

Rule Changes for 2026



The changes for the 2026 point year are noted below. Text that has been struck through are the previous wording that has been removed. Text that is bold and underlined are the new rule.

Clarification on the purpose of the Owners Committee

Article VIII - Committees

- k. Owners Committee: The Owners Committee shall consist of a chairperson appointed by the President and such additional committee members as the chairman desires to appoint. ~~The Owners Committee shall bring to the attention of the Board all problems, suggestions and concerns regarding the owners of reined cow horses that arise throughout the course of the year.~~ **The purpose of the Owners Committee shall be to facilitate and promote: 1. owner satisfaction and engagement, 2. industry growth and sustainability, 3. enhance owner experience through education and communication, 4. enrichment and expansion of owner involvement, 5. NRCHA's time honored tradition of advancing horsemanship through the development of the highly trained and versatile bridle horse.**

Addition of Online Voting for Elections

Article IX - Elections

Section 5. In addition to the mailed ballot voting option outlined in Section 4, eligible members may also cast their vote via an online voting platform provided by the organization. The online voting system will be secured and accessible only to verified members, and the voting instructions will be provided through an official communication, which may include email or other appropriate methods. The online voting period will begin at the same time as the mailed ballot distribution and will close no later than one (1) week prior to the annual meeting at which the results are to be announced. Online votes will be directly transmitted to the accounting firm or a designated secure system for tabulation, and the ballots will be included in the overall count with the mailed ballots. All online votes must be cast in accordance with the deadlines and guidelines outlined, and no votes will be accepted after the closing of the online voting period. The security and integrity of the online voting system will be overseen by the Nominating Committee, Executive Director, and NRCHA Staff to ensure the process remains fair and transparent.

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Changes to Horse Show Divisions/Approved Classes

Category 1 Horse Show Divisions/ Approved Classes

~~3.5.1 Open Bridle - open to any rider.~~

~~3.5.2 Limited Open Bridle - open to any rider that has not won more than \$15,000 in Open and Non Pro divisions in approved NRCHA events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Limited Open designation on their membership card. The Open and Limited Open may have a common draw. (Except in the case of the NRCHA World Show.)~~

3.5.1 Open Bridle - Open to any rider who possesses a current NRCHA membership.

3.5.2 Intermediate Open Bridle- open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open category 1 money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Intermediate Open designation on their membership.

3.5.2.1 Must enter the Open Bridle.

3.5.2.2 If a single entry fee option is utilized, eligible riders are automatically entered.

3.5.2.3 Must run concurrent with the Open Bridle draw. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify in the Open Bridle.

3.5.3 Limited Open Bridle - open to any rider who is not on the top 120 Open rider listing; based on Open category 1 money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved events, has not earned over \$350,000 in Open and Non Pro category 1 and category 2 money at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Limited Open designation on their membership.

3.5.3.1 Must enter the Open Bridle.

3.5.3.2 If a single entry fee option is utilized, eligible riders are automatically entered.

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- 3.5.3.3 Must run concurrent with the Open Bridle draw. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify in the Open Bridle.
- 3.5.4 Level 1 Open Bridle - open to any rider who has not earned \$20,000 or more in Open and Non Pro category 1 and category 2 money at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Level 1 Open designation on their membership.
- 3.5.4.1 Open Bridle entry is not required.
- ~~3.6.1 Open Hackamore - open to any rider.~~
- ~~3.6.2 Limited Open Hackamore - open to any rider who has not won more than \$15,000 in Open and Non Pro divisions in approved NRCHA events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid Horse Show Limited Open designation on their membership card. The Open and Limited Open may have a common draw (Except in the case of the NRCHA World Show.)~~
- 3.6.1 Open Hackamore - Open to any rider who possesses a current NRCHA membership.
- 3.6.2 Intermediate Open Hackamore- open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open category 1 money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Intermediate Open designation on their membership.
- 3.6.2.1 Must enter the Open Hackamore. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify in the Open Hackamore.
- 3.6.2.2 If a single entry fee option is utilized, eligible riders are automatically entered.
- 3.6.2.3 Must run concurrent with the Open Hackamore draw.
- 3.6.3 Limited Open Hackamore - open to any rider who is not on the top 120 Open rider listing; based on Open category 1 money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved events, has not earned over

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\$350,000 in Open and Non Pro category 1 and category 2 money at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Limited Open designation on their membership.

3.6.3.1 Must enter the Open Hackamore.

3.6.3.2 If a single entry fee option is utilized, eligible riders are automatically entered.

3.6.3.3 Must run concurrent with the Open Hackamore draw. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify in the Open Hackamore.

3.6.4 Level 1 Open Hackamore - open to any rider who has not earned \$20,000 or more in Open and Non Pro category 1 and category 2 money at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Level 1 Open designation on their membership.

3.6.4.1 Open Hackamore entry is not required.

3.7.1 Open Two Rein - open to any rider who possesses a current NRCHA membership.

3.7.2 Intermediate Open Two Rein- open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open category 1 money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved events. To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must have a valid HS Intermediate Open designation on their membership card.

3.7.2.1 Must enter the Open Two Rein.

3.7.2.2 If a single entry fee option is utilized, eligible riders are automatically entered.

3.7.2.3 Must run concurrent with the Open Two Rein draw. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify in the Open Two Rein.

3.9 Box Drive – To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must be horse show Non Pro Boxing eligible. Work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and

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forty five seconds to complete the cow work. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 seconds remaining. At one minute and forty five seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time but must ride until the judge ends the run with a whistle or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving / rating it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving / rating the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn,' rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner. (New cow guidelines will follow rule 19.3.5.)

3.9.1 Open to approved Non Pro Boxing riders and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the ownership rule 2.4 ownership rule. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) Earnings are calculated as lifetime boxing earnings. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes show or event with the exception of horse sales. A rider will be ineligible upon reaching the earnings \$750 threshold at the end of the current show year in any combination of officially published NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.

3.9.2 Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle

3.9.3 Riders that have exercised their Non Pro Boxing fall back provision (see 3.10.1.1) may compete in the Box Drive class providing they do not exceed the \$750 fence earnings threshold. Once a competitor reaches the age of 70, they will be eligible to show in the Box Drive class providing that they no longer show in fence classes at any judged show or event. However, they may not go down the fence

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again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Box Drive class.

3.9.4 At the discretion of show management, the rein work for the Box Drive and Non Pro Boxing divisions, including Intermediate and Limited, may be run concurrently. When the rein work is conducted concurrently, the rein work score will be used for both the Box Drive and Non Pro Boxing divisions. The cow work for the Box Drive will be run and scored separately.

3.9.5 This class will count for regional standings, national standings and World Show qualification. Earnings will count towards horse and rider lifetime boxing earnings and eligibility.

3.10.1.1 Non Pro competitors may fall back **one time** into the Non Pro Boxing **division** class for any reason ~~ONLY ONE TIME~~ **at any age**, provided they submit notification to the NRCHA Non Pro committee. **If a fall back is exercised, the competitor** ~~However,~~ they may not go down the fence again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Non Pro Boxing Class. **Competitors that have not won \$750 in fence earnings may show in 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.**

3.10.1.2 ~~After Non Pro competitors reach the age of 60 they are eligible to compete in the boxing division of limited age event classes and be allowed to show a bridle horse in a down the fence class at the same show., if they do not wish to exercise their fall back provision under 3.810.1.1 and fall back into the Non Pro Boxing, they may, in Limited Age Event Classes only, elect to compete in EITHER the LAE Non Pro Boxing division OR the appropriate LAE Non Pro fence division. A competitor may not show the same horse in an LAE Non Pro Boxing division AND a Horse Show fence division during the same event. An event is any NRCHA approved show or shows held over consecutive or back-to-back days. For purposes of this rule, an event is any NRCHA approved show or shows held over consecutive, or back-to-back days.~~

3.11 Additional Classes

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- 3.11.1 Select Classes – open to riders ~~50~~ **60** years of age and over as of November 16th of the current show year. One select class will be run concurrent with the Non Pro Bridle, Intermediate Non Pro Bridle, or Level 1 Non Pro Bridle. A second select class will be run concurrent with the Non Pro Boxing, Intermediate Non Pro Boxing, or Limited Non Pro Boxing. They **Select classes** cannot be run as standalone classes. Riders must enter at least one concurrent Non Pro Division. ~~There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes~~ **Select classes** will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify for any of the ~~six World Show qualifying classes~~ **in the above stated divisions.**
- ~~3.9.2 Intermediate Open Classes - open to any rider who is not on the top thirty (30) Open rider listing; based on Open money won in the past three years at any NRCHA approved Events. One intermediate open class may be run concurrent with the Open Bridle. A second intermediate open class may be run concurrent with the Open Hackamore. They cannot be run as standalone classes. There will be no World Show eligibility, but these classes will be offered at the World Show for those that qualify for either the Open Bridle or Open Hackamore. They cannot be run as standalone classes; riders must enter the corresponding Open Division.~~
- ~~3.12 Box Drive – To be eligible to compete in this division, contestants must be horse show Non Pro Boxing eligible. Work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work. Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty five seconds to complete the cow work. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. When there are 30 seconds left, the announcer will announce, 30 seconds remaining. At one minute and forty five seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time but must ride until the judge ends the run with a whistle or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving / rating it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving / rating the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a ‘fence turn,’ rather the drive down the~~

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fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.
(New cow guidelines will follow rule 19.3.5.)

- 3.12.1 — ~~Open to approved Non Pro Boxing riders and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the 2.4 ownership rule. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) Earnings are calculated as lifetime boxing earnings. Riders cannot have earned more than \$750 in fence work classes at any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. A rider will be ineligible upon reaching the earnings threshold at the end of the current show year in any combination of officially published NRCHA earnings and/or earnings from any other association. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.~~
- 3.12.2 — ~~Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1st of current show year may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle~~
- 3.12.3 — ~~Riders that have exercised their Non Pro Boxing fall back provision (see 3.8.1.1) may compete in the Box Drive class. However, they may not go down the fence again in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales and remain in the Box Drive class.~~
- 3.12.4 — ~~At the discretion of show management, the rein work for the Box Drive and Non Pro Boxing divisions, including Intermediate and Limited, may be run concurrently. When the rein work is conducted concurrently, the rein work score will be used for both the Box Drive and Non Pro Boxing divisions. The cow work for the Box Drive will be run and scored separately.~~
- 3.12.5 — ~~This class will count for regional standings, national standings and World Show qualification. Earnings will count towards horse and rider lifetime boxing earnings and eligibility. Earnings will not count towards Merit Awards.~~

Changes to the Regional Show Rules & World Show Qualification

Regional Horse Show Rules/ World Show Qualification

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- 4.8.1 Classes Except Youth: To be eligible for the NRCHA World Championship Show a horse or horse and rider combination must have competed at least three times in a given class in at least three NRCHA approved shows in ~~any~~ **the same** region, and must have an accumulated point value of at least ½ point. ~~All~~ **The top 30** horses fulfilling these requirements, including ties, shall be invited to compete.
- 4.9 Alliance Partner World Show Finalists **Champions**
- 4.9.1 All AQHA World Show Finalists **Champions** from the AQHA Youth World, Select World and AQHA World Championship Show in the Working Cow Horse Classes will be invited to compete at the NRCHA World Show in the corresponding NRCHA classes for which they qualified. NRCHA equipment rules will be in effect. Junior / Amateur qualified horses may be shown in a bridle, two rein or hackamore class.
- 4.9.2 All APHA World Show Finalists **Champions** from the APHA Youth World and APHA World Show in Working Cow Horse Classes will be invited to compete at the NRCHA World Show in the corresponding NRCHA classes for which they qualified. NRCHA Equipment rules will be in effect. Junior / Amateur qualified horses may be shown in a bridle, two rein or hackamore class.
- 4.9.3 The top 10 SHTX World Show Finalists **Champions** in Youth, Limited, **Non Pro, Non Pro Boxing** and Open SHTX divisions will be invited to compete at the NRCHA World Show in the corresponding NRCHA classes for which they qualified.

Changes to the Payout, Point System & Year-End Awards

7. PAYOUT, POINT SYSTEM & YEAR-END AWARDS FOR APPROVED SHOWS

- 7.1 Payout – Based on the number of horses shown: This payout is for approved NRCHA shows. ~~It does not apply to NRCHA LAE unless specified in LAE rules.~~ The following payout schedule applies to all NRCHA Category 1 approved horse show classes whose earnings count towards year-end NRCHA standings, unless otherwise **specified and NRCHA Category 1 approved LAE without finals. It does not apply to NRCHA Category 1 approved LAE with finals, however all finalists must**

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receive a payout. Entry fees for horses that are scratched after the draw will remain in the purse.

7.2 Payout Chart (on facing page)

No. of Places	Number of Entries																															
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-220	221-240	241-260	261-280	281-300	301+		
1	100.0%	60.0%	50.0%	40.0%	30.0%	30.0%	28.0%	25.0%	23.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	19.5%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	19.0%	
1		40.0%	30.0%	30.0%	25.0%	24.0%	22.0%	20.0%	18.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	16.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	14.0%	14.0%	14.0%	13.5%	13.5%	13.50%	13.50%	13.25%	13.25%	13.25%	13.25%	13.00%		
2			20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	18.0%	17.0%	15.0%	15.0%	14.0%	13.0%	13.0%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.0%	12.0%	11.5%	11.5%	11.5%	11.0%	11.0%	11.25%	11.25%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%		
2				10.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%	8.25%	8.25%	8.00%	8.00%	
3					10.0%	9.0%	9.0%	10.0%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.25%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	
3						7.0%	7.0%	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.5%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.25%	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	
4							5.0%	6.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	6.0%	6.0%	5.5%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.25%	4.25%	
4								4.0%	5.0%	6.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	
4									4.0%	5.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	
5										4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	
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6																1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	
6																	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	
6																		1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	
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6																				1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	
7																					1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
7																						1.0%	1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
7																							1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
7																								1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
7																									1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
7																									1.0%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
8																										0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%
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8																										0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	
8																										0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	
8																										0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	
8																										0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	

Changes to the Merit Awards Program

8. MERIT AWARD PROGRAM

8.1 Application forms for Merit Awards are available from the NRCHA office. Applications must be submitted by the current owner or rider of the horse being submitted for one of the merit awards. As of January 1, 2002, earnings which will count towards the Merit Award Program are all NRCHA Approved Category 1 horse shows, LAE Category 1 and Category 1 Special Events. To become an NRCHA-approved show, a request for show approval must be submitted in accordance with Rule 12.1.

8.1.1 **Certificate of Ability** - a horse will be certified after winning a total of **\$1,000** ~~\$500~~ in any NRCHA class or combination of classes. It is the intention of the NRCHA that the Certificate of Ability will be available to a great number of horses that do in fact show ability.

8.1.1.1 **Foals of 2022 and prior will be grandfathered into this program with a minimum of \$500 in total earnings.**

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- 8.1.2 Achievement Award - the NRCHA wishes to recognize those horses that reach meaningful achievements in their career as they advance through the stages of the reined cow and vaquero bridle horse traditions of the snaffle, hackamore, two-rein and bridle.**
- 8.1.2.1 LAE Achievement - Horse has earned a total of \$5,000 in Category 1 Limited Age Event fence classes. Hackamore Classic earnings can count toward LAE Achievement Awards, so long as they are not double counted toward the Hackamore Achievement Award.**
- 8.1.2.2 LAE Boxing Achievement - Horse has earned a total of \$5,000 in Category 1 Limited Age Event boxing classes**
- 8.1.2.3 Hackamore Achievement - Horse has earned a total of \$5,000 in Category 1 Hackamore fence classes. Hackamore Classic earnings can count toward this Achievement Award so long as the money has not been counted toward the LAE Achievement Award.**
- 8.1.2.4 Two Rein Achievement - Horse has earned a total of \$1,000 in Category 1 Two Rein fence classes.**
- 8.1.2.5 Bridle Achievement - Horse has earned a total of \$10,000 in Category 1 Bridle fence classes.**
- 8.1.2.6 Non Pro Boxing Achievement - the NRCHA wishes to recognize those horses that excel in the Boxing classes. The horse must have earned a total of \$7,500 in Horse Show Category 1 Non Pro Boxing classes including Select.**
- 8.1.2.7 Non Pro Box Drive Achievement - Horse must have earned a total of \$7,500 in Horse Show Category 1 Non Pro Box Drive classes including Select.**
- 8.1.2.8 Youth Achievement - Horse must have earned a total of \$1,000 in Horse Show Category 1 Youth Classes including Youth Cow Horse, Youth Boxing, and 13 and Under Classes.**
- 8.1.3 Superior Reined Cow Horse Award - this award will be given when a horse has earned ~~\$20,000~~ \$10,000 in any NRCHA fence class or combination of fence classes or events and has earned any combination of fence category Achievement Awards. All earnings from reined cow horse snaffle bit events can be added to the hackamore and bridle**

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winnings to total \$10,000 in order to receive this award. The NRCHA believes that any horse that wins ~~\$20,000~~ \$10,000 in a single **fence** class or combination of **fence** classes and events is certainly considered a Superior **Reined** Cow Horse and should be recognized.

~~8.1.2.1 Money earned in Box Drive class, all Non Pro Boxing classes including Select, Youth Boxing and Youth Boxing 13 and under, will not be counted towards the Superior Reined Cow Horse Award.~~

8.1.3.1 Foals of 2022 and prior will be grandfathered into this program with a minimum of \$10,000 in earnings.

8.1.4 Superior Bridle Horse Award - this award will be given when a horse has earned \$30,000 in any NRCHA Bridle class or combination of Bridle classes or events and has earned the Bridle Achievement. Two Rein earnings can also count toward the total.

8.1.5 Superior Non Pro Boxing Achievement Award - the NRCHA wishes to recognize those horses that excel in the Boxing classes.

8.1.5.1 The horse must have earned a total of ~~\$25,000~~ \$15,000.

8.1.5.2 The horse must have been shown in approved Limited Age Events and earned at least \$1,000 in these events in either a fence class or a Limited Boxing class the LAE Achievement or LAE Boxing Achievement, and have earned the Boxing Achievement.

8.1.5.3 The horse must win a total of ~~\$15,000~~ \$10,000 in Horse Show Category 1 Boxing classes, including Select, Youth Boxing, and Youth Boxing 13 and Under.

~~8.1.5.4 After considering the totals earned from Limited Age Events and the Boxing classes, with the limitations previously stated, the remaining money may be earned in any NRCHA Category 1 class.~~

8.1.5.4 Foals of 2022 and prior will be grandfathered into this program, but still must achieve \$15,000 in earnings, with a minimum of \$1,000 earned in Limited Age Events in either a Category 1 fence class or boxing class, given the aforementioned criteria of the 8.1.6 sections.

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- 8.1.6 **Supreme Reined Cow Horse** - the NRCHA has reserved the Supreme Reined Cow Horse Award for the unique individual that has shown and won in all divisions and the horse has substantial won a total of \$50,000 in earnings. A horse must meet the following criteria:
- 8.1.6.1 The horse must have earned the LAE Achievement, Hackamore Achievement and Bridle Achievement. Two Rein earnings can also be ~~been shown in approved Limited Age Events and earned at least \$1,000 in these events. The horse must have been shown in the hackamore and have earned at least \$1,000 in this event. Hackamore Classic LAE money can count toward either LAE money or Hackamore money so long as it is counted only once. Up to \$20,000 of any monies won at these two types of events can be applied to the total earnings required.~~
- 8.1.3.2 ~~The horse must win a total of \$25,000. After considering the totals earned from Limited Age Events and the hackamore, with the limitations previously stated, the remaining balance must be won in the bridle division.~~
- 8.1.3.3 ~~Money earned in Box Drive class, all Non Pro Boxing classes including Select, Youth Boxing and Youth Boxing 13 and under, will not be counted towards the Supreme Reined Cow Horse Award.~~
- 8.1.3.4 ~~To fulfill the hackamore requirement, earnings must come from NRCHA Horse Show Hackamore classes or Hackamore Classic LAE money can count toward either LAE money or Hackamore money so long as it is counted only once.~~
- 8.1.3.5 ~~Money earned in the two rein class will count as bridle earnings for the merit award program.~~
- 8.1.6.2 Foals of 2000 and prior will be grandfathered into this program and are not required to have won the \$1,000 in Limited Age Events and hackamore, but still must win a total of \$25,000. These horses must still have Limited Age Event and hackamore earnings.
- 8.1.6.3 Foals of 2022 and prior will be grandfathered into this program with a minimum requirement of \$25,000 in total earnings, of which \$1,000 must be earned in Limited Age Events and \$1,000 in the Hackamore. Up to \$20,000 of Limited Age Event and Hackamore monies can be applied

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to the \$25,000 minimum, so long as no money is counted twice across the categories.

~~8.1.4 Non Pro Boxing Achievement Certificate – the NRCHA wishes to recognize those horses that excel in the Boxing classes.~~

~~8.1.4.1 The horse must have earned a total of \$7,500 in Horse Show Category 1 Boxing classes including Select, Youth Boxing, and Youth Boxing 13 and Under.~~

Changes to the Limited Aged Events (“LAE”)

10. LIMITED AGED EVENTS

- 10.4.9 Level 1 Non Pro - open to any rider who possesses a current NRCHA Non Pro card and has not won more than ~~\$7,500~~ **\$15,000** Open and Non Pro category 1 and category 2 money at NRCHA approved events.
- 10.4.12 Level 1 Non Pro Boxing - This class is open to approved Non Pro Boxing riders with less than \$2,000 in Lifetime Earnings excluding youth money and who comply with all Non Pro eligibility rules in Rule 3.8. Non Pro riders in this class must meet the requirements of the section 2.4 ownership rules. (See Non Pro eligibility rules.) This class will use a single entry fee with Non Pro Boxing. **Eligible riders will be automatically entered.**
- 10.4.13 Select Classes – open to riders ~~50~~ **60** years of age and over as of November 16th of the current show year. A select class may be run concurrent in each of the Non Pro, Level 1 Non Pro and Non Pro Boxing. They cannot be run as standalone classes, will not count toward National Standings., ~~and will be offered as jackpot only.~~
- 10.5.1 Horses to Finals / Number Paid - The following rule shall be used for NRCHA managed shows and may be used as a guideline for Affiliates. For NRCHA managed events, payout for the Open LAE divisions shall be subject to Board approval. Unless otherwise specified, Level 1 Open, Level 1 Non Pro, Novice Horse and Non Pro Boxing divisions will not have finals.

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NRCHA Stakes

Open, Intermediate Open	30% of Entries <u>Per Rule 7.2 with a minimum of 30 horses</u>
<u>Intermediate Open and Limited Open</u>	<u>Per Rule 7.2</u>
Limited Open and Non Pro	with a cap of 25.
Non Pro	<u>30% of entries</u>
Intermediate Non Pro	Per Rule 7.2 <u>30% of entries</u>
Limited Non Pro	Per Rule 7.2 <u>30% of entries</u>
Level 1 Divisions (<u>Open, Non Pro, Boxing</u>)	Per Rule 7.2
Novice Horse	Per Rule 7.2
Non Pro Boxing	Per Rule 7.2

NRCHA Hackamore Classic

All Divisions	Per Rule 7.2
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NRCHA Derbies

Open, Intermediate Open	30% of Entries <u>Per Rule 7.2 with a minimum of 30 horses</u>
<u>Intermediate Open and Limited Open</u>	<u>Per Rule 7.2</u>
Limited Open and Non Pro	with a cap of 25.
Non Pro	<u>30% of entries</u>
Intermediate Non Pro	Per Rule 7.2 <u>30% of entries</u>
Limited Non Pro	Per Rule 7.2 <u>30% of entries</u>
Level 1 Divisions (<u>Open, Non Pro, Boxing</u>)	Per Rule 7.2
Novice Horse	Per Rule 7.2
Non Pro Boxing	Per Rule 7.2

NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity®

Open	Per Rule 10.6.4.1
Intermediate Open	Per Rule 10.6.4.2
Limited Open	Per Rule 10.6.4.3
Level 1 Open	Per Rule 10.6.4.4
Non Pro	Per Rule 10.6.4.5
Intermediate Non Pro	Per Rule 10.6.4.6
Limited Non Pro	Per Rule 10.6.4.7
Level 1 Non Pro	Per Rule 10.6.4.8
Non Pro Boxing	Per Rule 10.6.4.9

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Level 1 Boxing

Per Rule ~~10.6.4.9~~ **10.6.4.10**

All Other NRCHA Managed LAE Events

All Divisions

Per Rule 7.2

- 10.5.2.1 Go round money at Limited Aged Events other than the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® **and NRCHA Stallion Stakes** shall be as follows: 10% of the total purse shall be divided between the three go rounds, and places to be paid as follows:
- ~~10.6.3.3 The Non Pro Boxing and Level 1 Division entries do not need to be entered in another division. These divisions do not constitute "slots" and therefore cannot be sold.~~
- 10.6.4.1.1 50 entries or less in the Open Futurity, the 20 highest scoring horses plus ties will advance to the Open Finals. ~~Prize money will be paid 1st through 15th place.~~
- 10.6.4.1.2 51 to 99 entries, the 20 highest scoring horses plus ties will advance to the Open finals. ~~Prize money will be paid 1st through 20th place.~~
- 10.6.4.1.3 100 to 111 entries, the 25 highest scoring horses plus ties will advance to the Open finals. ~~Prize money will be paid 1st through 20th.~~
- 10.6.4.1.4 111 entries or more, the 30 highest scoring horses plus ties will advance to the Open finals. ~~Prize money will be paid 1st through 30th.~~
- 10.6.4.9 ~~Non Pro Boxing and Level 1 Non Pro Boxing~~
- 10.6.4.9.1 There will be no finals for these classes. **The finals for this class will be determined by the NRCHA Board of Directors.**
- 10.6.4.10 Level 1 Non Pro Boxing**
- 10.6.4.10.1 There will be no finals for this class.**
- 10.6.4.10.2 Payouts will be according to rule 7.2**

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Changes to the Show Approval & Show Management Responsibilities

12. SHOW APPROVAL & SHOW MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1.4.2 **In the event of adverse arena conditions or time constraints, show management—with input from the judge—may request approval from the NRCHA Office and Rules Committee to assign a score of 70 in the rein work to all contestants in specific class. This option may only be exercised with prior approval from the NRCHA Office and Rules Committee. The cow work must still be completed by all contestants in the class.**

12.1.16.1 Any approved NRCHA event with more than ~~\$30,000~~ **\$40,000** in added money must use two or more judges.

Changes to the Judges

16. JUDGES

16.2.1 An application to become a judge may be obtained from the Association. A prospective judge must

1. **Attend an NRCHA Judges Seminar and attend an NRCHA 6th Chair Judge Education Training**
2. ~~And upon passing~~ **Pass** the testing requirements as set forth by the Judges Committee ~~will have their name added to the Judges list.~~

~~16.2.4 Judges in good standing will be required to take an annual renewal test to keep them familiar with new rules or changes.~~

~~16.2.6 It is recommended that Judges complete the attendance requirements at functions prescribed by the Judges Committee.~~

16.2.6.1 “AAAA” Judge: AAAA Judge is the highest rating and is eligible to judge any Major Event. A 4A judge must be an active, experienced, knowledgeable NRCHA Judge. They must judge by the rules and use their score sheets correctly. (This helps the exhibitors understand their scores). Eligibility for a 4A rating can be achieved by the following criteria:

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1. Must have been a 3A Judge that has judged at least 3 Major Events where the NRCHA Director of Judges served ~~at~~ **as** the Judges monitor.
2. Must have judged in a 5 Judge system where the NRCHA Director of Judges served as a Judges monitor.
3. Must be well informed, have practical knowledge, be a cooperative and willing teammate.

16.3.4.6 Judges in good standing will be required to take an annual renewal test to keep them familiar with new rules or changes.

16.3.4.7 Judges who do not comply with 16.3.4.5 **and 16.3.4.6** will be dropped from the approved judges list.

16.3.4.8 To be reinstated, the judge must attend a seminar ~~within the calendar year he/she was dropped from the list~~ and must be administered a one-time written exam. **The results will be presented to the Judge Committee as application for reinstatement as a carded judge.** ~~The exam must be passed with a score of 80% or above; only then may he/she be added back to the approved judges list. If the judge does not pass this written exam, he/she will need to attend an additional seminar and meet the requirements of NRCHA Rule 16.2.5 at another time.~~

~~16.3.4.8 Judges selected to judge the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® are not allowed to judge any other 3 year old limited age event within 60 days of the start of the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity® and/or with more than \$5,000 added in total for all 3 year old classes within the event.~~

Changes to the Judging Scale

19. JUDGING

19.1 Herd Work – Maneuver Scores for Herd Work: The NRCHA has divided each herd work into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

- ++ ~~Excellent~~ **Exceptional**
- + Very Good
- ✓+ Good
- ✓ Correct

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- √- Poor
- Very Poor
- ~~Extremely~~ **Exceptionally** Poor

19.2 Reined Work - Maneuver Scores for Reined Work: The NRCHA has divided each rein pattern into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

- ++ ~~Excellent~~ **Exceptional**
- + Very Good
- √+ Good
- √ Correct
- √- Poor
- Very Poor
- ~~Extremely~~ **Exceptionally** Poor

19.3 Cow Work - Maneuver Scores for Cow Work: The NRCHA has divided each cow work into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

- ++ ~~Excellent~~ **Exceptional**
- + Very Good
- √+ Good
- √ Correct
- √- Poor
- Very Poor
- ~~Extremely~~ **Exceptionally** Poor

Cow Work - Penalty Points:

1 point penalties:

- T. Failure to drive cow past middle marker on first run down the fence before initiating the turn **after the cow is lined out (3 horse strides)**

19.4 Boxing Class Cow Work – Maneuver Scores for Boxing Class Cow Work: The NRCHA has divided each boxing class cow work into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

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- ++ ~~Excellent~~ **Exceptional**
- + Very Good
- √+ Good
- √ Correct
- √- Poor
- Very Poor
- ~~Extremely~~ **Exceptionally** Poor

19.6 Box Drive Class Cow Work – Maneuver Scores for Box Drive Class Cow Work: The NRCHA has divided each box drive class cow work into sets of maneuvers. It is the judge’s responsibility to evaluate these maneuver groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale:

- ++ ~~Excellent~~ **Exceptional**
- + Very Good
- √+ Good
- √ Correct
- √- Poor
- Very Poor
- ~~Extremely~~ **Exceptionally** Poor

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