

**NCHA Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2017 –
Wednesday, August 9, 2017
NCHA Offices
Fort Worth, Texas**

Monday, August 7, 2017

The NCHA Executive Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2017, at the NCHA Offices in Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m. with a quorum of 14 Executive Committee members present: President Lewis Wray, President-Elect Phil Rapp, Vice President Ron Pietrafeso, Ernie Beutenmiller, Kathy Daughn, Rock Hedlund, Jack Holt, Jay Klamon (electronically), J.B. McLamb, Matt Miller, David Pilcher, Tatum Rice, and Ronnie Smith. Also present was Executive Director Chuck Smith.

A **Motion** was made by Kathy Daughn and **Seconded** by Jack Holt to approve the minutes of the May 31 – June 4, 2017 minutes. **Motion Passed.**

Region Reports

Jack Holt reported on Region 1 activity. Ronnie Smith gave a brief update of Region 6 activity. David Pilcher updated the Executive Committee members on the activity from Region 4.

President's Report

President Lewis Wray relayed his goals to the Executive Committee members via a PowerPoint presentation.

1. Explore methods to reduce overhead in all departments.
2. Develop a chain of command and a succession plan within NCHA.

President Wray also shared with the Executive Committee members his thoughts on NCHA moving forward. One key element of forward progress is that of problem solving. He presented the Executive Committee members with an organizational chart showing the various function of NCHA and what the current chain of command structure is. President Wray noted that as Executive Committee Executive Committee members and Officers it is possible to:

1. Delegate authority
2. But not responsibility

Ernie Beutenmiller asked the Executive Committee members if any of them knew the whereabouts of an organizational matrix that was created several years ago addressing this same issue. No one knew of the whereabouts of the matrix in question.

Future Administration of NCHA Operations

President Wray advised the Executive Committee members that moving forward the responsibility and accountability of running the day-to-day operation of the NCHA office resides solely with the Executive Director, Chuck Smith. He further advised the committee that Chuck Smith has been recruiting and hiring extremely qualified professional staff that will be able to help develop structure, policies and procedures for the administrative functions of NCHA and that the Executive Committee members henceforth will go through the Executive Director as the first in line in the chain of command with any questions, issues or concerns. President Wray noted that Executive Committee members shall not contact staff directly regarding any business questions, issues or concerns and that staff will be notified of this decision. President Wray stated Executive Committee members need to recognize that such direct contact with staff may be disruptive and often impedes staff's ability to accomplish previously prioritized tasks.

President Wray also advised Executive Committee members that they should not contact outside third party vendors, consultants, or contract employees on behalf of NCHA or represent to such parties that they in any way are acting on behalf of the NCHA. Again, such contact is confusing and disruptive, often counterproductive, and has the potential to place the organization in a precarious position or a position in which additional expense is incurred.

President Wray noted that Executive Committee members need to remember that two major threats face the organization:

1. The ability to escape the past, and
2. The inability to ask the right questions

He then assured the Executive Committee members that he felt confident that the organization has a bright future – one of growth and survival.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Chuck Smith addressed the group regarding the status of NCHA operations. He noted that he had been a member of the NCHA Executive Committee in some capacity for the past 15 years and in that time he has seen the good, the bad and the ugly.

1. Good – the good years were mostly affected by a strong economy
2. Bad – the bad economy of 2008 exposed inefficiencies in the organization
3. Ugly – the process of defining those inefficiencies and issues and how to address them
 - a. Lack of continued IT upgrades forcing major capital investments and a few false starts on rectifying the gap in IT capabilities
 - b. Accounting systems that were difficult to read and comprehend
 - c. Lack of clear, consistent communication from the Executive Committee all the way to NCHA members
 - d. Lack of focus on gaining new members and retention of current members

Executive Director Role – Going Forward

Chuck advised the Executive Committee members that of late his role has been that primarily of a fireman. He has necessarily been involved in reacting to and addressing issues that were a result of inadequate internal processes and procedures. Those are currently being addressed.

Chuck advised the Executive Committee members that he believes what he needs to be doing going forward is:

1. Moving the organization forward
2. Implementing the new computer system of record (Hub). Smith noted that Hub already had had a soft launch and is in operation for standings, and will fully launch on or before September 15, 2017.
3. Increasing new memberships and retaining and servicing current members
4. Challenger Program
 - a. Increased interest in this new program allowing new members at the grass roots level to participate in the sport of cutting
 - b. Challenger system increasing in popularity in Europe and will only continue to grow
 - c. Australia has shown interest in participating in the Challenger Program and we need to do all that we can do to encourage participation
 - d. RSNC Team sorting
 - e. High School Rodeo – continued participation and sponsorship support
 - f. ACHA members also interested in Challenger Program – how to bring that group into the NCHA fold

Understanding the Role of Executive Director

Chuck relayed to the Executive Committee members that the NCHA Executive Director carries out the official actions of the Executive Committee and the NCHA Officers, and that frequently these actions present considerable challenges. Smith advised that in order to carry out the actions and directives of these groups that it is critical to have the sole authority to control and direct the NCHA staff, i.e.,

1. Understanding, formulating and operating within the limits of the budget
2. Retaining the authority to initiate and implement office hires and terminations
3. Responsibility for the functions and duties of the staff
4. Requests, questions or concerns of the Executive Committee and Officers be directed to the Executive Director for resolution with NCHA staff and not directly contacting NCHA staff.
5. Issues or concerns regarding NCHA staff be brought up to and through the Executive Director.

Chuck advised that for a business organization to operate in an efficient and successful manner there must be a proper chain of command and that structure provides for specific areas of

responsibility and accountability. The staff and their performance are the direct responsibility of the Executive Director.

Executive Session

MOTION was made by David Pilcher, and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller that the Committee go into Executive Session. Question was called and **MOTION PASSED**.

Regular Meeting Resumed

NCHA Policy Review

Tommy Neal advised the Executive Committee members of recent concerns and issues with various NCHA staff member actions with respect to Human Resources practices, NCHA Travel Policy and NCHA Expense Reimbursement practices. Neal distributed to the Executive Committee members a draft of a Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy. Discussion ensued amongst the Executive Committee members. A suggestion was made that a review be conducted of the number of NCHA business credit cards in existence. After discussion a **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by David Pilcher that the Travel and Business Reimbursement Expense Policy draft distributed to the Executive Committee members be adopted for use by NCHA. After further discussion **MOTION PASSED**.

Tommy Neal also made a **MOTION** that Chuck Smith meet with employees at his earliest convenience to discuss expense reimbursement and credit card policies on a going forward basis. **MOTION SECONDED** by David Pilcher. Vote was taken and **MOTION PASSED**.

Tommy Neal and Cathy Cheugh led a discussion regarding the development and implementation of human resources policies as well as other basic, ordinary procedures for NCHA operations. Discussion was held regarding NCHA group health insurance currently in place. The Executive Committee members discussed balancing the budgetary considerations of NCHA and the needs of staff and the overall benefit package structure. It was agreed that benefit renewals need to be thoroughly vetted on an annual basis.

Youth Committee Report

Committee Chair Jody McGlothlin, Vice Chair Mary Ann Rapp and NCHA Youth Committee Director Ashley Thomas were present to discuss recommendations from the Committee. The following recommendations were presented to the Executive Committee members:

1. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to put youth age-out (unused scholarship funds after the age of 25) money back in Scholarship account to go into Summer Scholarship Cutting Fund.*

After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation for the aged-out (unused scholarship funds after the age of 25) go back to the Summer Scholarship Cutting Fund, but that the Youth Committee come back to the Executive Committee with recommendations as to how to best achieve this goal.

- 2. Recommend to the Executive Committee to require the following time frame of which written notification of “aged out” money be sent to both the scholarship recipient and the youth committee be submitted twice a year, by April 1st and October 1st – with letters sent out to students on January 1st and July 1st.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso that written notification of “aged out” money be sent to both the scholarship recipient and the Youth Committee twice per year, not later than April 1 and October 1, and letters sent out to students not later than January 1 and July 1. After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED.**

- 3. Recommend to the Executive Committee to change the way interest is accrued on scholarships being held for a student. Currently each child’s account earns interest as pennies on the dollar by individual account rather than on a large scholarship account as a whole and allocating the money once a year (currently a 600 plus line transaction each month). The Youth Committee proposes changing interest earned per account to interest earned on entire scholarship account allocated once a year.*

After discussion, this recommendation as **TABLED** pending the report of the Finance Committee.

- 4. Recommend to the Executive Committee that a Scholarship Selection Committee be in place annually for reviewing and granting Foundation Scholarships. This was something in place previously but was somehow lost along the way.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal that the prior practice of having a Scholarship Selection Committee appointed by the NCHA President on an annual basis be reinstated. Further, the Selection Committee chooses candidates and sends the recommended nominees to the Foundation for a final Foundation decision. After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED.**

- 5. Recommend to the Executive Committee that a Scholarship Annual Allotment budget be provided to the Scholarship Selection Committee by March 15th.*

NO FORMAL ACTION NECESSARY. The Executive Committee members agreed with the recommendation and accepted it as written.

- 6. Recommend to the Executive Committee lowering the current stall costs for Youth Stalls to mirror Youth Stalls at Summer Spectacular of \$75 for National Shows where stalls are managed by NCHA. It was discussed that Denver’s stalls are managed by Transwest.*

Discussion was held and a question was raised as to whether an agreement might be reached with the national shows to reduce the stall fees for youth to \$75.00. After further discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Ronnie Smith that the stall fees for national shows mirror the cost of \$75 for youth stalls at the Summer Spectacular.

7. *Recommend to the Executive Committee a No Pass, No Play Rule for the 3 National Championship Shows and the Summer Spectacular. It would require that all youth pre-entries submit a copy of their report cards with their entry forms with a 70% overall passing to be eligible to compete in these 4 NCHA produced shows.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by J. B. McComb that NCHA adopt and implement a “No Pass, No Play” rule for the national championship shows and the Summer Spectacular. The rule would require that all youth pre-entries submit a copy of their report cards with their entry forms indicating a 70% overall class pass rate to be eligible to compete in these 4 NCHA produced shows. Question was called and **MOTION PASSED**.

REVISIT OF RECOMMENDATION OF RECOMMENDATION #7

Committee Executive Committee members discussed how the adoption of the “No Pass, No Play” might impact students who are home-schooled. Suggestion was made that Cathy Cheugh research criteria for qualified home school programs and report back to the Executive Committee members.

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp to **WITHDRAW** his prior **MOTION** to adopt and implement a “No Pass, No Play” rule. J. B. McComb agreed with **WITHDRAW** his **SECONDDING** of Phil Rapp’s **MOTION** and **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

8. *Recommend to the Executive Committee verbiage update of Rule 19, Page 26 of the NCHA Rule Book regarding points for Youth World Finals entrants and including Youth Rookie of the Year, Area Leaders and Affiliate Standings. It was proposed to add the wording “final youth points will include points awarded in all rounds at the World Finals.”*

Considerable discussion ensued regarding how best to word this recommendation. After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by David Pilcher that Rule 19 in the NCHA Rule Book be amended to read: “...The Rookie of the Year points will be calculated from June 1 through May 31 and include all go rounds of the Youth World Finals. If there are no World Finals entrants, calculations would revert to the points leader at May 31....” After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

9. *Recommend to the Executive Committee that the NYCHA have its own separate Checking account. All checks written from the account would require 3 signatures: 1 from CFO, 1 from Youth Chairman, 1 from Youth Coordinator. A line item accounting would be provided as well as monthly statements to the Youth Committee.*

After brief discussion, the Executive Committee members agreed that this recommendation was not necessary as internal process and procedures should meet fiduciary requirements. **RECOMMENDATION NOT ADOPTED.**

General discussion was held about how best to incorporate the National High School Rodeo Association into the NCHA Youth Program.

Also, discussion was held regarding criteria for entry into the Youth Hall of Fame, specifically the requirement regarding a minimum number of points. Executive Committee members agreed with the need for re-evaluating the procedure, and to keep leadership points as is.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Sharon Beach was in attendance to present Committee recommendations. Recommendations were:

1. *Recommended to approve the Competition Committee.*
2. *Director Election – recommended the Director applicants provide a personal profile or resume along with the director consent form. Director candidate information available via NCHA website for viewing before Director Elections. NCHA to furnish candidates a written description of responsibilities.*

TABLED. Executive Committee referred this recommendation back to the Long Range Planning Committee for further clarification and recommendations as to when this requirement would take effect, cut-off dates, where the action should be noticed, i.e., Chatter, NCHA website, etc.

3. *EC Regional Representative Election – recommend individuals seeking EC Regional Representative nomination provide a personal profile or resume to their specific region Directors prior to the annual convention regional directors meetings. NCHA to furnish nominees a written description of responsibilities.*

TABLED. Executive Committee referred this recommendation back to the Long Range Planning Committee for further clarification and recommendations as to when this requirement would take effect, cut-off dates, where the action should be noticed, i.e., Chatter, NCHA website, etc.

4. *EC At Large Election – recommend individuals seeking EC At Large nomination provide a personal profile or resume to the Executive Director for dissemination to the Board of Directors prior to the annual convention. NCHA to furnish nominees a written description*

of responsibilities. Upon approval of #2, 3 & 4, the LRPC will create a task force and present final protocol recommendations for the Nov. EC meeting.

TABLED. Executive Committee referred this recommendation back to the Long Range Planning Committee for further clarification and recommendations as to when this requirement would take effect, cut-off dates, where the action should be noticed, i.e., Chatter, NCHA website, etc.

5. *By-Law & Rule Book Review – recommend review of By-Laws and Rules for any antiquated or ambiguous language. Proposed amendments presented during November EC meeting. [Committee provided examples of such amendments.]*

TABLED. Executive Committee referred this recommendation back to the Long Range Planning Committee to provide recommendations at the next Executive Committee meeting for such amendments.

6. *Region Alignment – after HUB launch, utilize the mapping feature presented by James Burris to evaluate Executive Committee membership growth/decline, weekend/aged event show sites, level of participants competing, etc. to determine if region realignment should be considered. Chuck Smith commented that Executive Committee members may want to consider a By-Law change to create an Area 26 encompassing Europe only.*

Discussion ensued.**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

7. *Convention Format – form task force within committee to propose plans for future conventions to be more informative, increase attendance and maximize effectiveness through incorporation of educational events, sponsor utilization and general member focus. Upon approval of #7, the LRPC will create a task force and report back during the Nov. EC meeting.*

Executive Committee agreed with the recommendation to form a task committee within the Long Range Planning Committee to explore and provide recommendations for format for future annual conventions.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn to adjourn the meeting for the day.
MOTION PASSED.

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Finance Committee

Committee Chairman Jerry Yelverton and NCHA CFO Barb Benedum were present to discuss Finance Committee issues.

Chairman Yelverton addressed the Executive Committee members on various issues and practices that have arisen in the past several weeks. He advised the Executive Committee members that there had been a great deal of misinformation, misunderstanding and general chaos created by the lack of clear structural policies and procedures in place. After considerable discussion, Chairman Yelverton proposed the formation of a Personnel Committee to address all human resources practices and procedures, finance practices and procedures as well as general business processes and procedures. In addition, the proposed committee would make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding best practices for all office policies and procedures.

Discussion ensued. Many of the Executive Committee members cited the critical need for succession planning within the NCHA and asked that this issue also be addressed and given priority on the proposed Personnel Committee agenda.

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to adopt the Finance Committee recommendation that a Personnel Committee be formed comprised of the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Executive Director, the Chief of Staff, and 2 additional Executive Committee members. After discussion, **MOTION PASSED**. Executive Committee Executive Committee members Ernie Beutenmiller and David Pilcher agreed to serve on the newly formed Personnel Committee.

The Finance Committee was apprised of the Youth Committee's proposal that interest accrued on outstanding scholarships be allocated assist in the funding of future scholarships. **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Phil Rapp to adopt the Youth Committee's proposal. After discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

Further, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund that the wording on Page 90 of the Rules and Regulations Handbook under the AWARD section be amended to read: "Each division will receive a \$1000 scholarship and a Rookie of the Year Buckle", removing any language regarding receipt of a check. This was for the purpose of making sure we were complying with established scholarship awards procedures. After brief discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

Amateur Committee

Barnwell Ramsey, Vice Chair of the Amateur Committee, and Julie Davis, NCHA Director of Executive Committee memberships presented the Amateur Committee recommendations.

1. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to remove the horse ownership portion of the \$1,000 Amateur Class rule which will allow Amateurs to ride horses owned by other members without increasing the cap.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller to remove horse ownership portion of the \$1,000 Amateur Class rule which will allow Amateurs to ride horses owned by other members without increasing the cap. Question was called and **MOTION PASSED**. This helps achieve our objective to focus and better our general membership participation at competitions all across the country as well as encourage a place for new members to compete.

2. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to eliminate the Rookie Card Program due to lack of use. (This is not the Rookie of the Year Program.)*

MOTION was made by Jack Holt and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller to accept the recommendation. After brief discussion, **MOTION PASSED**. It was felt that the objective was worthy, but the program was not achieving the objective.

3. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to exempt Senior class Aged event earnings from eligibility.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ronnie Smith and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to exempt Senior class Aged event earnings from eligibility. Following discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

4. *Recommended to the Executive Committee to allow Amateur riders aged 70 and above to return to the \$50,000 Amateur Limited Age or Weekend regardless of earnings.*

Considerable and lengthy discussion ensued. **MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Tatum Rice to allow Amateur riders aged 70 and above to return to the \$50,000 Amateur Limited Age or Weekend regardless of earnings beginning with the 2017 Futurity. Other than the 2017 Futurity, this change would take effect January 1, 2018. After further discussion, question was called the **MOTION PASSED**. It was further agreed by the Executive Committee members to waive the first payment penalty for the Senior Amateurs that qualify for this exception by age for the 2017 Futurity.

5. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to retain the present qualification requirements and earnings cap for Senior Amateurs age 60 (100,000/100,000/200,000) and increase the cap to 200,000/200,000/400,000 for Senior Amateurs age 65.*

After lengthy discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ronnie Smith and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to increase the cap to 200,000/200,000/400,000 for Senior Amateurs age 60, and that such changes be effective for the upcoming 2017 Futurity to encourage additional entries. After further lengthy discussion, **MOTION PASSED**. It was agreed by the Executive Committee members to waive the first payment penalty for the Senior Amateurs that qualify for this rule by age for the 2017 Futurity.

6. *Recommend implementation of these changes as soon as possible, to encourage additional entries in [the] 2017 Futurity, if the Executive Committee accepts the above recommendation to increase the earnings cap.*

Recommendation **incorporated** into Recommendation #5.

7. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to require approved weekend shows to include a \$50,000 Amateur addition to the required Open & Non-Pro. No parity of purses would be required and Mecuria would be excluded.*

After discussion, recommendation was **TABLED** as the Executive Committee members were not clear on the purpose or wording of the recommendation.

8. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to implement Semi's in the 50k Amateur at 150 entries and the Unlimited Amateur at 168 entries. An increased office charge of \$300 will be applied and Amateur Bucks funding will be released back to the Amateur Purse.*

Lengthy discussion ensued. **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller that a new semifinals be added to the Super Stakes and Summer Spectacular to the Amateur and Unlimited Amateur classes (4 and 5/6 year olds) at a minimum of 150 horses with 30% moving to semifinals with a maximum of 60 plus ties, with 20 plus ties to the finals. To fund this change, the entry fee will be raised by \$50. Office charge will be \$375 for both the \$50k Amateur and Unlimited Amateur classes. The calculation for this semifinals will be determined on the final payment date. Late entries will not dictate semifinals. After further lengthy discussion, question was called and **MOTION PASSED**.

9. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to include the Unlimited Amateur earnings in the LAE Amateur Rookie of the Year starting with the 2018 point year.*

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to include the Unlimited Amateur earnings in the LAE Amateur Rookie of the Year starting with the 2018 point year. **MOTION PASSED**.

10. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to implement the Horse Ownership policy and 50.d.4 rule revision presented at Convention changed from “recorded by” to “received by” the breed association in the rule.*

After brief discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to include the recommended language to Rule 50.d.4. **MOTION PASSED.**

11. For the Competition Committee, selected Kristen York (Weekend segment) and Bob Tregemba (LAE segment) as their representatives.

Cattle Committee

Steve Oehlhoff, Chair of the Cattle Committee, Bronc Willoughby and Dave Brian, NCHA Director of Shows, presented the Cattle Committee recommendations to the Executive Committee members.

1. *It is recommended to eliminate the pre-gentling at the NCHA produced events. One of the existing “pre-gentlers” (or appropriate individual) will be kept as a cattle handler to help with moving the cattle through the tunnels.*

Discussion ensued regarding how best to prepare cattle for a show. **MOTION** was made by David Pilcher and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn that the Cattle Committee will decide whether to pre-gentle cattle at NCHA produced shows and that any change in the procedure be reported to the Show Manager and the Executive Director. After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED.** There was strong consensus among the Executive Committee members that we rely on the expertise of the cattle committee and give them the responsibility of how best to prepare cattle while meeting all required elements of an NCHA competition.

2. *Recommend to continue receiving cattle in the large pen, let them settle, and then, after the practice pen closes, move the cattle to the holding pens.*

MOTION was made by David Pilcher and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adopt the recommendation. After discussion, **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Individuals are going to determine the cost of new hay rings or if the ones a member has available will be utilized. Bronc Willoughby reported that he has purchased 6 new hay rings.

NO ACTION REQUIRED.

4. *It is recommended to add the quarter of a cow back into the first go-rounds of the Triple Crown events.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by J.B. McLamb to **TAKE NO ACTION**. Executive Committee consensus was that the cost benefit analysis of this recommendation did not merit the change.

Limited Age Event Committee

Tarin Rice, Chair of the Limited Age Event Committee presented the recommendations from the committee to the Executive Committee members.

1. *Recommend to approve the changes to the Super Stakes and Summer Spectacular schedules beginning in 2018 as presented.*

After extended discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso that **NO ACTION** be taken and that the current schedule be maintained as is. **MOTION PASSED**. Executive Committee consensus was that the cost benefit analysis of this recommendation did not merit a change with regards to a number of issues members from all over the country face in competing in these two NCHA events.

2. *Recommend that further study be conducted regarding the payouts for the Semis and Finals to be based on the number of entries.*

After discussion recommendation was **TABLED** as Executive Committee will await further clarification and analysis from the Limited Age Committee.

3. *Recommend to approve the Limited Open as a standalone class at both the Super Stakes and Summer Spectacular on a 3 year trial basis beginning in 2018. The rider has the option to enter the Limited Open only as a combo with his Open entry. The fees and rules will mirror that of the Limited Non Pro.*

After lengthy discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to approve the Limited Open as a standalone class for 5 & 6 year olds only at both the Super Stakes and the Summer Spectacular on up to a 3 year trial basis beginning in 2018. The rider has the option to enter the Limited Open only or as a combo with his Open entry. Limited Open cannot be entered as a second class from an Open entry. After continued discussion, the question was called and vote taken. **MOTION PASSED** with Phil Rapp dissenting. Executive Committee recognized the need to provide owners and younger trainers a better structure to have more opportunity to compete at these events. The Executive Committee will be measuring, reviewing and analyzing these results through the trial period to determine the overall impact and achievement of this objective.

4. *Recommend to follow the Professional Trainers recommendation to allow Non-Pros the opportunity to compete in the Open Division utilizing a revolving door policy of \$100,000 in earnings over three years.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ron Pietrefeso and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller that beginning with the 2018 point year, Non-Pros be allowed the opportunity to compete in the Open Division utilizing a revolving door policy of \$100,000 in Open earnings over three years. **MOTION PASSED.**

5. For the Competition Committee, recommend Frank Merrill as the committee appointed member and *Jody Galyean as the Executive Committee appointment.*

NON PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Sherry Graham, Chair of the Non-Pro Committee, presented the committee recommendations via telephone.

1. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to implement a 2nd go in the Limited Non-Pro in lieu of a Semi Finals with the highest cumulative scores of the 1st and 2nd go advancing to the Finals. This recommendation would apply to the Futurity only.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn that this recommendation be **sent back to the Non-Pro Committee** for further clarification as it is incomplete as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to remove the \$100,000 Limited Age Non Pro Cap from the Unlimited Amateur.*

Discussion ensued and it was decided that further vetting from other affected member classes (i.e., Amateur) was needed. **MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn that **NO ACTION** be taken and that the recommendation be sent to the Competition Committee for resolution.

3. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to leave the Limited Non Pro separate from the Non Pro as it is currently.*

NO ACTION REQUIRED.

4. *Recommended to the Executive Committee to revise the verbiage of rule 51.a.1 as follows. "Any person who has trained horses in another discipline working or involving cattle shall be considered a professional by the NCHA and would only be considered for Non Pro status if they become eligible under one of the existing Non Pro exception rules. Those who have not trained horses working or involving cattle will be immediately considered for Non Pro status."*

After considerable conversation, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** Ronnie Smith to **TAKE NO ACTION** on this recommendation and that this issue is one for consideration by the Competition Committee. **MOTION PASSED**. The Executive Committee saw the need for further vetting to avoid any unintended consequences that possibly could result from this change. Executive Committee consensus was this is a perfect example of a proposed rule change that would be best handled through the new Competition Committee.

5. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to leave the Non Pro entry fees as is.*

NO ACTION NECESSARY.

6. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to implement the Horse Ownership policy and 50.d.4 rule revision presented at Convention changed from “recorded by” to “received by” in the breed association rule.*

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the genesis of this recommendation. Jim Morris and NCHA Staff Member Linda Smith advised the Executive Committee members of a recent incident involving the misrepresentation of the appropriate date on an application. It was also shared that the staff was spending considerable time and repeated efforts in following some of these issues through to completion. After further discussion, Jim Morris recommended that the Executive Committee members accept the amended verbiage as proposed. **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso that Horse Ownership policy and 50.d.4 rule be changed from “recorded by” to “received” in the breed association in the rule. **MOTION PASSED**, with Ronnie Smith dissenting.

Grievance Policies

Vice President Phil Rapp and Jim Morris discussed with the Executive Committee members the NCHA Grievance process. Discussion ensued regarding how to truncate the grievance process to make it more efficient. Mr. Morris distributed a draft for NCHA Grievance Committee Policies. Chuck Smith and Mr. Morris will work with the current Grievance Committee to review the draft and bring recommendations to the committee in November.

Horse and Cattle Committee

Committee Chair Lindy Burch was present to relay the Committee’s recommendations.

1. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to hire a Monitor to police the show grounds, practice pen and loping pen for horse abuse/excessive training.*

Discussion was held as to how to best accomplish this goal for all NCHA produced events – whether to hire additional personnel for each show or to use current personnel, i.e., Jerry Bob Seago for this function. Discussion then centered on the need for the 3 practice pens to have cameras. The Executive Committee members

discussed the need to develop consistent responses for show monitors for use during shows. Chuck Smith will talk with NCHA Director of IT regarding the possibility and feasibility of installing cameras in various areas of the arena to assist show monitors. After further discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to hire a Monitor to police the show grounds, practice pen and loping pen for horse abuse/excessive training. Question was called and **MOTION PASSED**. Chuck Smith will present recommendations at the November Executive Committee meeting regarding the process and cost involved in implementing this action for the 2017 Futurity.

2. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to adopt the rule changes as presented by Jim Morris for Rule 35.6, 35A.8 and 37. (See attached **Exhibit A**)*

Jim Morris discussed the proposed rule changes for Rule 35.6 (Zero Tolerance Policy), Rule 37 (Zero Tolerance Policy exceptions) and Rule 35A.8. Lengthy discussion ensued. Jim Morris recommended that the Executive Committee members adopt the recommended rule changes as presented. **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller to adopt the changes to Rule 35.6, Rule 37 and Rule 35A.8 as presented and amended by Jim Morris. After further discussion, **MOTION PASSED**.

3. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to fund the cost of providing Rule 35 signage to our Affiliates, approximate cost \$2,700.*

The Committee's proposal is that the Executive Committee fund the cost of providing Rule 35 (Zero Tolerance Policy) signage to Affiliates and Show producers. The Committee also recommended that the signage include bullet point format signage outlining the medication policy. The recommendation requests that a sign appear in the arena and the practice area or flag area.

The Executive Committee members discussed the merits of the recommendations. The question was raised as to whether such signage should also be available at Challenger Shows. It was agreed that the same signage be posted at all Challenger shows. The Executive Committee members agreed that it shall be the responsibility of the show Judge to confirm that signage is present at each show. Further, it was agreed that the medication policy signage shall be posted at the Show Secretary stand. Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that NCHA provide a template outlining Rule 35 requirements and NCHA Medication Policy bullet points instead of actual signage. It would be up to the show producer or affiliate to get actual signage but the template provided by NCHA should make that process easier.

MOTION was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller that Rule 35 requirements and NCHA Medication policies be posted at all Affiliates and Approved shows. NCHA will provide a template for use in producing such signage. Further, that

all signage must be in place in order for any shows to be approved. After further discussion **MOTION PASSED.**

Foundation Q & A

Jim Morris fielded questions from the Executive Committee members regarding the NCHA Foundation on the status of its operations, financial status and policies. After discussion, it was agreed that, because the Foundation is a supporting entity to the NCHA, the Officers, Executive Committee, Jim Morris set up a meeting with Jo Ellard and her attorney to discuss Foundation practices and future operation. Jim Morris was asked to contact the Foundation's attorney to set up meetings with Jo Ellard, Joey Milner, Chuck Smith, and NCHA CFO Barb Benedum and to report back to the committee.

Kelly & Hart (Brody Beaver)

After brief discussion, **MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Phil Rapp that this item be **TABLED** pending Jim Morris's meeting with the NCHA Foundation. **MOTION PASSED.**

Professional Trainers Committee

Matt Miller, substituting for Chair Morgan Cromer, presented the Professional Trainers Committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee members.

1. *Recommend to allow unapproved Novice Horse classes to be held within or during an NCHA approved show. This would allow riders the opportunity to show an unlimited number of horses. The following verbiage would be added to the end of Standing Rule 18:*

Unapproved Novice Horse classes held within or during an NCHA approved show may allow riders to show an unlimited number of horses. Unapproved classes based on "Rider Earnings" shall be limited to two (2) entries per rider. However, all NCHA rules regarding NonPro/Amateur ownership apply unless the class offered is a "Limited Rider" type class. (Note: Any unapproved Limited Rider Class cannot be in excess of \$2,000.) Any unapproved class that does not follow standard NCHA class rules and is not addressed in this paragraph must submit a copy of the class rules with the NCHA show application.

Discussion was held and NCHA Show Manager Dave Brian agreed that such change would be acceptable to him. **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to adopt the recommendation as written. There being no further discussion, the **MOTION PASSED.**

2. *Recommend that for the World Finals Open/Non Pro classes, a settler will be selected from the NCHA settler list.*

Discussion was held regarding the process for choosing a settler. Following this discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller that the

first rider in each set of the World Finals Open/Non Pro classes may choose a settler from the NCHA settler list. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. *Recommend for the Novice classes at the World Finals, all of the added money classes will adopt the NCHA standard payout. The jackpot classes will remain the same.*

After discussion, recommendation was **TABLED** and sent back to the Professional Trainers Committee for further clarification.

4. *Recommend that for the 2018 Summer Spectacular Classic Challenge, offer the Limited Open as a standalone class, with the option of having a combo (like the Limited Non Pro). This would mirror the Limited Non Pro with an entry fee of \$1,620 for the Limited Open and \$3,905 entry fee for the combo at the Summer show.*

The Executive Committee members noted that this issue had been addressed earlier in the meeting during the Limited Age Event Committee presentation and **NO FURTHER ACTION WAS REQUIRED.**

5. *Recommend to allow Non Pros the opportunity to compete in the Open Division utilizing a revolving door policy of \$100,000 in earnings over three years.*

Recommendation addressed and action taken earlier in meeting during the Limited Age Event Committee presentation.

6. *For the Competition Committee, the LAE Committee will be represented by Casey Green in the LAE segment and Gavin Jordan in the Weekend segment.*

Competition Committee Chair Election

President Wray led a discussion regarding the need for careful thought in electing the Chair and Vice Chair of this newly formed Committee and how critical the Competition Committee will be in researching, setting and implementing policy that will impact nearly every aspect of the NCHA. President Wray distributed to the Executive Committee members a handout entitled "*What Makes a Good Chairman?*" that discussed the topics of "Understanding the Business", "Preparing for the Future", "Working with the NCHA Leadership", "Making Tough Decisions", "Inspiring and Energizing Leadership", and "Committee Dedication." It was also reviewed that these two positions are non-voting positions with their key objective of facilitating and keeping the committee focused on their complete vetting process of the issues that come before them leading them to make the best recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding appropriate candidates for the positions as well as the necessity for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Competition Committee to resign from all other committee assignments to avoid any conflicts of interest and due to the demanding nature of the commitment required to be an efficient and effective facilitator for the committee. The

Executive Committee members agreed that anyone who is elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Competition Committee may not serve on any other committee in any capacity.

Ernie Beutenmiller shared his thoughts that Executive Committee members interested in being appointed to Chair and Vice Chair positions of the Competition Committee be nominated as a “ticket” or “slate” thereby allowing for succession planning. Several of the Executive Committee members again reiterated the enormous time commitment demanded of the Competition Committee officers, and the obligation to be dedicated to this committee and no other. At this point, nominations were made as follows:

Ernie Beutenmiller nominated Frank Merrill as Chair and Bob Tregemba as Vice Chair.

Kathy Daughn nominated Lindy Burch as Chair.

Rock Hedlund advised that he had been asked to nominate Jerry Louie as Chair.

J.B. McLamb inquired as to whether the Chair and Vice Chair would have a vote on the Competition Committee. The Executive Committee members agreed that they do not and that their role was primarily that of facilitators.

Discussion was held as to the outstanding backgrounds of all the candidates and that all four are excellent candidates.

MOTION was made by Tommy Neal that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Competition Committee not be allowed to serve on any other committee, sub-committee or task force in any capacity. **MOTION SECONDED** by Jack Hedlund. **MOTION PASSED.**

After further discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Phil Rapp that the election of Chair of the Competition Committee be opened. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ernie Beutenmiller made the **MOTION** that Frank Merrill be elected Chair of the Competition Committee. Motion was **SECONDED** by David Pilcher.

Kathy Daughn made the **MOTION** and **SECONDED** by Phil Rapp that Lindy Burch be elected Chair of the Competition Committee.

MOTION was made by Matt Miller and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal that the election for Chair of the Competition Committee be closed. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee members then cast votes for the election of the Chair of the Competition Committee. **Frank Merrill** was elected Chair.

MOTION was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to open the election for the Vice Chair of the Competition Committee.

MOTION was made by Ron Pietrafeso and **SECONDED** by Ronnie Smith that Bob Tregemba be elected as Vice Chair of the Competition Committee.

Rock Hedlund made the **MOTION** that Jerry Louie be elected Vice Chair of the Competition Committee. Motion was **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn.

MOTION was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Ernie Beutenmiller that the election for Vice Chair of the Competition Committee be closed. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Executive Committee members then cast votes for the election of the Vice Chair of the Competition Committee. **BOB TREGEMBA** was elected Vice Chair.

Judges Rules Committee

Chair Ernie Beutenmiller, Vice Chair Rock Hedlund and NCHA Director of Judges Russell McCord presented the committee's recommendations:

1. *Recommend the following changes to Standing 24 Rule having a NCHA Monitored System Rule and a separate Self-Adjusting Monitor System (SAM) Rule.*

Standing Rule 24. **These rules are applied while judging within a NCHA monitored event (in part):**

*A judge may not judge ~~his~~**their** parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or ~~his~~**their** spouse if they live in the same household; ~~or nor~~ **may they judge his** ~~their~~ employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that ~~he has~~ **they have** owned, exhibited, trained, managed or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding any NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.*

Standing Rule 24: **These rules are applied while judging within the Self-Adjusting Monitor System (SAM) (in part):**

*A judge may not judge ~~his~~**their** parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents or relatives ~~of either the judge or his spouse if they live in the same household, or~~ **nor** may they judge ~~his~~ **their** employer or employees. A judge may not judge a horse that ~~he has~~ **they have** owned, exhibited, trained, managed or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the NCHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.*

Following discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to accept the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Recommend to add the following examples to Judging Rule 1.

Example 6: After quitting a cow a horse starts to lie down, but the rider is able to keep the horse up on its feet. Ruling: No Penalty, but run content may be reduced in herd work depending upon the severity it takes to get the horse back to its feet.

Example 7: As the cutter enters the herd, the horse kicks out at the rider's spur with a hind leg. Ruling: No Penalty, however run content will be reduced in herd work.

Example 8: After the cutter quits a cow, the horse lays down with its legs underneath itself. Ruling: The run content may or may not be reduced.

Discussion was held. **MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by J.B. McLamb to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. *Recommend adding an Example #7 on Judging Rule 11, "A horse slips during a run to a point its stomach is on the arena floor, but maintains its working position. Ruling: No Penalty*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by J.B. McLamb that the recommendation be adopted as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. *Recommend restructuring the wording on Standing Rule 6.L, to clarify how many horses a judge is permitted to judge daily, and when a replacement judge is allowed.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by David Pilcher and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn to adopt Recommendation #4 and Recommendation #5 as presented. After a brief discussion, **MOTION PASSED.**

5. *Recommend changing the wording for Standing Rule 29.c, to clarify the maximum amount of horses a judge is permitted to judge daily to 160 maximum per day and when a substitute judge is allowed.*

SEE ABOVE

6. *Recommend adding the phrase, "and the rider has put their hand down" to Judging Rule 10, Example 7.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

7. *Recommend to remove the word "leaves" and replace it with the word "passes" to Judges Rule 9, – Example 6 – Note.*

After a brief discussion, Russell McCord requested that **NO ACTION** be taken on this recommendation.

8. *Recommend adding "up to \$1,000 added by themselves" to Standing Rule 27.A.*

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

9. *Recommend removing under Judging Rule 1, page 109, Example 5 – Note: While making a cut, no credit shall be given to the horse which is reluctant to take an indicated cow or which obviously resists its rider's choice.*

After discussion **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

10. *Recommend replacing the verbiage "horse abuse" to "excessive training" on Standing Rule 29.g and on Judging Rule 5.C.*

After a brief discussion, **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

11. *Recommend removal of wording in Judging Rule 8:
"While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse. Regardless of whether the reins are held high or low.*

MOTION was made by J.B. McLamb and **SECONDED** by Phil Rapp to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

12. *Recommend removing verbiage "similar device" and replace with "or any other mechanical device" to Standing Rule 35.A.1, page 62.*

After a lengthy discussion, that the committee decided to **TAKE NO ACTION** on the recommendation at this time.

13. *Recommend to make the following changes to Standing Rule 34 to clarify the responsible parties to monitor this rule.*

SEE ABOVE discussion regarding Recommendation #12. **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

14. *Recommend requiring the judges to sign the Zero Tolerance Policy Agreement for all Challenger Shows.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund that the recommendation be adopted as presented. **MOTION PASSED**

15. *Recommend to offer ten free Judges Workshops as a way of educating the judges on the Zero Tolerance Policy, Rule 35. The workshops would be held across the country during major LAE shows beginning with the 2017 Summer Show.*

After discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adopt the recommendation as presented.

16. *Recommend requiring videographers attend an annual workshop or webcast hosted by Ted Petit to ensure there will be quality DVD's produced to enable all judges and monitors to review runs efficiently.*

After considerable discussion, the Executive Committee members agreed that **NO ACTION** be taken regarding this recommendation.

17. *Recommend that guidelines be created (by Ernie Beutenmiller, Russell McCord and Ted Petit) for videographers to advise on creating those quality DVD's. These guidelines will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.*

NO ACTION REQUIRED OR TAKEN

18. *Recommend offering eight applicant clinics over the next two years aimed at getting new judges applicants who have earned a minimum of \$50,000. Russell McCord would teach at these clinics.*

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need to increase the number of approved judges and that offering applicant clinics could greatly assist in this goal. **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by J.B. McLamb to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

19. *Recommend adding a 1A judges rating as a way to promote more interest in applying for a judges card. The requirements: minimum of \$10,000 in earnings; able to judge all Challenger shows; and able to judge added money classes up to \$300.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Kathy Daughn and **SECONDED** by Ronnie Smith to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

20. *Recommend that any 2A judge that is to be dropped due to a valid protest will become a 1A pending the passage of that recommendation.*

After brief discussion, **MOTION** was made by J.B. McLamb and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn to adopt the recommendation as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by David Pilcher to adjourn the meeting.

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Promotion & Development Committee

Constance Jaeggi, Chair of the Promotion and Development Committee and Terry Bassett, NCHA Chief Marketing Officer, were in attendance to present the committee's recommendations.

1. *Recommend the adopting of a "ride any horse" rule for the \$1,000 Amateur Class.*

The Executive Committee members advised that this recommendation had been previously addressed and adopted.

NO ACTION REQUIRED.

Recommend raising that dollar amount to \$5,000 or another appropriate amount.

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by David Pilcher to **TABLE** this recommendation. **MOTION PASSED.** The Executive Committee recognized the objective of wanting to maximize the impact of this class for beginning participants, but had some initial concerns of making too broad a change at this time. The Executive Committee wanted to measure the success of the initial change to not require horse ownership before making any further changes at this time.

2. The P & D Committee is exploring different methods by which to leverage celebrity followers and fans. One option explored is a concept mirroring the Dancing with Stars format. Discussion ensued on how this would work and what the possible expense might be. The committee was asking for an initial level of interest in the concept to see if the committee should continue its formulation of more details and then update the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was very positive to the concept and encouraged the committee to continue its work on the formulation of the project.

NO ACTION REQUIRED at this time.

Ernie Beutenmiller posed a question as to how to bring more people into the fold and how to get more people in the saddle. Considerable discussion was held regarding this issue.

OPEN SHOW COMMITTEE

Skip Jones, Chair of the Open Show Committee, was in attendance to present the committee's recommendations.

1. *Recommend the addition of the following verbiage to the end of the Standing Rule 18:*

Unapproved Novice Horse classes held within or during an NCHA approved show may allow riders to show an unlimited number of horses. Unapproved classes based on "Rider Earnings" shall be limited to two (2) entries per rider. However, all NCHA rules regarding NonPro/Amateur ownership apply unless the class offered is a "Limited Rider" type class. (Note: Any unapproved class that does not follow standard NCHA class rules and is not addressed in this paragraph must submit a copy of the class rules with the NCHA show application.)

The Executive Committee members advised Mr. Jones that this recommendation had been adopted earlier in the meeting. **NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED.**

2. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to mirror the Judges Rule Committee recommendation on Standing Rule 34. The following changes to standing Rule 34 to clarify the responsible parties to monitor this rule:*

A contestant shall not enter any part of the arena (Working Area or Warm-Up Area) at a cutting horse contest approved or sponsored by the NCHA with any kind of training device, tack or equipment not permitted by the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contest Rule 16 on a horse.

- a. *A JUDGE must disqualify a contestant if they enter the area (WORKING AREA) with any such equipment, and all entry fees and/or premium payments to said contestant shall be forfeited. The bit may be inspected at the judge's discretion; and in the event of a violation of the rules is discovered, the violator MAY be subject to a fine and/or one (1) year suspension.*
- b. *No Horse shall enter the warm up area with any such equipment. All riders showing horses are deemed responsible for that horse under these rules. Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of show management and NCHA directors. Failure to comply will result in:*
 - i. *First offense: \$200 Fine*
 - ii. *Second offense: \$500 Fine*
 - iii. *Third and subsequent offenses with 120 months: 90 day suspension*
- c. *After the buzzer sounds, the cutter will discontinue working and ride his/her horse forward past the judges stand before dismounting, except to retrieve a lost article. Failure to comply will result in:*
 - i. *First offense -- \$200 fine*
 - ii. *Second offense -- \$500 fine*
 - iii. *Thirds and subsequent offenses within 12 months – 90 day suspension. The bit may be inspected at the judge's discretion; and in the event a violation of the rules is discovered, the violator MAY be subject to a one (1) year suspension.*
- d. *All cutting horses must be ridden astride.*

- e. *No rider nineteen (19) years of age or younger may be strapped into or tied down into a saddle in any manner while on the show grounds without special permission from the Executive Director.*

The Open Show Committee was advised that this recommendation had been raised early in these meetings and that no action was taken. More discussion ensued regarding the policing and monitoring of Rule 34 and where the ultimate responsibility lies. Ernie Beutenmiller shared the Judges Rules Committee's thinking on the issue with Mr. Jones. Once again, the Executive Committee members agreed that **NO ACTION BE TAKEN** on this recommendation. The Executive Committee members recommended that Jim Morris draft language addressing this issued and present it to the Executive Committee for discussion.

3. *Recommend for the Open/Non Pro classes at the World Finals to use main cattle settlers list from the coliseum with the first rider in each set selecting and confirming the cattle settler for his first set.*

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED. This issue was addressed earlier in the meeting.

4. *Recommend no change to the World Finals payout for the Novice classes.*

Executive Committee members advised that this recommendation had previously been sent back to committee.

5. *Recommendation relates to whether an Amateur class should be required class at a weekend show along with the Open and Non Pro Class. Recommend to allow show producers the opportunity to conduce a show in the way best suited for their area.*

The Executive Committee members recommended that this be left as is. **NO ACTION TAKEN.**

6. *Recommend changing the current rule for the National Championships: Current Rule – The high scoring 40% in the go-round will advance to the finals with a minimum of 15 and maximum of 26 horses qualify for the finals.
Recommend change to minimum of 10 to the Finals.*

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn that the recommendation be adopted. **MOTION PASSED.**

Approved LAE Show Producers Committee

NCHA Supervisor of Show Results, Linda Smith, represented this committee and presented recommendations to the Executive Committee:

1. *Recommend approval of the first six months of the 2018 schedule of premier LAE events.*

Linda Smith distributed a printout of the proposed show dates. Discussion was held regarding the dates of the 2018 Super Stakes. After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso to approve the proposed LAE show schedule for the first six months of 2018. **MOTION PASSED.**

Competition Committee – Further Discussion

The Executive Committee members further discussed the make-up, goals and derivation of Executive Committee members. Executive Committee members would be receiving the list of recommended individuals submitted to the Executive Committee, from standing committees and NCHA Regions since the convention, that would be considered by the Executive Committee for the final remaining spots to be appointed by the Executive Committee. Those appointments are expected to be discussed and filled at the next Executive Committee meeting. It was determined that once all nominees were in place that Cathy Cheugh will develop a bracket-type chart for determining the representatives ultimately seated on the Competition Committee.

Scottsdale Show

Ron Pietrafeso addressed the Executive Committee members regarding the viability of maintaining the Denver and the Scottsdale shows. Ron advised Executive Committee members that the inclusion of the Scottsdale show had resulted in a negative impact on the Denver show and that there is some concern that sponsors for the Denver show may chose not to continue sponsorship if the Scottsdale show continues to be held. Considerable and lengthy discussion ensued regarding the outcome of the Scottsdale show and whether results were such that it was not financially feasible to continue to produce a show in Scottsdale. Executive Committee members who are residents west of the Rocky Mountains were asked about the likelihood of attending one or the other or both. Discussion ensued. Chuck Smith advised that NCHA has a two year contract with Scottsdale and that to cancel the show likely will cause the organization to incur cancellation costs.

After lengthy further discussion, **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Matt Miller that Chuck Smith be directed to diligently attempt to cancel the Scottsdale show; that the organization concentrate on the Denver show; and leave the dates for the Denver show as they currently stand. Question was called and **MOTION PASSED.** Some of the Executive Committee members expressed the thought that the Western Nationals need to find a home and stay there.

NCHA Growth

Chuck Smith addressed the Executive Committee members advising them of a number of initiatives that under way aimed at growing the organization:

1. High School Rodeo Association. Chuck advised the Executive Committee members of his recent trip to the National High School Rodeo Finals. He noted that there is considerable interest on the part of this group in growing its participation in NCHA and that the group would like the NCHA to renew its sponsorship and to increase it if possible.

2. ACHA also is very interested in participating in the Challenger Program and Smith hopes this will result in NCHA growth.
3. Smith advised the Executive Committee members of the visit of the Australian Cutting Association president and interest on the part of Australia in participating in the Challenger Program.
4. Challenger Program to open doors. The soft launch of HUB should help tremendously with ease of access to necessary information.
5. Chuck advised the committee of his visit with Rod's and their interest in being a sponsor for awards for the Challenger Program Regional Final Standings. They will be produce engraved spurs for distribution to the Champion and Reserve Champion and include third through fifth place for all classes in each Region. Matching awards will also have to be provided for regional championship standings as well. Rod's will provide a cash sponsorship which will significantly reduce the cost of the awards. After discussion, **MOTION** was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Ron Pietrafeso that we pursue this agreement with Rod's. **MOTION PASSED.**

High School Rodeo Association

Discussion was held among the Executive Committee members regarding the popularity of the program. Ernie Beutenmiller relayed to the Executive Committee members how members can join this association online at no cost. Ron Pietrafeso commented on the possibility of offering free clinics for this constituency and possibly forming a committee to help the youth of this organization to purchase horses.

Protect the Harvest

Matt Miller led a discussion regarding NCHA's participation in the Protect the Harvest efforts. He noted that Rock Hedlund's Region had raised \$77.5k. Matt asked the Executive Committee members whether there may be a method by which to use NCHA PAC dollars to support Protect the Harvest. Tommy Neal advised the Executive Committee members that are fairly stringent procedures for setting up and using PAC dollars. Discussion was held as to whether it would be possible and/or advisable to add a notice on the NCHA membership form regarding how to donate to Protect the Harvest and directions to a link to the Protect the Harvest website. Suggestion was made that Jim Morris and representatives from the PAC meet to determine how to get this item on the NCHA membership form, and the feasibility of adding a link to NCHA website.

Stallion Owners/Breeders Committee

Gail Holmes, Chair of the Stallion Owners/Breeders Committee was in attendance to present the Committee's report.

Holmes shared with the Executive Committee members 3 drafts of videos that will be distributed to all Stallion owners hopefully garnering potential new members. It is the Committee's hope that the videos will be shown at NCHA events across the U.S. and cutting shows. The Executive Committee members expressed enthusiasm for and appreciation of the videos and efforts expended by the Stallion Owners Committee. It was suggested that it may be desirable to include "back shots" of the City of Fort Worth and/or including comments from the Mayor of Fort Worth.

Holmes then led a discussion on behalf of the Stallion Owners Committee of the possible creation of a separate entity for Stallion/Foal funds. She advised the Executive Committee members that this recommendation was not an attempt to separate from NCHA and that the Committee's goals were proper business practices and a forum for understanding the complexity of the program. After considerable discussion, Holmes was asked to present recommendations to the Executive Committee for discussion at the November meeting.

The recommendations of the Stallion Owners/Breeders Committee were presented:

1. *Recommend to the Executive Committee to review the Stallion and Foal Program Rules as follows:*
 - a. *Add language to require DNA testing for any foal to be nominated to the Stallion and Foal Program where lineage is in question if the foal can't be registered through any equine registry to verify lineage. DNA results would need to be submitted with the foal nomination form for the nomination to be accepted.*

The Unregistered Horse paperwork currently used by the NCHA Show Department would also be required. This paperwork requires pictures of the foal and a veterinary statement validating the information provided.

- b. *Modify the following language from Section A#4 in the current version of the rules;*

Owner of Foal at time of Nomination will be the "Nominator" ~~and remain the "Nominator unless a Foal Transfer Form and Fee is submitted/received by NCHA.~~

After discussion, **MOTION** was made by David Pilcher and **SECONDED** by Tommy Neal to adopt the recommendations (a) and (b) as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

National High School Rodeo Association

James Higginbotham, President of the National High School Rodeo Association, was present to talk with the Executive Committee members about the Association's efforts on behalf of the youth involved in this group. He expressed his deep appreciation, and the Association's appreciation, for the NCHA support, both financial and otherwise. Mr. Higginbotham expressed the Association's hope that NCHA will continue its financial support at the \$20,000 level, and that

hopefully NCHA could increase that amount in order to help defray increasing costs because of increased participation, specifically citing the expense for judges.

The Executive Committee members discussed with Mr. Higginbotham how both organizations could best take advantage of the ongoing association. Discussion was held regarding the benefits of NCHA having a booth at the various NHSRA events and the potential benefits derived from having an NCHA representative on the grounds.

Chuck Smith recommended increasing NCHA sponsorship to \$25,000 to help cover the cost of one judge. **MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED BY** Jack Holt to increase the NCHA sponsorship for NHSRA to \$25,000 for the next three years. After discussion, **MOTION PASSED.**

Further discussion ensued regarding advising the NHSRA of NCHA show dates in order to reduce the possibility of having conflicting show dates. Chuck Smith indicated that we will advise the group of NCHA show dates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION was made by Phil Rapp and **SECONDED** by Dave Pilcher to move the meeting into executive session.

MOTION was made by J.B. McLamb and **SECONDED** by Jack Holt to move the meeting into regular session.

NCHA Department Head Reports

NCHA Chief Marketing Officer, Terry Bassett, and Rebecca Brian Finley were present to update the Executive Committee members on the Marketing Department efforts.

Discussion was held as to the status of marketing efforts for the Summer Spectacular. The Saturday evening event featuring Cowtown Cuts Loose garnered approximately 200-250 attendees. Conversation centered on whether the low attendance numbers were a result of the timing of the event, i.e., occurring while final rounds were happening in the arena. Discussion was held regarding devising a better matrix for measuring success of such events. Phil Rapp noted that Louis Baldwin, of Waco Bend, sponsor of the event, was extremely pleased with the efforts expended on behalf of NCHA. Ms. Finley reminded the Executive Committee members that this is 50th Anniversary for the upcoming Futurity and led a discussion regarding what, if any, extra effort needed to be given to making this event even more remarkable than usual. The Executive Committee members suggested that Mr. Bassett and Ms. Finley provide recommendations for committee to review.

Discussion then turned to in-kind sponsorships and some of the difficulties encountered lately with the process, specifically saddles. The Executive Committee members discussed how best to handle the awarding of saddles as prizes in the future given some of the problems. Executive Committee members wondered what would happen if we did not have a sponsor for the saddle

awards, i.e., would NCHA members assume saddles would continue to be awarded, and if so, what cost would be incurred by the NCHA to continue the practice. Discussion was also held regarding the lag time in saddle sponsors actually getting the saddles to the winners and it was noted that in some cases, winners have waited as much as 18 months to receive the saddle.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to a process by which the organization could better track the return on investment of marketing dollars spent. It was suggested and discussed that there needs to be a Task Force to examine all marketing contracts and provide recommendations at the November Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee members appointed Matt Miller, Tatum Rice and Tommy Neal to comprise the Task Force. The Task Force is to examine all awards – bits, bridles, saddles – everything.

Mr. Bassett introduced Patty Tyberg of Morris Media to discuss with the Executive Committee members proposed plans for updating Chatter and ways to reduce the production cost of the publication. Ms. Tyberg indicated that there will be an actual presentation of the proposed changes soon for the Executive Committee members to see.

Discussion was held regarding the status of Box Seats. Mr. Bassett distributed to the Executive Committee members a handout outlining a brief history of how the boxes were purchased, how boxes were redistributed should a box holder relinquish a box or die.

After discussion, it was determined that with respect to Box Seats:

- 1. NCHA Box Seats will be sold on an annual basis with the previous year's owner having first right of refusal to renew. The name listed as a Box Seat Holder ("BSH") must be a current member of the NCHA.*
- 2. Annual renewal of Box Seats must be confirmed in writing or by email.*
- 3. Box Seat Holders are permitted to sell their boxes to others but the selling Box Seat Holder is responsible for paying NCHA for the Box Seats.*
- 4. If Box Seats are not renewed, the Box Seats will be offered to the next name, with a current membership, on the waiting list. If the person(s) next on the list refuses to purchase the available tickets the person(s) name goes back on the bottom of the list.*
- 5. Upon the death of a Box Seat Holder, his or her Box Seats can be retained by the immediate family (spouse or surviving children). Box Seats may NOT be "handed down" or signed over to other relatives or associates. If a box is listed under a company or farm name, the person signing the membership application is considered the Box Seat Holder.*

After further discussion, **MOTION** as made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund that the NCHA Box Seats Policy be adopted as outlined above. **MOTION PASSED.**

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, a **MOTION** was made by Tommy Neal and **SECONDED** by Kathy Daughn that the meeting be adjourned. **MOTION PASSED.**