

NCHA NATIONAL CIRCUIT PROGRAM POLICY & RULES

The National Circuit Program consists of twelve geographic circuits where cutters can compete for points at each weekend competition approved by the NCHA. Every NCHA weekend show, both **NCHA Championship Circuit Shows** and **NCHA Circuit Shows**, is a point-paying circuit show. A contestant's total combined points from both types of shows are tracked by NCHA and serve as the basis for qualifying for each of the 12 circuits' Circuit Finals Show. At the end of the circuit point year, each of the 12 circuits will hold a NCHA Circuit Finals Show. Beginning with the 2022 points year, each Circuit Finals Show will serve as a qualifying venue for a National Circuit Finals. The two types of weekend shows are defined as:

NCHA CHAMPIONSHIP CIRCUIT SHOWS: All approved NCHA weekend shows paying \$200 or more in added money in at least the Open and Non-Pro classes are circuit points paying NCHA Championship Circuit Shows and are governed by the rules applicable to approved NCHA weekend shows, as these rules are set forth in the NCHA Rulebook. Money earnings used to determine standings or qualification for the NCHA World Champion Horse or Rider ("the World Finals") is counted only at shows bearing the title "NCHA Championship Circuit Show". Points earned in NCHA-approved classes at NCHA Championship Circuit Shows do count toward Circuit Finals standings in those classes.

NCHA CIRCUIT SHOWS: Jackpot shows offering NCHA-approved classes and shows offering less than \$200.00 added in their NCHA-approved classes are classified as "NCHA Circuit Shows". Money earned in these shows is not used to determine standings or qualification for the NCHA World Champion Horse or Rider ("the World Finals"). Points earned in these shows' NCHA-approved classes do count toward Circuit Finals standings in those classes.

NCHA CHAMPIONSHIP CIRCUIT SHOW RULES

1. All approved NCHA weekend shows paying \$200 or more in added money in at least the Open and Non-Pro classes are circuit points-paying NCHA Championship Circuit Shows and are governed by the rules applicable to approved NCHA weekend shows, as these rules are set forth in the NCHA Rulebook. These rules include but are not limited to:
 - a. The show must be scheduled with an Open horse and rider class paying not less than \$200 in added purse and must offer parity of purses in an accompanying Non-Professional class.
 - b. Three head of fresh cattle per entry must be provided in the Open and Non-Pro classes at shows with \$750 or more in added money.
 - c. All NCHA Championship Circuit shows are required to be video recorded. All videographers must be fully credentialed. This video must be retained by the show sponsor for thirty (30) days after the date of the event where videoing occurred and shall be available to NCHA upon request. If Self Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS) is in place, adequate equipment must be available. A judge should be allowed to review the video in a place where he/she is completely separated from the contestants.
2. In all Championship Circuit cutting horse shows approved by the NCHA, eight percent (8%) of the total entry fees paid in the contest shall be deducted by the Show Management and forwarded to the NCHA with a Circuit Approval fee of \$100.00. This fee may not be added to the entry fee.

3. A \$3.00 NCHA National Circuit fee per entry in approved circuit points-paying classes must be submitted to NCHA with show results. This fee may be added to the entry fee. This fee must be paid for each entry in each approved circuit points-paying class, regardless of whether or not a competitor's designated circuit is the circuit in which the NCHA National Circuit Show is held.
4. Standings and Eligibility
 - a. Point and money earnings in NCHA Championship Circuit Shows count towards:
 - World Standings (Money) - **YES**
 - Senior World Tour (Points per Sr. Program) - **YES**
 - Lifetime Earnings (Money) - **YES**
 - Horse and Rider Eligibility (Money) - **YES**
 - Circuit Standings (Points per Circuit Program; see below) - **YES**

NCHA CIRCUIT SHOW RULES

1. To be an approved NCHA Circuit Show, the fully completed and signed show application form must be received in the NCHA office no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the closing date of entry for the show involved. All show secretaries must be current NCHA members.
2. Applicants for approval of NCHA Circuit Shows may be NCHA Affiliates, or may be individuals, managers, or organizations able to meet the pertinent requirements of these rules including the financial responsibility requirements set out for NCHA approval.
3. NCHA Membership Requirements
 - a. All owners and riders must be members in good standing with NCHA to compete at an approved show.
 - b. Free memberships are available to new members and those whose membership has lapsed three or more years.
4. Results and Approval Fees
 - a. Show results must be submitted with a \$200.00 Circuit Show fee to NCHA. This fee may not be added to the entry fee.
 - b. A \$3.00 National Circuit fee per entry on approved circuit points-paying classes must to be submitted to NCHA with show results. This fee may be added to the entry fee. This fee must be paid for each entry in each approved circuit points-paying class, regardless of whether or not a competitor's designated circuit is the circuit in which the NCHA Circuit Show is held.
5. Standings and Eligibility
 - a. Point and money earnings in NCHA Circuit Shows count towards:
 - World Standings (Money) - **NO**
 - Senior World Tour (Points per Sr. Program) - **YES**
 - Lifetime Earnings (Money) - **YES**
 - Horse and Rider Eligibility (Money) - **YES**
 - Circuit Standings (Points per Circuit Program; see below) - **YES**

6. Classes

- a. An approved NCHA Circuit Show must offer at least one and may offer any combination of the following as NCHA Circuit Show approved classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice, \$5,000 Novice, \$25,000 Novice Non-Pro, \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro, Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider, Senior Youth, Junior Youth.
- b. Parity of Purses in the Open and the Non-Pro is not required. Any NCHA-approved class can be jackpot or may offer \$1 to \$199 in added money.
- c. An approved NCHA Circuit Show may offer up to four (4) unapproved classes.

7. Judges

- a. A show may be approved without naming a judge or judges; however, the judge or judges, that are used, must be named a minimum of seven days (7) prior to the closing date of entries.
- b. An NCHA-approved judge is mandatory for any NCHA-approved class with added money. Unapproved judges must be members in good standing for the last three (3) years.
- c. The judge protest system is not in place.
- d. Judges must abide by the Rule 35 "Zero Tolerance Policy".

8. Secretary

- a. The show secretary must be an NCHA member in good standing.
- b. A NCHA-approved secretary is recommended but is not mandatory.

9. Video

- a. Video is required.
- b. Any standard video equipment with reasonable video and audio clarity is acceptable.
- c. Video is only required to be submitted upon a specific request by NCHA to monitor Rule 35 violations.
- d. Show management must keep video for 180 days.

10. Cattle

- a. The entry fee may be lower than the cattle charge, to give show producers flexibility and to help make participation more affordable for cutters.
- b. The 2½ minute clock is recommended, but the two cows/two minutes system is optional.

11. Money Payout

- a. NCHA payout is recommended, but not mandatory.

All Standing Rules and other guidelines which apply to NCHA Approved Events are applied to Circuit Shows unless otherwise noted above.

RULES COMMON TO BOTH NCHA CHAMPIONSHIP CIRCUIT SHOWS & NCHA CIRCUIT SHOWS

1. Circuit Points

- a. Points shall be awarded according to the number of horses in the class up to ten. Examples: Any class with more than 10 horses shown will award points to the first ten placements in the class on a declining scale of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points). A class with 7 horses shown will award points to all 7 placements on a declining scale of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points (except scores of zero will earn no points).

HORSES IN CONTEST	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
3	3	2	1								
4	4	3	2	1							
5	5	4	3	2	1						
6	6	5	4	3	2	1					
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
10+	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

- b. In the instance of a tie, each contestant in the tie will be awarded the points allocated for the highest placement within the tie. Thus, for example, if there is a tie for second and third in a class in which 10 horses are shown, the class winner receives 10 points, the two contestants tied for second and third each receive 9 points, the fourth place contestant receives 7 points, and placements fifth through tenth with non-zero scores receive 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points, respectively. Scores of zero receive no points.
- c. Points are based on actual number of horses shown (i.e. scratches are excluded).

2. Circuit Designation

- a. Each contestant designates a single “home” circuit in which that contestant desires to accumulate circuit points for purposes of circuit standings and possible qualification for Circuit Finals.
- b. Each contestant may select their desired home circuit. Unless otherwise designated by a contestant, each contestant’s home circuit is the circuit in which the contestant’s NCHA membership address is recorded. A different home circuit may be selected by, and takes effect upon, notifying the NCHA.
- c. A contestant’s circuit points are accumulated for purposes of circuit standings and possible qualification for Circuit Finals only in the designated home circuit of that contestant. If a contestant changes their designated circuit in a given point year, any circuit points accumulated in any previously designated home circuit are not transferable and will be set back to zero upon the change of designation.
- d. If a contestant competes “out of circuit” and places in the top ten in a class at a NCHA Championship Circuit Show or NCHA Circuit Show which does not award points in that contestant’s designated home circuit, the contestant accumulates points from that class in

neither the circuit(s) in which the show in question awards points nor the contestant's home circuit. The "in-circuit" competitors in such a class receive points matching their placement in the class according to the 10, 9, 8, 7,... scale (set out above) regardless of where any "out-of-circuit" contestant places on that scale. Thus, for example, if an "out-of-circuit" contestant in a 12-horse class places second in the class and all other contestants placing first and third through tenth are "in-circuit", those other contestants receive 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively. Placements with scores of zero, placements by "out-of-circuit" contestants, and placements outside of the top ten placements receive no points in any circuit.

3. Youth

- a. The youth circuit point year begins June 1st and ends May 31st. At the end of the NYCHA point year, the top 30 in each division will be invited to compete at the Circuit Finals (held in the fall).
- b. A rider's eligibility is determined as of June 1st.
- c. The circuit finals will not be a point earning NYCHA show. Youth exhibitors will compete at each circuit finals for prizes and if sponsors are obtained, scholarships. The circuit finals calculations will not count towards NYCHA World Finals standings.
- d. Since the 2021 NYCHA point year has already started, the NCHA Circuit Finals will be open entry with no qualification so long as the exhibitor is designated for that circuit. The 2022 Circuit Finals will be open to the top 30 youth in the circuit point standings (June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022)

4. Circuit Finals Show

- a. Contestants finishing their designated circuit's points year in the top 30 of that circuit's standings qualify for that circuit's Circuit Finals Show.
- b. For purposes of Circuit Finals qualification, standings in a circuit are based upon that year's accumulated in-circuit points of only the contestants for whom the circuit is those contestants' designated "home" circuit as of the end of the circuit's points year. Accumulated in-circuit points may be earned by a contestant in both in-circuit NCHA Championship Circuit Shows and/or in-circuit NCHA Circuit Shows
- c. The dates, location, producer, and format of each circuit's Circuit Finals Show will be determined by NCHA based upon bids submitted to NCHA by qualified affiliates, show managers, or other organizations and shall be held as close as feasible to the end of the World Finals points year. Bids shall be submitted for consideration by NCHA on the NCHA's Circuit Finals Bid Solicitation Form. See the Form for bidder qualifications and bid requirements.
- d. Beginning with the 2022 points year, the 12 Circuit Finals Shows will serve as qualifying venues for the NCHA National Circuit Finals, with 10 contestants from each circuit advancing to the National Circuit Finals. The location, date, and format of the National Circuit Finals are to be determined prior to the start of the 2022 points year.