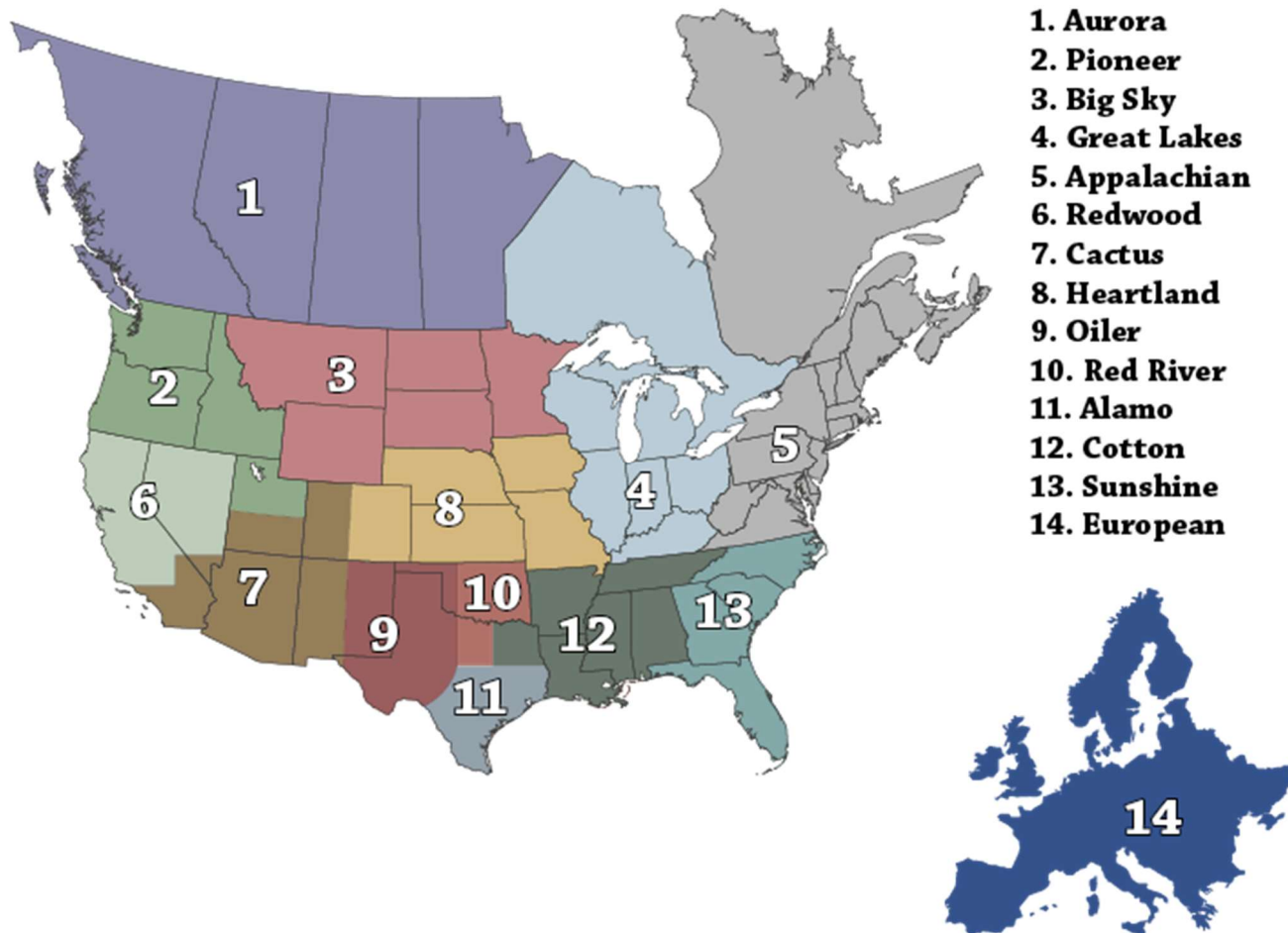




## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### 2023 POINT YEAR

The NCHA Circuit Championships are a finale show that celebrates the weekend cutter. Towards the end of the NCHA point year, each of NCHA's fourteen (14) circuits host a spectacular Circuit Championships event where cutters compete can earn double points, top-notch prizes and added money. Attending your local NCHA Circuit Championships is an important component when qualifying for the National Circuit Championships and calculating circuit year-end standings.





## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **2023 POINT YEAR**

#### **1. Event Overview**

- a. Circuit Championships must be held prior to the conclusion of the point year, the second Sunday before Thanksgiving.
- b. The point-year WILL continue for year end standings until the second Sunday before Thanksgiving. Horses and/or riders may continue to earn points following the conclusion of their respective Circuit Championships, depending on the event date(s).
- c. Circuit Championships will be at least one (1) but no more than two (2) go rounds consisting of a full slate of NCHA-approved classes, including the Unlimited Amateur, with a working or non-working finals.

#### **2. Host Selection Process**

- a. Interested NCHA affiliates and show producers must submit their NCHA Circuit Championships proposal by **March 31, 2023**. If more than one request for proposal is received within a circuit, in-circuit NCHA regional directors' feedback will be taken into consideration before a final selection has been made by the NCHA office.
  - i. Preference will be given to NCHA affiliates.
- b. Cancellation / Postponement - If a selected host must postpone or cancel their NCHA Circuit Championships event due to an extreme, unforeseen circumstance, the host must immediately notify the NCHA office.
  - i. In the event of cancellation, NCHA will immediately give all in-circuit affiliates and/or show producers the opportunity to host the event prior to the end of the point year. Selection of a new host will be done in the same method as the original selection.
    1. Under no circumstances will the event be approved to conclude after the second Sunday before Thanksgiving.
  - ii. In all instances, the NCHA office will have the final approval of any change of event host and dates.

#### **3. Circuit Championships Qualification**

- a. Non-Youth classes: Qualifying cut-off date dates are determined for each circuit based on the dates of the respective Circuit Championships, no less than three weeks prior to the start of each Circuit Championships show. All points earned by riders / horses after the qualifying cut-off date to the end of the point year will count



## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### 2023 POINT YEAR

toward circuit year end standings and National Circuit Championships qualification – both will NOT change the list of Circuit Championships qualified horses / riders.

1. The top 30 (plus ties) in non-youth classes are “Circuit Championships Qualified.”
  - b. Youth classes: the Circuit Championships are open to all youth members in their designated circuit regardless of current standings.
  - c. All classes: Qualifiers competing at the Circuit Championships must participate in all go rounds to advance to the working or non-working finals.
4. Host Rules
- a. Show Structure
    - i. A minimum of one go round but no more than two go rounds consisting of the full-slate of NCHA-approved classes will receive single points based on the number of circuit championships qualified entries shown.
    - ii. A working or non-working finals consisting of the full-slate of NCHA-approved classes will receive double points based on the number of circuit championships qualified entries in the working or non-working finals, excluding youth classes.
    - iii. All monies and prizes in the Circuit Championships classes shall be awarded based on the placings in the working or non-working finals (average of go rounds). No go round monies shall be paid.
    - iv. Selected host may not offer limited aged show(s) in conjunction with Circuit Championships.
    - v. Circuit Championships are not eligible to receive joint circuit approval.
    - vi. If Circuit Championships are held in conjunction with a Weekend Championship or Challenger event, Circuit Championships horses and/or riders must be allowed to enter only the Circuit Championships for which they qualified. A qualified Circuit Championships competitor cannot be forced to enter the concurrent Weekend Championships or Challenger show.
  - b. Circuit Points in Circuit Championship-designated show(s)
    - i. Non-Youth Classes
      1. Horses and/or riders competing in their automatically assigned or designated circuit will receive points outlined above.



## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **2023 POINT YEAR**

2. Out-of-circuit horses and/or riders will receive zero circuit points and will not be eligible for awards or payouts awarded in the working or non-working finals.
3. See National Circuit Program rules for additional information on how circuit points are awarded.

#### **ii. Youth Classes**

1. No double points will be awarded.
2. Youth riders will not earn NYCHA points in the go rounds and working or non-working finals at Circuit Championships – youth compete for prizes and scholarships (if sponsors are obtained). Placings in the working or non-working finals will not count towards NYCHA World Finals Standings.
3. Youth riders will earn NYCHA points if approved Championship or Challenger shows are held in conjunction with the Circuit Championships.

#### **c. Media / Marketing**

- i. Banners and/or artwork provided by NCHA must be displayed in the competition arena(s) and prominent areas when necessary.
- ii. Social Media – Hosts and attendees are encouraged to tag #NCHACircuitChampionships as much as possible on social media platforms before, during and after the event.
- iii. All digital photos of each Circuit Championships must be submitted to the NCHA communications department following the event. Additional marketing materials may be needed by NCHA to promote each Circuit Championships.

#### **d. Awards / Added Money**

- i. Added Money - NCHA will provide \$4,000 to the selected host to be used as added money.
  1. Money can only be used in classes in the designated Circuit Championships working or non-working finals.
  2. Added money may not exceed \$1,000 for any one class.



## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### 2023 POINT YEAR

- ii. Production Stipend – NCHA will provide \$4,000 to the selected host to be used to offset production costs of the Circuit Championships.
- iii. Awards – NCHA will provide awards for the top three placings of the working or non-working finals for each of the 13 NCHA-approved classes as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Gist Championship Buckle
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Championship Vest
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Gist Reserve Championship Buckle
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Reserve Championship Vest
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Custom Wood Boot Jack
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Award Headstall

#### e. Award Calculation

- i. All awards will be given based on a composite score – not points. Out-of-circuit riders / horses are not eligible for awards.
  - 1. Exhibitors/Horses must walk to the herd and receive a minimum score of 60 in their respective class both days to receive awards. Zero scores do not count.
  - 2. In rider classes, exhibitors do not need to show the same horse both days to be eligible for awards. In horse classes, horses need not be exhibited by the same rider both days to be eligible for awards.
  - 3. For novice non-pro horse classes: \$25,000 Novice Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro both horse and rider must have the same circuit designation.

#### f. National Circuit Championships Qualification

- i. Qualification for Non-Youth classes:
  - 1. A rider / horse may only receive one qualification per class.



## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **2023 POINT YEAR**

- i. The champions and reserve champions (plus ties) from each of the working or non-working finals, excluding youth classes, may qualify to compete at the National Circuit Championships. See National Circuit Program rules for exclusions.
- ii. Qualification for Youth classes:
  - 1. The National Circuit Championship is open to all current youth members regardless of final placing at the Circuit Championships.