These favorable results were partially offset by lower membership and investment income during the month.

Operating expenses excluding the scholarship expenditure were generally well controlled. Personnel expenses were approximately $22,000 favorable to budget, Convention expenses were approximately $77,000 favorable, and Hall of Fame expenses were approximately $53,000 favorable. These savings were partially offset by higher legal fees and certain show and administrative expenses.

Legal fees were approximately $37,000 above budget for June and remain an area that will continue to be monitored. Year-to-date legal fees are approximately $129,000 above budget.

Despite the June monthly loss, the Association continues to perform very well on a year-to-date basis. Revenue remains ahead of both budget and prior year, operating performance before MERP remains ahead of plan, and the Association continues to maintain substantial liquidity and reserves.

As the Association enters the final quarter of the fiscal year, its overall financial position remains strong, providing the flexibility to meet current obligations while continuing to make strategic investments in programs and initiatives that support the Association and its members.

National Cutting Horse Association
Finance Commentary
July 2026

Statement of Position

The Association ended July with total assets of approximately $39.1 million, an increase of approximately $541,000 from the prior month and approximately $5.25 million, or 13.4%, from July 2025.

Cash and investments totaled approximately $24.1 million, a decrease of approximately $3.33 million during July but remain approximately $1.95 million, or 8.1%, higher than July 2025. The monthly decrease was driven by a reduction in cash primarily due to premium payouts for the

Summer Spec and other show related expenses, while investment balances remained relatively stable. The year-over-year increase continues to reflect favorable market performance within the investment portfolio, along with effective cash management throughout the year.

Stallion and Foal Program cash and investments totaled approximately $5.43 million, increasing modestly during July and remaining approximately $889,000, or 16.4%, higher than July 2025. The year-over-year increase reflects favorable market performance within the program's investment portfolio and continued growth in the Stallion and Foal Program. Program deferred revenue increased approximately $345,000 year-over-year, from approximately $3.56 million at July 2025 to $3.91 million at July 2026.

Total liabilities increased approximately $624,000 during July, primarily due to an approximately $848,000 increase in event deferred revenue and an approximately $54,000 increase in sponsorship deferred revenue, partially offset by a reduction in accounts payable. The Association continues to maintain a strong balance sheet and liquidity position.

Statement of Activities - Year-to-Date

Year-to-date operations continue to outperform budget. Total revenue through July was approximately $26.45 million, exceeding budget by approximately $2.06 million, or 8.4%.

- NCHA-produced show revenue: approximately $870,000 ahead of budget
- Sponsorship revenue: approximately $193,000 ahead of budget
- Horse sale commission revenue: approximately $306,000 ahead of budget
- Approved Shows revenue: approximately $240,000 ahead of budget
- Investment portfolio income: approximately $540,000 ahead of budget

Total expenses through July were approximately $26.24 million, or approximately $1.44 million above budget. The unfavorable variance continues to be largely attributable to the two strategic project expenditures, the $500,000 scholarship expenditure and the $700,000 grant expense for the Will Rogers Coliseum improvements, and higher legal costs. These items were partially offset by favorable variances in personnel, show marketing, office expenses, Convention, Hall of Fame expenses, and other operating categories.

Despite these additional expenditures, operating results remain significantly ahead of plan. Net income before MERP was approximately $206,000 compared with a budgeted loss of approximately $408,000, representing a favorable variance of approximately $614,000.

After recognizing approximately $3.49 million of MERP revenue, year-to-date net income was approximately $3.69 million, or approximately $1.58 million ahead of budget. Including unrealized investment gains, year-to-date net income was approximately $4.24 million.

Statement of Activities – July

The Association reported a monthly operating loss before MERP of approximately $44,000, compared with a budgeted loss of approximately $104,000, resulting in a favorable variance of approximately $60,000.

Monthly revenue of approximately $406,000 exceeded budget by approximately $85,000, or 26.4%. Favorable revenue variances were primarily driven by sponsorship revenue, Approved Shows revenue, and investment income. Sponsorship revenue exceeded budget by approximately $35,000, Approved Shows revenue exceeded budget by approximately $40,000, and investment portfolio income exceeded budget by approximately $12,000. These favorable results were partially offset by membership revenue, which was approximately $12,000 below budget.

Total monthly expenses were approximately $450,000, or approximately $25,000 above budget. Personnel costs were essentially in line with budget, while office expenses were approximately $5,000 favorable. The primary unfavorable monthly variances included show marketing, legal fees, projects, and certain home office facility costs.

Legal fees were approximately $14,000 above budget for July and remain an area that will continue to be monitored. Year-to-date legal fees are approximately $144,000 above budget.

July's operating results were favorable to budget, and the Association continues to significantly outperform budget on a year-to-date basis. Revenue growth remains strong, operating results before MERP remain ahead of plan, and the Association continues to maintain substantial liquidity and reserves.

With two months remaining in the fiscal year, the Association's overall financial position remains strong. Management will continue to monitor expenses, cash requirements associated with upcoming events, and the performance of the Association's major revenue-producing activities.

A **MOTION** was made by David Costello and **SECONDED** by Chase Lackey to accept the May, June, and July Financials as presented. **MOTION PASSED**.

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – GARRY MERRITT

Chairman Garry Merritt provided an update from the Finance and Audit committee.

Garry took a moment to recognize where this Association stands today from a financial perspective:

We are in a strong position. Over the past several years, through careful planning, sound financial management, and disciplined decision-making, the Association has consistently operated from a position of strength. We have been able to meet our obligations, invest in our programs, and continue building our financial reserves. That is not something that happened by chance. It is the result of years of thoughtful leadership, responsible budgeting, and a commitment to making decisions that benefit the long-term health of the Association.

It is important to remember that it wasn't all that long ago that our financial picture looked very different. We faced difficult decisions, and many people around this table made sacrifices and worked hard to put the Association on solid financial footing. We should not lose sight of how we got here.

Success often creates a temptation to believe that significant changes carry little risk because "we're doing well." In reality, our current strength makes it even more important that we carefully *evaluate any proposal that could materially affect our revenues, expenses, membership, or participation. Every decision should be viewed through the lens of its long-term impact on the financial stability of the Association.*

That doesn't mean we shouldn't evolve. Organizations must continue to improve, adapt, and look for opportunities to better serve their members. But change should be driven by solid data, careful analysis, and a clear understanding of both the benefits and the potential unintended consequences. Protecting what has been built is just as important as pursuing new opportunities.

The Finance Committee will continue to evaluate proposals objectively, with one responsibility above all others: safeguarding the long-term financial health of this Association. Our goal is to ensure that future leadership inherits an organization that is even stronger than the one we have today.

I believe we should continue the disciplined approach that has served us so well—making thoughtful decisions, maintaining healthy reserves, investing strategically, and always keeping the long-term interests of the Association at the forefront. Staying the course does not mean standing still; it means moving forward responsibly.

President Kathleen Moore thanked Garry Merritt for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT UPDATES – JULIE DAVIS & SUZIE RUPERT

Director of Membership Services Suzie Rupert and Membership Services Advisor Julie Davis provided an update to the Executive Committee on the membership department.

Director of Membership Julie Davis introduced Suzie Rupert as her successor in the Membership Department and that Julie will be moving into an advisory role.

They shared that the department is aware of the slow decline of overall membership and that the primary factor in this is the aging demographic of the association and little younger people replacing the drop-offs. One of the reasons behind this is the many different attractions that are presented to younger people like the many numerous sports. It was also shared that cutting can be quite expensive for a younger person that is trying to either build up a family or even start their career.

One of the suggestions that has come up about possibly gaining back some of these membership drop-offs is a possible rule change in requiring Lopers to hold an NCHA Membership.

Chatter Update

Director of Membership Suzie Rupert is also the Editor in Chief of the Cutting Horse Chatter. She shared a small update on the successful transition of making the Chatter an in-house production. She also touched on some of the changes that have happened and plans for the future like an increase in advertising revenue. Another change that she has slowly implemented is the expanding stories, features, information, and voices that reflect the diverse interest and experiences of the membership.

REGIONAL REPORTS

President Kathleen Moore welcomed each of the members to provide an update on their region.

Region 1 – Les Jack shared that one of the circuits in his region held a call recently which ultimately turned into a regional call. He wanted to get the committee's idea on reducing the 8% fee collected at show to 6% to help smaller produces. Les also shared that cutting has been average in his region, however he noted that the bigger shows are doing better.

Region 2 – Phil Benadum stated that his region held a call on August 4th and that they had great participation. One of the main topics they discussed was the membership decline affecting a reduction in directors in each region. One of the ideas that came from these meetings was the idea of requiring Lopers to maintain an active NCHA membership. Another idea that he shared with the committee was to freeze the current number of directors in each region for a couple of years to let things stabilize and then begin reducing or adding directors based off membership in each region. The amount of total shows in his region is down but overall participation has been up. He also shared that the PCCHA Futurity has been cancelled due to scheduling issues and cattle costs. He expects them to resume the shows production for next year.

The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Professional Trainers Committee to evaluate the best way to enforce lopers to maintain an NCHA membership and bring their findings back to the next Executive Committee meeting in October, which will be conducted virtually on October 14th.

Region 3 – Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. talked about the biggest issue that he is finding in his region. Ernie shared that the decline of membership in his region is attributing to a loss of directorship and the way that local shows are being run. He exclaimed that there should be a big study of why there is such a decline of membership not only in his region but across all areas. Despite the lower membership numbers, he did share that the shows that have been able to be put on in lieu of bad weather have had good numbers overall.

Ernie has requested additional membership data regarding memberships by Region and District Areas, Age Divisions as follows: Youth, 20-34, 35-54, 55-64, 65+, how long they have been a member: 3 years or less, 4-9 years, 10+, or lifetime, what status they currently hold: amateur, non-pro only, trainer, and their show participation recap in the purse reports at the end of the year for region and district including: Weekend, LAE, Triple Crowns, Eastern Nationals, and the Circuit Program.

Executive Director Jay Winborn agreed with these inquiries and suggested these requests also be presented to the Growth & Development Committee for a concise look across the board.

Region 4 – Byron Green shared that one of the shows in his region was cancelled due to a cattle producer not letting them have cattle due to the heat. He also notated that his region is not growing as much as they would like but they also are not losing too much either. He also stated that the competition in his region is getting better.

Region 5 – Ora Diehl shared that her region had a huge show at the Peach State Futurity. She also shared that as of now, her region is losing 5 directors due to the membership decline. Her region recently had a call, and a problem was brought up regarding committee agendas. The issue was that some committees seem to put too many items on the agenda which drags the meeting on and in most cases, they don't get to all agenda items before the meeting is over.

Region 6 – Bradey Davis stated that they recently had a cotton circuit meeting and that it went well. He stated that his region is doing very well and that he can go to a show every weekend.

Region 8 – Casey Green shared that the cuttings in his region are strong. The biggest issue that he is facing in his region is trying to get the directors to participate on regional calls. He asked the Executive Committee for advice on ways to get more participation out of these directors.

Vice President – Chase Lackey also touched on the importance of having directors participate on regional calls and issues alike. He also stated that some committees should host more calls for those that have larger agendas to help spread the topics out and for those committees that hold very little calls each year. Chase also touched on the success of the Peach State Futurity and also the addition of the "Beast of the East" that was added this year leading into a 34% increase in stall rentals.

President-Elect – David Costello stated that he has fielded questions regarding the Amateur/Non-Pro proposals and when the Executive Committee will take it to a vote. He also mentioned that he has been contacted by multiple trainers on the settling and non-settling process during the Summer Spectacular event.

HORSE & CATTLE WELFARE COMMITTEE

Director of Membership Services Suzie Rupert and Membership Services Advisor Julie Davis provided an update to the Executive Committee on the Horse & Cattle Welfare Committee.

Medication Policy

Discussion from the Horse & Cattle Welfare Task Force and Medication Sub-Committee meetings relating to a possible change in the medication policy.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION during this discussion and has deferred this item to our NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to place the meeting into Executive Session. **MOTION PASSED**.

GENERAL SESSION

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to place the meeting back into General Session and tabled this discussion on this topic for further legal direction. **MOTION PASSED**.

NON-PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE – DAVID BOOTH

Chairman of the Non-Professional Committee David Booth provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. Clarify Leasing Rules & Renumeration/Sponsorship Incentives for Amateurs
Recommendation:
Establish a subcommittee to review and clarify horse leasing and sponsorship guidelines for amateurs.

See Executive Committee action taken under the Growth & Development Committee portion of these minutes.

2. Amateur Subclass
Recommendation:
Create an Amateur Subclass available to only riders who hold an Amateur card for all Non-Pro classes at the Triple Crown events.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to create an Amateur Subclass starting with the 2027 Super Stakes. **MOTION PASSED**.

3. Analyze Division Payouts
Recommendation:
Conduct data analysis on the impact and sustainability of increasing the added money to the Non-Pro Division

The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Finance & Audit Committee to evaluate and see if it is feasible to add money to the different levels of Non-Pro classes at the Triple Crown Events, minus the Super Stakes, and bring their findings back to the next Executive Committee meeting in October, which will be conducted virtually on October 14th.

Re-Elected as Chair: David Booth
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Cameron Maben Thompson

President Kathleen Moore thanked David Booth for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

<u>AMATEUR COMMITTEE – BROOKE MANION</u>

Chairman of the Amateur Committee Brooke Manion provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. $250,000 Non Pro Earnings Cap for Unlimited Amateur Eligibility
Recommendation:
Eliminate the $250,000 Non Pro Earnings cap for Unlimited Amateurs

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to remove the $250,000 Non Pro Earnings Cap applicable to the Amateur division, effective for the 2027 point year and to be applied retroactively for all qualifying members. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Amateur Exceptions
Recommendation:
Remove the 3 remaining amateur exceptions, $15,000 3-year exception for trainers from other disciplines, $35,000 5-year exception for previous trainers, spouses, children, and Lopers, $15,000 5-year senior rollback exception for previous trainer's spouses over age 60.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation even though Ora Diehl and Chase Lackey opposed that decision.

3. Amateur Hall of Fame
Recommendation:
Create a task force to look at creating an Amateur Hall of Fame

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

Re-Elected as Chair: Brooke Manion
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: William Cole

President Kathleen Moore thanked Brooke Manion for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

<u>WEEKEND SHOW COMMITTEE – TED SOKOL JR.</u>

Chairman of the Weekend Show Committee Ted Sokol Jr. provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. Number of Fresh Cattle Requirement
Recommendation:
Increase the added money requirement for 3 head of cattle from $750 to $1,000.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to increase the added money requirement for three (3) heads of cattle to more than $1,000 as it currently states in the rulebook for all added money classes. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Cattle Charges
Recommendation:
Cattles Charges can exceed the entry fee and to eliminate the $250 maximum stipulation for cattle charges.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. World Finals Judges
Recommendation:
Select Judges for the World Finals from different regions and have them sequestered and managed like the Aged Event Triple Crown Judges – An exception can be made for the first two rounds of the Open and Non-Pro.

The Executive Committee issued a directive to the Director of Judges Andy Adams to coordinate with the Weekend Show Committee on this recommendation and the way the Judges are picked and handled for the World Finals bringing their findings back to the next Executive Committee meeting in October, which will be conducted virtually on October 14th.

4. Horse Leasing
Recommendation:
Create a Task Force that includes 2 Non-Pros, 2 Amateur, and 2 Weekend Committee members to research the leasing process.

See Executive Committee final action under the Growth & Development Committee portion of these minutes.

5. Two Affiliates One Arena

Ted proposed an idea that was brought to the committee's attention, giving two affiliates the ability to co-produce a show. Each Affiliate would have to hire a judge, different staff, but share the arena and cattle costs. There would need to be stipulations in place to maintain some form of integrity, but each show would have its own set of scores and checks.

A **MOTION** was made by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by Chase Lackey to create a pilot program to be implemented at the discretion of the NCHA Executive Director where Two NCHA Affiliates may co-host a Championship show at the same location on the same day. Two separate judges must be hired, and two sets of show results and separate payouts will be generated. Classes in a co-hosted show must follow all other NCHA rules and can offer no more than $500 added in each class. This pilot program can be utilized by affiliates no more than two (2) times per point year. **MOTION PASSED.**

Re-Elected as Chair: Ted Sokol Jr.
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Nate Miller

President Kathleen Moore thanked Ted Sokol Jr. for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

APPROVED LAE SHOW PRODUCERS COMMITTEE – COLETA ROSSON

Former Chairman of the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee Coleta Rosson provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Committee Members Review
RL Chartier is the voting member representing the Cattlemens and Robert Charles Brown will be the voting member representing the Southern.

The Executive Committee concurred with these changes to the committee representatives.

1. $75K AM (Weekend) vs $50K AM (LAE)
Recommendation:
Change the eligibility figure of the Weekend LAE $50K Amateur to match the Weekend eligibility figure $75k.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Bradey Davis to increase the weekend LAE eligibility figure to $75k. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Early Membership Renewal Deadline
Recommendation:
Change the early membership renewal deadline to December 1st and the regular membership deadline January 1st.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to change the "Early Bird" renewal membership discount to end on December 12th. **MOTION PASSED**.

Elected as Chair: Della Hillerman
Elected as Vice Chair: Skip Jones

President Kathleen Moore thanked Coleta Rosson for previously chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS COMMITTEE – PHIL BENADUM

Chairman of the Professional Trainers Committee Phil Benadum provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Professional Trainer Guidelines
Recommendation:
Create a standing rule regarding advertising eligibility for Professional Trainers based off of a set of qualifications similar to that of the Judges.

Standing Rule (Proposed): Advertising Eligibility — Professional Trainers
Any Member seeking to advertise professional training or clinic services in Official NCHA Publications, including Cutting Horse Chatter, the NCHA Website, or NCHA Digital Media, must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- **Membership in Good Standing:** The Member must have maintained Active Membership in Good Standing for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of advertising.

- **Judges' Education Requirement:** The Member must have attended an Official NCHA Judges' Seminar and completed the NCHA Judges' Test within the preceding twenty-four (24) months. Attainment of an NCHA Judging Card or credential is not required.

- **Professional Trainer Endorsements (New Professional Members):** A completed NCHA Trainer Application and Code of Ethics must be on file and endorsed by:
    - Two (2) NCHA Professional Trainers in good standing with a minimum of five (5) consecutive years of Professional Membership
    - NCHA Director of Judges
    - One (1) member of the NCHA Executive Committee

- **Disciplinary Status:** The Member must have no Sustained Ethics Violations or Sustained Welfare Violations within the preceding thirty-six (36) months.

- **Verification and Compliance:** All required documentation must be received and approved by the NCHA Membership Department prior to placement of any advertisement. Failure to maintain eligibility shall result in removal of advertising privileges.

The Executive Committee issued a directive NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris to the proposed advertising eligibility rule for Professional Trainers with some type of disciplinary provision for non-compliant trainers and report back to the next Executive Committee meeting in October, which will be conducted virtually on October 14th.

Re-Elected as Chair: Phil Benadum
Elected as Vice Chair: Ben Roberson

President Kathleen Moore thanked Phil Benadum for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:17PM. The EC Meeting will reconvene on Wednesday, August 19th at 8:00AM central time.

WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 19, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:02AM by President Kathleen Moore and roll call was taken.

Executive Committee members were present: President Kathleen Moore, President-Elect David Costello, Vice President Chase Lackey, Les Jack, Phil Benadum (via phone), Ernie Beutenmiller Jr., Byron Green, Ora Diehl (via phone), Bradey Davis, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. Executive Committee Member Steve Smith was excused. NCHA Director of Membership Services Suzie Rupert, NCHA Membership Services Advisor Julie Davis, NCHA Manager of Membership Services Linda Welborn, NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams (via phone), NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey, NCHA Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker (via phone), NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris, NCHA Director of Marketing & Sponsorship Shannon Stewart, NCHA Communications Manager Logan Lynch, NCHA Produced Events Associate MaKinzie McFarland, and NCHA Approved Shows Associate Ashley Kanaman were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

President Kathleen Moore welcomed the Executive Committee members back for the second day of meetings thanking all for their time and efforts as we navigate through the remainder of the agenda items.

ATTENDANCE RECORDS – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

At President Kathleen Moore's request, attendance records were presented for evaluation by region of the directors who have missed multiple annual meetings. The office will send out letters in the weeks to come to each of these individuals discussed during this evaluation. The Executive Committee identified five (5) directors to receive warning letters and five (5) directors to receive removal letters based on non-compliant attendance issues at the previous annual meetings. The directors scheduled to be removed were notified of this concern last year with letters dated June 3, 2025.

STALLION OWNERS AND BREEDERS COMMITTEE – MADISON SMITH

Chairman of the Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee Madison Smith provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. Unit System

Recommendation:

Replace the current unit system used to calculate Foal Awards with the following payout scale:

- 1st Place – 50%
- 2nd Place – 33.33%
- 3rd Place – 16.67%

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Bradey Davis to change the current unit system as presented with the proposed payout scale. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Allocation of 5/6-year-old Nomination Fees
Recommendation:
Make all $5,000 nomination fees paid by 5/6-year-old horses be allocated to the Classic portion of the Super Stakes Purse.

b. If the added money contributed to the NCHA Super Stakes from the program does not exceed $600,000.00, the split will be $50,000.00 to the 5- and 6-year-old division, and the remainder to the 4-year-old division.

c. Once the added money contributed to the NCHA Super Stakes from the program exceeds $600,000.00, the split will be 10% of the added money contributed to the 5- and 6-year-old (Classic) division, and the remainder to the 4-year-old (Derby) division.

The Executive Committee issued a directive for the Stallion Owners and Breeders Committee to reevaluate and submit a rewrite regarding the proposed added money changes on the way the 5/6 nomination is allocated in the Stallion Foal Incentive Policies and Procedures and bring their findings back to the next Executive Committee meeting in October, which will be conducted virtually on October 14th.

Elected as Chair: Madison Smith
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Todd Quirk

President Kathleen Moore thanked Madison Smith for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

NCHA FOUNDATION UPDATES – JOEY MILNER/JULIA BUSWOLD

NCHA Foundation Executive Director Julia Buswold provided the Executive Committee with an update on the Foundation.

The Executive Committee received the 2026 NCHA Foundation report, highlighting the Foundation's mission to support the NCHA through efforts to educate our youth, protect the horse, preserve NCHA history, and secure the future of the sport. The presentation emphasized the Foundation's role in creating lasting opportunities through scholarships, continued education opportunities, animal welfare initiatives, and historical preservation.

The Foundation reported continued financial growth. Trustees and donors were recognized for their leadership and support, including the growing number of named endowed funds and annual supporters.

Historical preservation efforts continue through the digitization and organization of more than 80 years of cutting history. The Foundation's digital archive is publicly accessible through Artwork Archive, and a historical video account was launched through Vimeo in late 2025.

Through the Dr. Glenn Blodgett Animal Welfare Fund, the Foundation continues to support initiatives focused on equine health. The Foundation is working closely with the NCHA Medication Committee and Animal Welfare Committee to identify and evaluate potential projects. The legacy gift from Gary and Karen Fields was recognized as an important contribution to the Foundation's long-term animal welfare efforts.

The Foundation has committed substantial funding over the past three years to the NCHA Clinic Series and continues to support additional educational initiatives, including Priefert Junior Elite seminars, Cutters for Kids, and the National High School Rodeo Finals Youth Clinic. Due to increased demand, the NCHA is exploring expansion of the Clinic Series in 2027 to include two domestic and two international clinics, with Italy and Brazil under consideration internationally and the Midwest and Southeast domestically.

Youth scholarships and programming remain a major focus, with more than $250,000 annually provided in scholarship and programming support to NYCHA members. The Foundation also continues to administer scholarship accounts and support programs such as Life After the Arena and NYCHA clinics. The 2026 Youth Week reflected significant growth. A total of $210,000 in scholarships were awarded, a 49% increase over 2025. 43% of entries received a scholarship. The report also highlighted the substantial growth in NCHA Foundation Scholarship Cutting award totals. The Senior Youth Scholarship Champion received $11,720, and the Junior Champion received $10,440. Over the past five years, these awards have increased by 625% for the Senior Champion and 735% for the Junior Champion. The NCHA and Foundation's $1 million endowment, created with matching funds, will provide an additional $50,000 annually to Scholarship Cutting, while the LS Performance Horses Scholarship Incentive and Whitley Ranch Scholarship Incentive further expand opportunities for the Scholarship Cutting finalists.

The presentation concluded with appreciation for the Foundation's donors and a renewed focus on the question, "What's Your Legacy?" EC Members were encouraged to consider how they can create a lasting impact through their support of the NCHA Foundation.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, President Kathleen Moore congratulated Chairman of the Board Joey Milner, and Executive Director Julia Buswold for all the work being performed by the NCHA Foundation.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES – RIANNA STOREY

Director of Youth Rianna Storey provided the Executive Committee with an update on the Youth Department.

Highlights from the Youth Department Presentation:

- The Youth Department reported 819 current youth members as of August 17, 2026.
- Youth subclass payouts at the Triple Crown events included $28,215 at the NCHA Super Stakes and $30,690 at the NCHA Summer Spectacular.
- Community outreach efforts included the Priefert Junior Elite in Mount Pleasant, Texas, and Cutters for Kids benefiting Cook Children's in Fort Worth.
- The Fourth Annual NYCHA Life After the Arena, presented by the NCHA Foundation,

welcomed its largest audience to date with more than 85 youth participants. Over the past four years, the program has connected youth with 30+ industry leaders and NCHA sponsors, providing career exposure, mentorship, and continued opportunities for alumni involvement.

- 2026 Youth Week activities included Family Fun Night, the NYCHA Membership Meeting, Life After the Arena, an NCHA Judging Seminar hosted by Andy Adams, a Dummy Roping Contest supporting Saving Hope Rescue, and NCHA Trading Card releases and autograph opportunities featuring top money-earning riders and horses.
- The 2026 NCHA Cutting Clinic at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Lincoln, Nebraska, provided 64 participants with hands-on cutting experience. Participants represented 23 states and Canada, demonstrating the continued growth and reach of NCHA youth programming across North America. Clinicians were J.P. Bell and Jaime Snider.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MARY CROW

Chairman of the Youth Committee Mary Crow provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. NYCHA Rookie of the Year Eligibility
Recommendation:
Maintain the 15-point eligibility requirement while increasing the earnings limit for the NCHA Youth Rookie of the Year award from $500 to $1,500 effective with the 2028 Youth Point Year beginning June 1, 2027.

A **MOTION** was made by David Costello and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to increase the earnings limit for the NCHA Youth Rookie of the Year award from $500 to $1,500 effective with the 2028 Youth Point Year beginning June 1, 2027. **MOTION PASSED**.

Elected as Chair: Mary Crow
Elected as Vice Chair: Kory Pounds

President Kathleen Moore thanked Mary Crow for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

JUDGES DEPARTMENT UPDATES – ANDY ADAMS

Director of Judges Andy Adams provided the Executive Committee with an update on the Judges Department.

1. EDUCATION

In-Person Member Education
• Membership clinic - Oregon, Canada
• Bill Riddle clinic
Youth Clinic - Derby
• Youth judging clinic during the Derby

- Extremely well attended
- Great participation from the kids
- Kids became involved and really enjoyed it
- Very successful program
- Good opportunity to introduce youth to the judging system

Military Cutting
- Changed educational format this year
- Previously:
- Primarily discussed runs while sitting in the stands
- This year:
- Conducted an actual short seminar
- Extremely positive response
- Repeat participants specifically commented that this year's format was much better
- Continue developing this approach

2. ONLINE EDUCATION - HORSE IQ

First-Ever NCHA Online Continuing Education
- Built first annual online education/recertification program
- Horse IQ platform
- Program built specifically for NCHA judges
- Now managing NCHA content/site
- Consistent education available anywhere

Applicant Program
- Online applicant education/testing
- 6 U.S. applicants passed
- 11 Brazil applicants passed
- 4 former judges re-established their cards

Annual Recertification
- 280 judges completed
- Approximately 50 not completed
- September 1st deadline
- Card becomes inactive if not completed
- Reinstated when course is completed
- December 28 deadline
- Card revoked if still incomplete

3. MONITOR SYSTEM

Standardized Video Review Player
- Built standardized review player for all monitors
- Same system for:
- Major-event monitors
- Weekend monitors
- Field/home review
- Same controls and review process
- Streamlines video review
- Greater consistency between monitors

Weekend Monitor
• Gavin Jordan - new weekend monitor
• Replacing Keith Deaville
• No performance issue with Keith
• Change based on time commitment/availability
• Continued strategy:
• Develop weekend monitors
• Prepare them for future major-event monitor positions

4. FORMS / ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Monitor System Forms - Completely Revamped
• No Action sheets
• AMS sheets
• Judge signature forms
• Daily working forms
• Judge evaluation forms
• Simplified and standardized
• Better documentation
• Easier for monitors to use
• Overall system upgraded

5. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Standing Rule 29 / 2-G
• Failure to whistle contestant out for excessive training
• 2 fines issued
• 3 warnings issued
Conduct
• 1 judges card revoked for conduct
Overall Point
• Accountability
• Consistent enforcement
• Protect integrity of judging system

6. PROTESTS / REVIEWS

Major Events
• 1 protest involving five-judge system
• 4 judges valid
• 1 judge invalid
• Appropriate action taken regarding pending judging assignments
Weekend Protests
• 2 valid
• 3 invalids
Spot Checks
• 3 Valid
• 6 invalids

Accommodations
• 8

7. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

Five-Judge Monitored System
• Last year:
• NCHA members sponsored cost
• This year:
• NHSRA paid for system themselves
• Used at National High School Finals Rodeo
• Exceptional response
• Very positive feedback:
• NHSRA organization
• NCHA members
• Judges
• Strong confidence in fairness of system
Rulebook
• Helped rewrite/reorganize cutting rules
• Align more closely with NCHA rules
• Simplified language
• Easier to understand
• Significant improvement in relationship/cooperation

8. BRAZIL

NCHA-Approved Shows
• Brazil Derby - first NCHA-approved cutting in Brazil
• Started with three-judge system
Futurity
• Five-judge monitored system
• Three American judges two Brazilian
• Very successful
• Strong response to system
Super Stakes
• Decision made to use five-judge monitored system again in October
• Shows confidence in system
Growth
• Approximately 160 entries already for next year's Futurity
• Significant increase
• Continued alignment with NCHA:
• Judging
• Rules
• Education
• Show structure

9. OVERALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS - YEAR TO DATE

Education
- Youth education
- Military Cutting education
- First online annual education/recertification program
- Online applicant program
- International education

Judging System
- Standardized monitor video review
- Updated monitor personnel
- Revamped forms and evaluations
- Greater consistency and accountability

Industry Relationships
- National High School Rodeo
- Brazil
- Continued expansion of NCHA judging standards

CLOSING POINT
Overall direction of the Judges Department:
Education - Consistency - Accountability - Professionalism - Growth

JUDGES RULES COMMITTEE – NATE MILLER

Chairman of the Judes Rules Committee Nate Miller provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for Consideration.

1. Standing Rule 34 Revision
Recommendation:
Revise Standing Rule 34 as follows:
At all cutting horse contests approved or sponsored by the NCHA, A contestant, trainer or helper shall not enter any part of the show arena at any time with any kind of device, tack, or equipment on a horse's head or around the horse's neck that is not permitted by the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses Contests (see Judging Rule 16.) For facilities in which the practice pen is located within the show arena, training equipment shall be allowed only in those areas that are specifically designated as a preparation area by Show Management. This area shall be outside of the normal flow of traffic for the warm-up area.
Schooling the horse or the use of any training device on a horse is prohibited in the show arena one (1) hour prior to the published starting time for the show and shall remain in effect until one hour after each day's performance is concluded at all NCHA approved shows/events. A practice pen located under the same roof or within the same building is permitted, so long as it is not inside the show pen itself and is clearly separated from the competition area.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to approve the proposed revision for Standing Rule 34. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Standing Rule 27 Revision

Recommendation:

Revise Standing Rule 27 as follows:

EVALUTATION SYSTEM

A judge may be removed from the NCHA Approved Judges List or may be dropped to a lower classification for cause:

***1.** Complaints and/or protests may be made by active members of the Association only. In a Monitored Event, only the final placing of horses may be protested. Individual judges, individual penalties, go-rounds, and semifinals are not protestable in a Monitored Event. In a Non-Monitored Event, contestants may protest placing and major penalties only, subject to all other requirements of this rule.*

***2.** Any contestant (in a class) or horse owner may protest a judge's decision (from that class) upon submission to the NCHA Director of Judges a Judge Evaluation Form with an official protest. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the incident and must be accompanied by a cashier's check, money order, valid credit card number (Visa, Master-Card or American Express) or personal check in the amount of five hundred dollars ($500) for Non-Monitored Shows and one thousand ($1,000) for LAE Monitored Events made payable to the NCHA.*

***a.** Upon receipt of the official form and required payment, the judge's assigned Weekend Monitor will be asked to review the class. The NCHA Director of Judges may request the show sponsor to immediately forward the video of the class involved to NCHA if needed.*

***b.** The video of the class will then be reviewed by a monitor. If a monitor is unavailable, the Director of Judges may appoint a 4A or 5A judge to participate in the review. The procedures for viewing videos were approved by the Executive Committee.*

***c.** Review Process - A total of one hundred (100) points will be assigned to each class reviewed. The judge's score for the protested class will be based on points accumulated by comparing the judge's placings in the class to the official key, less a deduction of three (3) points for each misapplication of major three (3) or five (5) point penalties. A score of 75% or higher must be maintained.*

***I.** Non-Monitored Events - The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the judge will be used to obtain the official key. Penalties are only deemed "Major" when both persons reviewing the protest assess the same penalty.*

***II.** Monitored Event or LAE finals with 3 or more multiple judges-*

The scores of the Director of Judges and that of the monitor (or their substitute) and the actual placing of the horses in the class will be used to obtain the official key. This key would then be compared to the way the horses placed at the event. If the key results in a score of 75% or higher, then the protest would not be valid against any of the judges. If the key results in a score less than 75%, the key would then be matched against each individual judge's score sheet to determine which judge passed or failed.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by David Costello to approve the proposed revision for Standing Rule 27. **MOTION PASSED**.

3. Standing Rule 35 - Zero Tolerance Policy
Recommendation:
Add the verbiage for Standing Rule 35 - Zero Tolerance Policy as follows:
1. Monitored Event: If the majority of judges assess that a contestant's horse ranks a grade 2 or 3 on the lameness scale, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress to continue in competition**,** the NCHA monitor will communicate this to the Director of Judges. The exhibitor and/or owner will be notified of such finding by the NCHA Director of Judges, or his/her designee immediately. The exhibitor and/or owner of the horse will be required to have the horse examined by two qualified veterinarians from separate clinics to determine if the horse is sound enough to continue in competition. Both veterinarian reports must be submitted to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designee prior to the horse competing again at that show. If, in the judgment of the Director of Judges or his/her designee, circumstances make compliance with the requirement for examinations by two qualified veterinarians from separate clinics impractical or impossible, the Director of Judges may approve an alternative veterinary evaluation that adequately protects the welfare of the horse while maintaining the intent of this rule.
2. Non-Monitored Event: If one or more judges assess that a horse ranks a 2 or 3 on the lameness scale, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress to continue in competition, the judge/judges will send a video of the horse to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designee or review. This consultation will occur before any decision is made to require a veterinary certificate. If after review, it is deemed necessary, the exhibitor and/or owner of the horse will be required to have the horse examined by a qualified veterinarian to determine if the horse is sound enough to continue in competition. The veterinarian report must be submitted to the NCHA Director of Judges or his/her designate prior to the horse competing again at that show.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the additional verbiage for the Standing Rule 35 - Zero Tolerance Policy. **MOTION PASSED**.

4. Standing Rule 6 Change
Recommendation:
Change Standing Rule 6 as follows:

2. Judging Limits – Championship / Challenger / Non-Monitored Limited Age Events
~~a. Judges may not judge more than 150 horses per day. Shows can be fined based on the number of horses over 150. Under no~~

~~circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge over 160 works.~~
~~This rule is at the discretion of the Executive Director and this~~
~~fine can be appealed. Fines are as follows:~~
~~i. 151 - 155 works = $100~~
~~ii. 156 - 160 works = $200~~
a. A standard judging day is defined as up to twelve (12) hours. The judging day will commence on the posted start time of the show, and the judging day will end with last horse judged by the judge(s) on that day. Judges may not exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.
~~b. When the number of works exceeds 150, a Judge has the option to stay and continue to judge additional horses. In this situation, the assessed fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judge working the event.~~
b. If a show requires judging beyond twelve (12) hours, overtime compensation for a judge will apply as follows:

- 12 to 13 Hours: $100 per judge who works that extra time
- 13 to 14 Hours: $200 per judge who works that extra time

Overtime compensation will be distributed by the Show Producer at the conclusion of the show. Show management and the judge(s) must document daily hours on the NCHA Daily Judging Log.
c. Show Management may use a judge who has been in the previous classes to replace a judge who has reached the fourteen (14) hours limit ~~judged 150 works~~, providing that they are in compliance with all other rules pertaining to judging.
d. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge a portion of a show, unless entries exceed what can be judged within the fourteen (14) hours limit, ~~go over the 150-entry limit~~, or if a partial show has been approved by the Director of Judges.
3. Judging Limits – Monitored Limited Age Events
~~a. Judges may not judge more than 150 horses per day. Shows can be fined based on the number of horses over 150. Under no circumstances will a judge be allowed to judge over 160 works. This rule is at the discretion of the Executive Director and this fine can be appealed. Fines are as follows:~~
~~i. 151 - 155 works = $1,000~~
~~ii. 156 - 160 works = $2,000~~
a. A standard judging day is defined as up to twelve (12) hours. The judging day will commence on the posted start time of the show, and the judging day will end with last horse judged by the judges on that day. Judges may not exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.
~~b. When the number of works exceeds 150, a Judge has the option to stay and continue to judge additional horses. In this situation, the assessed fines will be distributed by the NCHA to the judges and monitor working the event.~~

b. If a monitored LAE show requires work beyond twelve (12) hours, overtime compensation for a judge and monitor will apply as follows:
• 12 to 13 Hours: $100 per judge and monitor who works that extra time
• 13 to 14 Hours: $200 per judge and monitor who works that extra time
Overtime compensation will be distributed by the Show Producer at the conclusion of the show. Show Management and the Monitor must document daily hours on the NCHA Daily Judging Log.
c. Under no circumstances will a LAE Judge or Monitor exceed fourteen (14) hours per day unless approved in advance by the Director of Judges.
~~be allowed to judge over 160 works.~~

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by David Costello to approve the changes to Standing Rule 6 as presented. **MOTION PASSED**.

Elected as Chair: Nate Miller
Elected as Vice Chair: Sarah Morine

President Kathleen Moore thanked Nate Miller for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

EUROPEAN DIRECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS

The European Directors provided an update and summary of recommendations for increasing the visibility of Cutting in Europe to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Create a Unified Cutting Brand Across Europe

Recommendation:
Deepen the cooperation amongst the established affiliates in Europe to help increase the visibility of cutting in the form of creating content for social networks and sharing it across all available channels.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

2. Modified European Championship Finals/European Cutting Tour – with European Finals

Recommendation:
Remove the Open and Non-Pro classes from the Championship classes and create in its place a class that requires qualification. Qualification will take place within several shows across Europe. This series of shows will become the European Cutting Tour, and it will consist of 4 shows, each held in a different country – under a given affiliate (4NCHA, NCHA of Germany, NCHA of France, NCHA of Italy).

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Bring Cutting to Major Equestrian Trade Shows
Recommendation:
Setup a booth and/or a demonstration of Cutting at one of the premier equine events in Europe; Fireacavalli Verona in Italy, Equitana Essen in Germany, Equita Lyon in France, or Americana in Germany. The Americana in Germany is the largest western riding show in Europe held every two years in Germany.

The Executive Committee was encouraged to hear the potential for involvement at the European shows and supports the booth set up for the Americana in Germany next year which is scheduled for September 1-5, 2027. The NCHA staff will coordinate sending promotional items for this effort and work together on enhancing a unified cutting brand.

President Kathleen Moore thanked the European Directors for their time and dedication to the NCHA and promoting cutting in Europe.

<u>AFFILIATE OFFICERS/SECRETARIES COMMITTEE – DEE MCLAUCHLIN</u>

Chairman of the Affiliate Officers/Secretaries Committee Dee McLauchlin provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Standing Rule 11.c - Horses entered in error
Recommendation:
Implement the following rule:

11.c.1. Once the class has started (Cattle in Arena). If a horse was drawn into the class in error, and the error was the fault of the participant or a party representing the participant, the participant is responsible for all fees associated with the class. If the error was the fault of secretary or staff member, the fees will be paid by the affiliate or producer of the show. In either instance, the payout will be made according to the payout schedule of the original draw.

As well as edit 18.c to read:

If a horse is drawn into a class that was not supposed to be in the class, and the error was the fault of the participant or a party representing the participant, the participant is responsible for all fees associated with the class. The class will pay out based on the number of horses drawn in the original draw. This is a SCRATCH horse. If the error was the fault of the secretary or staff member, the horse will be removed from the original class number. The payout will be made according to the payout schedule to the actual number of horses participating in class. This is an OUT horse.

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to add the proposed rule changes as written above to Standing Rule 11.c and Standing Rule 18.c. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Standing Rule 13
Recommendation:
Add the following verbiage to Standing Rule 13: A class with less than 15 entries may utilize a Pencil Finals or run the entire class as a Finals. The Number of entries paid, and the amount (percentages) paid are the same as above, based on the NCHA mandatory Payout Schedule.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by David Costello to add the recommended verbiage change to Standing Rule 13. **MOTION PASSED**.

3. Electronic Draw
Recommendation:
Utilize an electronic draw for classes with less than 30 horses in a weekend LAE show.

A **MOTION** was made by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by Les Jack to use electronic draws for classes with less than 30 horses in a weekend LAE show effective for the 2027 point year. **MOTION PASSED**.

Re-Elected as Chair: Dee McLauchlin
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Kathy Cardon

President Kathleen Moore thanked Dee McLauchlin for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

SHOW DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel provided an update on the Show Department.

Calgary Request

Shianne shared with the Executive Committee a request coming from the producers of the Calgary Futurity wanting to regain premier status for their show this year due to the PCCHA cancelling their premier show due to scheduling issues.

The Executive Committee issued a directive to send this request to the Approved LAE Show Producers Committee for an overnight response to address this request during this meeting.

Response from Limited Aged Events Show Producers Committee:

August 19, 2026
RE: Calgary, Canada Request
Good afternoon Executive Committee Members:

As tasked by you, our committee has reviewed Canada's request to become a Premiere show in 2026 and hosting a show for Horse of the Year points. Also, for Canada to remain a Premiere show going forward.

For 2026: The committee agrees to allow Canada to increase their added money over $100,000 and the show be available as Horse of the Year points.

For 2027 and forward, having two Premier shows on exact dates conflicts with NCHA Standing rule 7. We feel it is time to update the rule to include an "International" exemption. We propose that in order to attain "International Premiere Status" Canada go through the existing steps in the rulebook. They would have to add $100K plus for 3 years (beginning in 2026.) Abide by all standing rules that accompany such status, such as (5) judge system, monitor, escort, etc. This status would also give them a seat on the LAE Show Producers committee, where we think their input would be very valuable. Please see below Standing Rule 7 with our suggested addition in RED:

STANDING RULE 7.

Show Approvals for Limited Age Events with $10,000 or more added.

In addition to the NCHA sponsored Triple Crown events, the NCHA approves additional Limited Age Event shows. These shows must be for horses between the age of 3 and 6 years of age.

1. NCHA reserves the right to refuse approval or cancel the approval of a show which it deems not to be in the best interest of the Association.

2. Point Year – The NCHA point year will begin on 12/28/2024 and end on the Sunday prior to the start of the NCHA Futurity.
3. Established Shows – Premier Limited Age Events
a. A show that has been in existence for the prior three consecutive years and has added money of $100,000 or more, is considered a premier LAE. New shows requesting approval that have conflicting dates with premier shows (two days in front of or behind approved dates) can only be considered for approval with a maximum of 25% of the premier show's added money.
b. An "International Premiere Exemption" may be granted on an overlapping show with a minimum distance of 1,000 miles between venues, as long as one show exists inside and one show exists outside of the boundaries of the continental U.S.

During this discussion, a suggestion was made to include the following provision that if two (2) premier shows are held with the same dates, the show that resides in the Continental US will take priority on the Horse of the Year points credited.

A **MOTION** was made by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by David Costello to accept the recommendation presented by the Approved LAE Show Producers with the above provision as written. **MOTION PASSED**.

Point Year Clarification

Shianne wanted to provide clarity on some confusion regarding when the point year begins. She shared that the point year begins on December 28th. The Horse of the Year starts at the Futurity.

Summer Spectacular

Shianne provided an update as a result of the Summer Show that once numbers are finalized the practice and stalls both showed an increase over the previous year. She also provided an update on the total number of entries compared to 2025.

- 4yr Open Division (+60 increase from last year)
  - 2025 – 355

2026 – 415
5/6yr Open Division (+32 increase from last year)
2025 – 312
2026 – 344
4yr Non-Pro Division (+30 increase from last year)
2025 – 173
2026 – 203
5/6yr Open Division (+34 increase from last year)
2025 – 208
2026 – 242
4yr Open Division (+41 increase from last year)
2025 – 307
2026 – 348
5/6yr Open Division (-10 increase from last year)
2025 – 493
2026 – 483

The event total compared to last year saw an increase of 187 more entries with a total of 2,035 in 2026 compared to 1,848 in 2025.

INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM – ALLISON WALKER

NCHA Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker provided an update on the International Circuit Program.

Dual Circuit Events
Recommendation:
1. Circuits must share a common border.
2. Facility must be located 75 air miles from neighboring circuit border.
3. Championship shows only – Challenger shows not eligible.
4. Approval must be granted by the NCHA office.
5. Request must be made 90 days prior to entries closing.
6. Majority of directors in both participating circuits must approve the event.
   a. 66.66% or 75% of the directors
   b. Present on conference call or cast vote via email
7. Each circuit is limited to one (1) Dual Circuit Event weekend per year.
   a. Maximum of three (3) show ID numbers?
8. NCHA Days & Local Circuit Championships excluded.
9. Points earned at the event will count towards the year end standings of both participating circuits. Horses and riders still earn points for one circuit only.

The Executive Committee tabled this recommendation for further discussion at the next meeting in October.

ICC Entry Caveat – Part 1
Recommendation:
Add the following verbiage to the ICC entry rules regarding qualifying or entering the World Finals.

1. Horse classes – If a horse is entered and/or shown at the World Finals, that horse will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.

2. Horse classes – If a horse finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals standings, even if they do not show at the WF, they will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.

3. Rider Classes - If a rider is entered and/or shown at the World Finals, that rider will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.

4. Rider classes – If a rider finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals standings, even if they do not show at the WF, they will not be eligible to compete at the ICC in the same class.

A **MOTION** was made by Les Jack and **SECONDED** by David Costello to approve of the recommended entry changes to the ICC. **MOTION PASSED**.

ICC Entry Caveat – Part 2
Recommendation:
In the event an ICC qualified horse or rider participates in the World Finals or finishes in the top fifteen in the World Finals, additional invitations will be extended to the next eligible horses / riders within the top fifteen (15) circuit year-end standings. In no instance will invitations go past 15th place.

A **MOTION** was made by Byron Green and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. to approve the recommendation on the ICC dropping down to 15th place. **MOTION PASSED**.

LIMITED AGE EVENTS COMMITTEE – SHIANNE MEGEL

Director of Shows Shianne Megel presented the recommendations for the Limited Age Events Committee to the Executive Committee on behalf of chairman Phil Rapp.

1. Futurity Payment Schedule
Recommendation:
Add one additional payment to the Futurity, for a total of 5 incremental payments.

A **MOTION** was made by Casey Green and **SECONDED** by Bradey Davis to approve an additional payment for the Futurity, totaling 5 payments. **MOTION PASSED**.

2. Family Rider Substitutions and Slot Purchases
Recommendation:
Establish a rule that after a slot is sold- that rider, nor anyone in their immediate family may purchase a slot again in the same class.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Clerical Rule Updates
Recommendation:
The committee had the following updates regarding some clerical rules:

1. Level Changes for Combo Entries: Require all levels of a purchased drawn combination entry to remain intact and duplicated levels will be withdrawn.

2. Youth Subclass Eligibility: Base eligibility on the rider's birthday as of the time the class starts.

3. Definition of Event Deadlines: Define the deadlines for additions and changes as thirty minutes prior to the settling of the first set of the division.

4. Arena Conflict Policy: Amend the Arena Conflict Policy to include the option to hold the Watt and Coliseum arenas, as well as add the provision that explains the conflict will be managed to ensure both runs can be made but will not guarantee the option to watch the settles.

A **MOTION** was made by Chase Lackey and **SECONDED** by Casey Green to approve the clerical rule updates. **MOTION PASSED**.

Re-Elected as Chair: Phil Rapp
Re-Elected as Vice Chair: Wendy Warne

<u>GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – JADE LACKEY</u>

Chairman of the Growth & Development Committee Jade Lackey provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Flag Cutting Initiative
Recommendation:
Create a template/tutorial on how to set-up a Flag Cutting Competition that Affiliates use to host their own Flag Cutting Classes to garner new membership.

Executive Director Jay Winborn addressed this recommendation and would like for the marketing and membership departments to create an activation for flag cuttings for consistency with the Affiliates. Jay is proposing that these efforts would commence with the 2027 NCHA Days events.

2. VIP Experience
Recommendation:
Invite influencers with paid expenses to attend the Futurity to document and post content related to their experience to help promote the NCHA.

The Executive Committee took NO ACTION on this recommendation.

3. Horse Leasing Program
Recommendation:
Create a task force to research a horse leasing program similar to that of AQHA comprised of members from the Growth & Development, Weekend Show, and Limited Aged Events committees.

After hearing this recommendation previously from Weekend Show, and the Non-Pro

Committees, the Executive Committee made the decision to form a task force researching the pros and cons of this concept, consisting of the following: two (2) Non-Pro members, two (2) Amateur members, two (2) Weekend Show members, a Growth and Development member and Executive Committee Member representing Region 4 Byron Green since the Europeans have inquired about this possibility as well. A directive has been issued to these committees to provide a suggestion on which members will represent these committees.

4. International Collegiate Cutting
Recommendation:
Create a Collegiate Level Cutting Division aimed at college aged members that are actively in college to extend their participation within the association and to encourage the development of future trainers, owners, breeders, judges, and leaders.

The Executive Committee had a roundtable discussion with the involvement of the marketing, youth, and membership departments and the NCHA Foundation. As a result of that discussion, it was suggested to consider incorporating this concept with the Special Operations Cutting event during the Summer Spectacular.

Elected as Chair: Jade Lackey
Elected as Vice Chair: Mary Freeborn

President Kathleen Moore thanked Jade Lackey for chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

MARKETING DEPARTMENT UPDATES – SHANNON STEWART

NCHA Marketing & Sponsorship Director Shannon Stewart provided the Executive Committee with an update on her department.

Key Marketing & Sponsorship Highlights

- **Marketing strategy** is centered on six priorities: strengthening the NCHA brand, promoting cutting and the Western lifestyle, engaging members, reaching new audiences, increasing event participation, and creating valuable sponsorship partnerships.
- **2026 Celebrity Cutting** significantly expanded NCHA's reach beyond the traditional cutting audience, combining entertainment, philanthropy, and exposure to new demographics. The event has raised more than $1 million for cancer research.
    - Celebrity Cutting generated 4.31M views and reached 2.21M accounts.
    - Celebrity partnerships are translating into genuine interest in cutting, with Nick Carter and his family progressing from attending the event to training, purchasing a cutting horse, and beginning to compete.
    - Major media exposure included The Today Show, Late Night with Seth Meyers, NBC 5, WFAA, Fort Worth Magazine, Horse & Rider, and other outlets.
- **Special Operations Cutting** continues to be a unique audience-development opportunity, combining competition with a purpose-driven, "feel-good" experience and reaching a new demographic.

- The 2026 Special Operations event had its largest audience in event history, including participation from six Navy SEALs and six Green Berets.

Sponsorship Performance

- $2.15M in YTD sponsorship revenue, over $340K vs. the prior year with an 18.8% year-over-year growth. Sponsorship also remained $183K over budget.
- Sponsorship growth is diversified across multiple properties, with an increasing focus on partners that align with NCHA's mission and provide meaningful member value.

Digital & Social Media

- Google Ad Manager generated 5.7M impressions and 7,200+ clicks, providing measurable sponsor value.
- Social media generated 17.7M Instagram views and 16.1M Facebook views during the reporting period.
- The Triple Crown produced millions of views and significant engagement, demonstrating that major events are strong opportunities for audience growth.
- 147 email campaigns were distributed, generating 339,507 total opens and 17,055 clicks. Email deliverability remains strong at 99.9%, with a 0.04% unsubscribe rate.

Key Opportunity / Overall Takeaway

- Members themselves are one of NCHA's strongest marketing assets, particularly through lifestyle storytelling and member spotlights.
- The launch of NCHAShop.com creates a dedicated platform to expand the merchandise brand through seasonal, lifestyle, and circuit-specific products.
- Moving forward, the three major priorities are: strengthen member benefits, grow sponsorship revenue, and expand awareness of cutting.

CONVENTION RECAP – CATHY MARIE ALEFF

Current statistics and attendance records were supplied from the annual convention in Las Vegas, which led into a roundtable discussion about the future of convention. Amidst efforts to include seminars and unique events, the attendance records continue to decline. In addition to these attendance records, an analysis was also provided with a five (5) year lookback on cost.

As a result of this data provided, the Executive Committee entertained a proposal moving the format to a virtual event for 2027, especially since we had three (3) committees and did not meet a quorum to conduct business this past year. They agreed that the funds being spent by the association could be allocated for a better opportunity.

NCHA Convention

Cost & Attendance Analysis

		2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	5 Year Total	5 Year Average
Total Cost		$245,283	$297,468	$321,664	$238,353	$ 151,801	$1,254,569	$250,914
	Convention	$174,024	$201,229	$276,803	$171,268	$108,485	$931,809	$186,362
	Gala	$71,259	$96,239	$44,861	$67,086	$43,316	$322,761	$64,552
Attendance:								
	Convention	250	375	279	363	161	1428	286
	Gala	410	345	264	373	223	1615	323
	Director	128	136	134	132	112	642	128
Location		Las Vegas	San Antonio	Nashville	Las Vegas	Fort Worth		

A **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. and **SECONDED** by Byron Green to approve a virtual format change for the 2027 Convention. **MOTION PASSED**.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:22PM. The EC Meeting will reconvene on Thursday, August 20th at 8:00AM central time.

THURSDAY – AUGUST 20, 2026

The Executive Committee meeting reconvened and was called to order at 8:04AM by President Kathleen Moore and roll call was taken.

Executive Committee members were present: President Kathleen Moore, President-Elect David Costello, Vice President Chase Lackey, Les Jack, Phil Benadum (via phone), Ernie Beutenmiller Jr., Byron Green, Ora Diehl (via phone), Bradey Davis, and Casey Green. NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, NCHA Treasurer Denise Williams, NCHA Director of Shows Shianne Megel, and NCHA Manager of Committee Relations Cathy Marie Aleff were also in attendance for this meeting. Executive Committee Member Steve Smith was excused. NCHA Director of Membership Services Suzie Rupert, NCHA Membership Services Advisor Julie Davis, NCHA Manager of Membership Services Linda Welborn, NCHA Director of Judges Andy Adams (via phone), NCHA Director of Youth Rianna Storey, NCHA Stallion Foal/National Circuit Program Manager Allison Walker (via phone), NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris, NCHA Director of Marketing & Sponsorship Shannon Stewart, NCHA Communications Manager Logan Lynch, NCHA Produced Events Associate MaKinzie

McFarland, and NCHA Approved Shows Associate Ashley Kanaman were also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

LEGAL UPDATES – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris addressed the members of the Executive Committee with some legal updates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Kathleen Moore placed the meeting into executive session.

GENERAL SESSION

President Kathleen Moore placed the meeting back into general session.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – ERIC FIELD & RONNIE SMITH

Chairman of the Governance Committee Eric Field and Vice Chairman Ronnie Smith provided an update on their committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

1. 2027 Proposed Bylaw Changes
Recommendation:
As a result of the Governance Committee meeting at Convention, there were some more suggested edits to be incorporated with the proposed bylaw changes.

Jim Morris presented these changes and agreed to provide a clean version at the October meeting for the approval of a final draft to be presented to the membership.

The Executive Committee tabled these proposed bylaw changes for the next meeting in October.

2. Vice President Election Process
Recommendation:
The Governance Committee is requesting approval from the Executive Committee to re-evaluate the current process for electing a Vice President and the service terms of the officers.

The Executive Committee approved the continuation of this effort.

Elected as Chair: Eric Field
Elected as Vice Chair: Ronnie Smith

President Kathleen Moore thanked Eric Field and Ronnie Smith for chairing and vice chairing this committee and dedicating their time to the NCHA.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE – JIM MORRIS

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris updated the Executive Committee members with a concern that came out of the Grievance Committee's convention meeting.

With regards to some recent cases, the committee feels as though confidentiality expectations need to be addressed and enforced for all parties involved throughout the duration of the case. Jim is currently working on some verbiage to be included in the notification process when an alleged case is presented and will collaborate with the Grievance Committee members before bringing this process change for final approval.

The Executive Committee tabled this grievance item for the next meeting in October.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, there is no old business to bring before the Executive Committee for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Non-Pro/Amateur Task Force

A task force consisting of nine (9) members was appointed by President Kathleen Moore for a special project to identify the challenges being experienced at the Amateur and Non-Pro levels, and devise solution options to be brought back to the EC for consideration.

Future EC Meetings

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 (Virtual)
Tuesday, February 16th, 2027 (In-Person)
Tuesday & Wednesday, May 10-11th, 2027 (In-Person)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, a **MOTION** was made by David Costello and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller Jr. to adjourn the meeting at 10:56am. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**