

**NCHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2020  
NCHA OFFICE – FORT WORTH, TX**

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Cutting Horse Association was held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the NCHA Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

Those present were: President Ron Pietrafeso, President-Elect Steve Norris, Vice President Ora Diehl, Ernie Beutenmiller, Rock Hedlund, Skip Jones, Tatum Rice, Tommy Neal, Sharon Overstreet, Lachlan Perks, Byron Green, Ronnie Smith and Kristen York. Matt Miller was not available for this meeting.

Also present from NCHA were: NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn, Lance Bryson, Shianne Megel, Julie Davis and Cathy Marie Aleff.

NCHA Legal Counsel Jim Morris was also present for a portion of this meeting Monday afternoon.

President Ron Pietrafeso called the meeting to order at 8:00AM and opened with prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** was made by Ernie Beutenmiller and **SECONDED** by Steve Norris to approve the minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

**SHOW DEPARTMENT – SHIANNE MEGEL**

Super Stakes Schedule

Shianne Megel, Director of Shows addressed the Executive Committee with a revised draft version of the Super Stakes schedule with the recommendations from the EC call on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This led to number of discussions and a suggestion was made to consider change with the 4yo Amateur class.

**MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to approve the proposed draft of the Super Stakes schedule. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

President Ron Pietrafeso thanked Shianne for her efforts on this schedule and suggested that in the near future we should think about discussing how to shorten the show schedules.

As entries come in; adjustments could happen to the number of days. It will not affect the order of the classes approved today; they will stay in order. If any days are to be removed with these adjustments, it will come off the beginning of the show. Schedule will be posted later today.

Paula Abney is also working on options to present to the vendors on their show schedule.

## Leveling Clarifications

Shianne Megel, Director of Shows provided the Executive Committee with an explanation of the leveling clarifications:

### PART ONE

- Currently \$250K cap the way it is written in our rulebook is not consistent with the posted leveling rules. It is recommended by staff to proceed with the current Amateur eligibility calculation which is LAE Non Pro and Open money that excludes shows \$10K or less in added money.

### PART TWO

- In Standing Rule 51 and the leveling rules, staff's recommendation to define exclusively for remaining of 2020 point year only. At the end of the year, when that cap is evaluated, we have a plan moving forward with further detail.

Leveling rules will be implemented as for members under age 60, once you reach that \$250K leveling cap, you have to choose which class you will continue to compete in. In the Amateur rules, ages 60-69 can factor back to the Unlimited Amateur. In our new leveling format, the Unlimited Amateur is the Amateur which will allow that competitor to show in a both LAE Non Pro and LAE Unlimited Amateur for the leveling show Amateur competition. Members ages 70 and above will have that senior exception.

**MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Kristen York to approve PART ONE of these leveling clarifications. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Kristen York to approve PART TWO of these leveling clarifications. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## OUTSTANDING ISSUES

### Standing Rule 51.a.1

As an outstanding issue from the August Executive Committee Meeting, the Competition Committee presented a revision to Standing Rule 51.a.1 which outlines the changes below:

**Standing Rule 51.a.1:** A Non-Professional in this Association is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration to work in any manner in the following activities on the premises of a cutting horse training operation: showing, training or assisting in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider. For purposes of this rule, a cutting horse training operation is any facility where cutting horses are trained. Any person who has trained horses astride in any equine discipline **cattle/cow horse events** for direct or indirect remuneration **or is a Hall of Fame equine trainer in any discipline** shall be considered a professional by this Association, with the exception of those who have been granted a change of status. **Please review current exception rules.**

~~A Non-Professional in this Association may not train horses in any equine discipline.~~

1. This Association does not consider that professional cutting

horse trainers' spouses who do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle receive indirect remuneration.

2. Employees on a cutting horse training operation may be considered non-professionals by this Association provided they do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle.

3. Non-Professional or Amateur members may show a family owned horse, as defined in Standing Rule 51.a.4.

4. Premium money won shall not be considered remuneration so long as all winnings are returned to the individual Non-Professional who competed on the horse.

5. Any corporation, partnership, ranch, farm or other business entity relating to ownership of cutting horses by an NCHA

Non Professional must be totally owned by the Non-Professional or his immediate family as defined in Rule 51.a.4.

***6. If a Non-Professional is a trainer in another discipline, they may never be granted Amateur status. Family and children of such individuals must meet existing Amateur exception rules and apply for Amateur status through the Non-Professional/Amateur review process before being granted an Amateur card.***

#### **Exception**

Non-Professional 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception. (Example If you apply under the 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception rule, it must have been more than 3 years and your earnings must be less than \$100,000). A person applying for Non-Professional classification under this rule shall obtain a Non-Pro 3-Year/\$100,000 Exception Application from the NCHA membership department, complete the application, have it notarized and signed by a director and return the application to the NCHA office for review by the Non-Pro Amateur Review Committee. In addition, the person shall provide to the NCHA any and all additional information as the NCHA shall request related to documenting the status of the person applying under this rule.

A person who is currently prevented from being classified as a Non-Professional because they have at some point in their life trained cutting horses (as defined in the NCHA Rule Book) or any person who has trained horses astride in ~~any equine discipline~~ **cattle/cow horse** events can regain their Non-Professional classification if:

A. The person has not performed any duties or acts which could be considered as "training of cutting horses", or **cow horses** of other ~~equine disciplines~~ nor has the person received any remuneration, direct or indirect, for performing the duties or activities normally associated with any phase of training **cutting or cow** horses for the three-year period prior to the date of the application for Non Professional classification under this provision; and,

B. The person has not won in their lifetime more than \$100,000 in combined open earnings from NCHA events and open earnings from any other equine discipline.

- The exception will be based on all open earnings in all disciplines as reported by Equistat.
- Family and children of change of status individuals must meet existing Amateur exception rules and apply for Amateur status through the exception application process.
- Exception applicants will be eligible for any class they qualify for as a Non-Pro, including the Limited Non-Pro.

**MOTION** was made by Tatum Rice and **SECONDED** by Rock Hedlund to approve the revision of Standing Rule 51.a.1 with minor edits recommended as provided above. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Standing Rule 51.a.3

Back in August, the Competition Committee presented a revision to Standing Rule 51.a.3 which outlines the changes below:

**Standing Rule 51.a.3:** Any person who has shown, trained, or assisted in training a cutting horse or cutting horse rider or trained horses astride in ~~any equine discipline~~ *cow horse events* for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered a professional by this Association, with the exception of those who have been granted a change of status since January 1, 1997, from professional to non-professional. A Change of Status from Professional to Non-Professional will be allowed to have the benefit of being a non-pro without restrictions. *An individual who has been granted Non-Professional status but Still trains horses astride is considered a professional for purposes of Determining Amateur status for their family members.*

**MOTION** was made by Kristen York and **SECONDED** by Steve Norris to approve the revision of Standing Rule 51.a.3 as provided above. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Sharing of Membership Data

Julie Davis, Director of Membership brought forth the sharing of membership data with the explanation of the process and procedure the NCHA office and legal recommends when a member or affiliate requests data. An executed formal request form will be required emphasizing the intent to utilize data for the record and a measure to hold that individual accountable.

**MOTION** was made by Lach Perks and **SECONDED** by Tatum Rice to approve the proposed procedure and process for membership data requests as recommended by staff and approved by legal, effective immediately. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Webcast Blackout

President Ron Pietrafeso recommends the Executive Committee consider a plan to implement a webcast blackout option for roughly a 300 mile radius for semi-finals and finals during our Triple

Crown events. Membership discount would be a consideration. NCHA Director Jay Winborn recommends no charges to be incurred for this service.

**The Executive Committee TABLED this recommendation for a webcast blackout rule for semi-finals and finals only until staff has an opportunity research and work on an implementation plan.**

#### Chris Benedict's Proposal

President Ron Pietrafeso asked for the consideration of the Executive Committee to hear on a case by case basis for Amateur and Non Pro membership status. Proposal recommends that after submitted to Amateur/Non Pro Review Committee is heard, the final decision is made by the Executive Director.

**The Executive Committee TABLED this recommendation for discussion at 2020 NCHA Convention.**

#### Rule Change Form

NCHA Staff notified the Executive Committee that the rule change form will be brought back into production for any proposed rule changes made as a recommendation from the standing committees during the 2020 NCHA Convention.

#### Agenda Item Form

NCHA Staff presented the Executive Committee with an agenda item procedure form that will be implemented for all standing committee agendas during the 2020 NCHA Convention.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** was made by Rock Hedlund and **SECONDED** by Skip Jones to move the meeting into executive session to discuss NCHA governance. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the committee, **MOTION** was made by Skip Jones and **SECONDED** by Lach Perks to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**