

2022 NCHA National Circuit Program – Secretary Packet

The National Circuit Program consists of 13 geographic circuits. Cutters earn points toward year end awards by competing in NCHA approved weekend competitions. Both types of approved weekend shows (**NCHA Championship Weekend Shows** and **NCHA Challenger Shows**), award circuit points. A cutter's points from both types of shows are combined and tracked by NCHA. Total points in a circuit are used to award year end titles and also to determine qualifying for each circuit's "Circuit Finals" show.

What's New in 2022?

1. Revised circuit program Map
2. Circuit/Challenger show names
3. Joint circuit approval criteria
4. Addition of *NCHA Weekend*
5. Double points at circuit finals

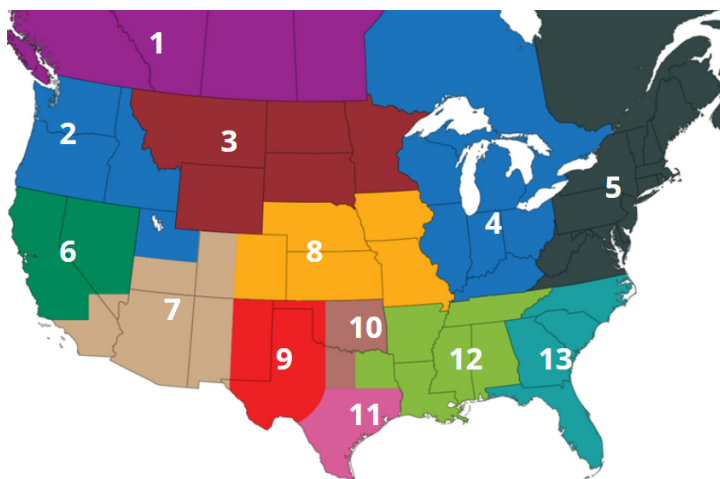
What stays the same from 2021?

1. Circuit designations
2. Point schedule
3. Circuit finals event
4. Circuit finals RFP

What is New in 2022?

1. Revised Circuit Program Map

- a. Addition of the Pioneer Circuit
- b. Redwood Circuit now includes parts of central California
- c. Ontario moves to the Great Lakes Circuit



1. Aurora
2. Pioneer
3. Big Sky
4. Great Lakes
5. Appalachian
6. Redwood
7. Cactus
8. Heartland
9. Oiler
10. Red River
11. Alamo
12. Cotton
13. Sunshine

2. Circuit Shows/ Challenger Show Names

In 2021, shows offering less than \$200 in added money were called "Circuit Shows." To eliminate confusion, in 2022, these shows will be called "Challenger Shows." The only change is the name of this type of show.

3. Joint Circuit Approval Criteria

Championship Weekend shows or Challenger shows that meet certain criteria may apply for approval in multiple circuits. Joint approval of any show is at the sole discretion of the NCHA Director of Shows and will only be considered if all the following criteria are met:

- a. The circuits share a border.
- b. The show is held within 150 air miles from secondary circuit's border.
- c. The joint approval application is submitted within the 40-day approval period required for NCHA championship weekend shows.
- d. A Letter of consent from impacted affiliate in the secondary circuit is received.
- e. A Letter of consent from an NCHA director in the secondary circuit is received.

To request a joint circuit show approval, please submit a completed application form, found at nchacutting.com, and all additional supporting documents with the primary show application.

4. NCHA Weekend

NCHA Weekend is a provision of the National Circuit Program that celebrates the weekend cutter. On the last weekend of June, each of NCHA's 13 circuits may hold one exclusive event that is the only approved event within the circuit. Double circuit points are awarded at designated *NCHA Weekend* events. The events will be produced by a designated NCHA affiliate and in exchange for their production, NCHA will make available \$5,500 in added money and awards per circuit.

a. Summary

- i. Dates: June 23 - 26, 2022
- ii. Held at 13 selected sites throughout the United States and Canada
- iii. Only NCHA approved event that weekend
- iv. \$5,500 NCHA support is available to each selected affiliate:
 - a. \$3,500 in added money
 - b. \$2,000 in awards for the champion and reserve champion in the following classes: \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Senior/Junior Youth classes

b. Producer Rules and Policy

- i. NCHA Weekend must be at least one but no more than two NCHA Championship Weekend Show(s) consisting of a full run of NCHA classes that are assigned one show number each.
- ii. Selected Producers of NCHA Weekend may offer more than two Championship Weekend Shows, but no more than two shows will be designated as NCHA Weekend.
- iii. Producers may offer LAEs in conjunction with NCHA Weekend.
- iv. Added money:
 - a. Must be used for the designated NCHA Weekend show(s).
 - b. May not exceed \$500 for any one class in one show at NCHA Weekend.
 - c. Awards provided must be used for the designated NCHA Weekend show(s).
 - d. Double circuit points will only be awarded for designated NCHA Weekend show(s).

c. Producer Requirements

- i. Application - Only NCHA affiliates can be selected to host an NCHA Weekend event. Interested affiliates must submit an NCHA Championship Weekend Show application to host, which must be received by **January 31, 2022**. If more than one affiliate applies within a circuit, NCHA directors will make the final determination.
- ii. Circuit and sponsor banners must be displayed in the competition arena.
- iii. Awards provided by NCHA must be awarded as listed above.
- iv. All digital photos of the event must be accessible to the NCHA marketing and communications department.

5. Double Points at Circuit Finals

All circuit final go-rounds and finals, whether working or non-working, will receive double year end circuit points.

What stays the same?

1. Circuit Point Year

The NCHA circuit point year will begin December 28, 2021 and conclude at the circuit finals show. While the start date of the year is the same for all circuits, each circuit's end date will vary from circuit to circuit based on the scheduling of the event.

2. Circuit Designation

Points will only be earned at shows in a rider or horse's designated circuit. Circuits can be designated in two ways:

- a. **Automatic:** Each contestant is automatically designated into the circuit that corresponds to the primary address on file at the NCHA office.
 - i. Horse classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro the designation will follow the address of the horse **owner***
 - ii. For rider classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes the designation will follow the address of the **rider**.
- b. **Selected:** If a contestant or horse owner is competing in a circuit outside their automatically designated circuit, they may opt to select a specific circuit. Selecting a different designated circuit takes effect only when the NCHA office is notified. Selected circuit designation is not retroactive.

Changing Circuit Designation: If at any given time during the point year, a rider or horse's designated circuit is changed, any points accumulated in **ANY** previously designated circuit are not transferable and will be set back to zero upon the change of designation. *If a horse is sold during the course of the point year, the circuit designation will automatically change to the home address of the new owner, unless the new owner exercises the option to designate a different circuit under Section 2b above.

3. Circuit Point Awarding and Tracking

- a. Tracking: Points will be tracked by class according to the following:
 - i. For **horse** classes: Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro and \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro classes points will be tracked by the **horse**.
 - ii. For **rider** classes: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and Youth classes points will be tracked by the **rider**.
- b. Awarding: Points shall be awarded based on the number of horses shown in the class with a maximum of ten points. Zero scores count as shown but do not receive points.

Examples: Any class with more than 10 horses shown will award points to the first ten non-zero placings in the class on a declining scale of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. A class with seven horses shown will award points to all seven non-zero score placements on a declining scale of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. A class with 8 horses shown but two horses were zero score would result in the following points: 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3.

HORSES ENTERED	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

- i. "Out of circuit entries" - If there are entries in a class that have not designated the circuit in which the show is held AND the show is not joint approved by their designated circuit, either via automatic or selected, those entries will be placed, but will receive no points. The "in circuit" competitors in such a class will receive points matching their placement in the class according to the above point scale regardless of where any "out of circuit" contestant places on that scale. For example, in an 11 horse class held in the Big Sky Circuit that is not joint approved, 10 horses are Big Sky designated and one is "out of circuit." The "out of circuit" contestant places second. Big Sky contestants will receive 10, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively.

Place	Contestants	Points
1	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	10
2	<i>Out of Circuit Competitor</i>	-
3	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	8
4	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	7
5	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	6
6	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	5
7	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	4
8	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	3
9	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	2
10	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	1
11	Big Sky Circuit Competitor	0

- i. Zero Points: Placements with scores of zero, placements by “out of circuit” contestants, and placements outside of the top ten placements receive no points.

4. Circuit Finals Event

a. Requirements:

- i. Classes: Circuit finals must offer the following classes: Open, Non-Pro, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, \$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro, \$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non-Pro, \$15,000 Amateur, \$2,000 Limit Rider and a Youth Class (Either combined or ran as Junior and Senior)
- ii. Go-rounds: Circuit finals must offer at least two go-rounds with a maximum of three go-rounds.
- iii. Finals: Circuit finals must offer either a non-working/pencil finals based on the composite score of the go-rounds OR a working finals.

b. Invitation Options: There are two options for inviting competitors to the event.

- i. Standalone Event: This type is held exclusively for the top 30 qualifiers in each of the classes. No other competitors attend. Any monies earned as a standalone event are considered restricted monies and do not count toward world finals standings.
- ii. Show-Within-A-Show / Class-Within-A-Class: This type occurs within the framework of an NCHA approved Championship Weekend show. The circuit finals classes are treated as a ‘subclass’ and run concurrent with classes during an approved Championship show. In this format, circuit finals points are awarded ONLY to competitors on the top 30 circuit standings list as of the qualifying date. Out of circuit competitors and competitors not on the top 30

- qualifier list are not eligible for circuit finals points, awards or prizes. Money earned will count toward world finals standings.
- c. **Circuit Finals Event Format** – Once selected, producers are given leeway to create an event that caters to the unique characteristics and participation level of the exhibitors in their circuit.
 - d. **Double Points:** All circuit final go-rounds and finals, both working or non-working, will receive double circuit points that will count towards year end awards.
 - e. **NCHA Contribution** – NCHA will provide awards for the circuit finals in addition to circuit year-end champions. The selected producer may be eligible for a potential show production subsidy, not to exceed \$8,000, to offset the costs of expenses incurred in connection with the show. Possible subsidy expenses include but are not limited to costs for procuring cattle, facility rental, judges fees, footing and additional awards. To apply for the show subsidy, the selected producer must complete an event report which details reimbursable costs, max \$8,000, and include all associated payment receipts. The show production subsidy, if awarded, will be determined at the sole and exclusive discretion of the NCHA.

5. Circuit Finals RFP Submission

Bids for the NCHA Circuit Finals may be submitted using the Request for Proposal form. Bids will be accepted at jvaldez@nchacutting.com.