

NON PRO MEETING NOTES

SBF & NAMPA, IDAHO

I know, I know, I am late on getting these meeting notes posted. I got called on the carpet at the Non Pro meeting that occurred in Nampa, Idaho a week after the SBF came to a close. I apologize. Get a cup of coffee or a soda - this is going to be a lot of reading. You asked, here you go...

First of all congratulations to all who have competed at the fall futurities. No matter if you were in Fort Worth, Montana or Paso Robles or other Affiliate Futurities, hope it went well for you. Those three year-olds are a challenge-but so much fun! If you did not get a chance to see the Open Finals at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® in Fort Worth, it was a stellar event. This was a unique year with the Will Rogers Coliseum still being renovated but “hats off” to the staff of the NRCHA for still making this a fantastic event. And, how cool was it to see John Swales win the Open Futurity on Bowie Nights for his sister Veronica. Once again, the NRCHA is about family!

Shannon Haskins was presented the Jane Tatum Sportsmanship Award for 2025. Shannon received some wonderful awards courtesy of the NRCHA. The Non Pro Committee received a list of all those that were nominated along with the notes for each candidate. After a review, the Committee selected the recipient (Shannon) and presented that name to the Board of Directors. There were about 25 people that received nominations and those of you that were on the list have some really great friends, family and trainers that said really nice things about you. Be looking for the 2026 Nomination form in late summer.

I am going to combine some notes that I had from the Non Pro meeting in Fort Worth with some additional topics that were addressed at the Non Pro meeting in Idaho. By The Way, the Fort Worth meeting was available online for those that were not able to be there in person.

SBF BOARD MEETING NON PRO UPDATES:

1) **Show Comparisons:**

-2025 Open SBF Entries* - 379

-2024 Open SBF Entries* - 304

*Does not include Level 1 Entries

-2025 Non Pro SBF Entries - 80

-2024 Non Pro SBF Entries - 81

-2025 Non Pro Boxing SBF Entries - 38

-2024 Non Pro Boxing SBF Entries - 19

\$10,000 to the Winner

\$5,000 to the Winner

2) **NEW NRCHA OFFICE:**

NRCHA has a new home in Weatherford, Texas. The office staff is planning an Open House during the Celebration of Champions show in February. More details to come.

3) **WORLD SHOW QUALIFYING CHANGES!!! READ THIS...**

World Show Qualifying is going to change for 2026 which means it will affect the 2027 World Show - NOT THE 2026 SHOW!

-Must attend 3 NRCHA Approved events within a region

-Must earn ½ point (in other words-a paycheck)

-Invites will be sent to the Top 30 Horses in each region that have met these requirements.

This should be a welcome change to most of you. This has been a topic of discussion at the last three years, Fort Worth Non Pro Meetings. Many of you felt that the Celebration no longer felt like a Championship type show and that it was getting too big. These changes should help to make it feel like you have earned your place and should also reduce the show size.

4) NRCHA SURVEYS

The NRCHA and the NRCHA Non Pro's have both sent out surveys to the membership in the last few months. One of the topics that came up at the Idaho meeting was the decision by the BOD to place the Hackamore Classic back at the Expo Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Surveys that get sent out are for informational purposes. The results do not necessarily dictate the decisions that are made by the Board. This Board works very hard to do what they feel is right for the largest percentage of NRCHA members. We only receive back a small quantity of these surveys when compared to actual membership numbers. So the representation is skewed. Request for Proposals were received by several facilities (Tulsa, Oklahoma, Nampa, Idaho, Amarillo, Texas, Lazy E, Guthrie, OK...) and ALL Proposals were reviewed by the Board. Based on facility size, amenities offered, cattle facilities and of course, cost, the Tulsa Expo Center was hands down the right choice. One of the main things the BOD discussed regarding these facilities was if they were going to be able to handle a show of this size 2-3 years from now. The Hackamore Classic grew by 11% in 2025 and it is expected to grow again in 2026. Stall capacity, practice arenas and cattle handling facilities were major concerns at some of the other facilities. Cost was the other determining factor and the Tulsa Expo Center made the most sense for the membership to keep costs for the show down. The majority vote of the BOD was to sign a contract with the Expo Center for the next two years. It is a VERY nice facility and well air-conditioned so horses and people are comfortable-even in July!

5) RULE CHANGES FOR 2026:

3.8.1.1

Addition of the following:

...Competitors that have not won \$750 in fence earnings may show in the Boxing and/or Fence

Classes. Once a Competitor reaches the age of 70, they are eligible to fall back to the Boxing even if they have exercised a fall back and then returned to competing down the fence.

3.8.1.2

REMOVED FROM THE RULEBOOK

The Board had received a couple complaints about this rule. You are NO LONGER able to show in a Limited Aged Event in the Boxing and show a bridle horse in a fence class if you are 60 years of age or over. Non Pro's have to choose to be in the Fence classes or in the Boxing Classes.

3.9.1

SELECT AGE IS BEING UPDATED TO 60 YEARS-OLD

Once again, I know there was a Non Pro survey that went out and a slight majority that responded wanted to see the Select Age remain at 50. The Board discussed this at length and felt that 50 is too young to be considered "Select." Those 50-60 year-olds that were winning checks in the Select were very likely also winning a check or two in a Non Pro division so they wanted to open up the possibility of winning a check and/or awards to an additional group of competitors. This will cut back on entries on the Select Classes so I will be asking at our December Budget meeting for Added Money for them.

3.12.3

FOR THE BOX DRIVE CLASS, ADDITION OF:

..."However, once a competitor reaches the age of 70, they will be eligible to show in the Box Drive providing that they no longer show in fence classes at any judged show or event."

This means that if you have not been able to show in the Box Drive based on your fence earnings, once you reach 70 years-old, you will be able to show in the Box Drive class.

10.4.9

LEVEL 1 NON PRO EARNINGS CAP INCREASED TO \$15,000

This will make the Horse Show and Limited Age Event caps the same in all Level 1 classes.

10.4.12

AUTOMATIC ENTRY FOR ELIGIBLE RIDERS IN THE LEVEL 1 NON PRO BOXING.

10.4.13

CHANGE SELECT AGE TO 60

Also removed the “can be offered as Jackpot Only” line from the rule.

Currently, Select Classes are Jackpot Only. This change will allow for Added Money in the Select classes since class size will likely be reduced with the age increase from 50 to 60 years-old.

19.3.4.3 REMOVAL OF “HOLDING THE HORN EXCESSIVELY MAY BE PENALIZED”

READ YOUR 2026 RULEBOOKS FOR COMPLETE RULE UPDATES/CHANGES

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM FORT WORTH AND IDAHO:

1. Addition of Intermediate Non Pro Hackamore class at Hackamore Classic and SBF

This is a great addition that WAS a result of Non Pro Surveys! You will be seeing this class in 2026 as well!

2. Possibility of three event (herd, rein & cow) finals for the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® Non Pro Boxing division. Currently it is a cow work only finals and that score is

added to the preliminary score total. Not sure the Board is too keen on adding this but the discussion will continue once we have a little more time in the schedule with the Will Rogers back to being available to us.

3. Having the Level 1 LAE Boxing classes be offered as “stand alone” classes.

More discussion needed. We don’t want to take away entries from the Non Pro Boxing classes at our Limited Age Events but I have been asked about this possibility at a couple of the recent Non Pro meetings.

4. Transparency by NRCHA:

Minutes from all NRCHA Board of Directors Meetings DO get posted to the NRCHA Website. The Board has to vote on the previous meetings minutes before they can be posted. This means that the May meeting minutes are posted as we voted on them at the July Board meeting in Tulsa. The July meeting minutes should be posted shortly (if not already, I did not check) as we voted to approve them at the Fort Worth meeting in October.

So the Board Meeting minutes from the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® should be posted around the end of December as we will vote on those at the December 17th meeting.

As I said at the start of these notes, I know I fall behind at times on posting minutes from Non Pro meetings. I will continue to try and do better. I don’t post much between meetings unless there is something newsworthy to report. You can always reach me (or any Non Pro Committee member) via email if you have questions or concerns. All Board member and Committee member emails are printed on the NRCHA website and in each and every issue of Reined Cow Horse News.

Diane’s email: diane2bph@outlook.com

My final comments for today, I had some folks at the Idaho meeting that were not very happy with NRCHA and the NRCHA Non Pros. They felt they weren't being heard. While I do understand that and I hope I cleared up some issues for them at the meeting, I also find it disheartening when the meetings are pretty well advertised now (printed on schedules, announced via social media and announced publicly at shows) that for example in Idaho, there were over 200 Non Pro's entered at the show and the Non Pro meeting had 15 attendees. I do understand that life gets busy at horse shows but we are doing our best to get the word out and the last several Non Pro meetings (Scottsdale, Tulsa and Fort Worth) were available online and in person. I know there is more work to be done but the NRCHA has made HUGE strides particularly on the Non Pro divisions in recent years-ask anyone who has been around 10 or more years!

SO, in order to be heard, you need to speak up!!!

Attend a meeting, and/or email me with questions, comments, concerns whatever.

THERE WILL BE A NON PRO MEETING AT THE CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS IN FEBRUARY!

Once the schedule is approved, I will be contacting the office to set a date - stay tuned...

Thank you for reading and being a VALUED NRCHA Non Pro member!!!

Diane