

NSBA

NATIONAL SNAFFLE BIT ASSOCIATION

2026 OFFICIAL HANDBOOK



2026 NSBA Rule Changes

The following pages contain rule changes to the 2026 NSBA Official Rulebook. Underlined text indicates new additions to the rules, while strike-through text indicates a deletion in the wording.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS MEMBERSHIP

1. d) An NSBA membership is required for all foal enrollments, stallion nominations, horse registrations, transfers, and leases and to receive payments from any incentive program. A current membership is also required to receive payments from any NSBA incentive program, excluding Smart Points.

If a current membership is not active at the time of program disbursement (e.g., Incentive Fund or Breeders Championship Futurity), a membership must be obtained within sixty (60) days of the original payment date to claim funds.

If the membership is obtained after the original payment date, the member must notify NSBA of their updated membership status in order to receive payment.

1. e) All checks issued by the National Snaffle Bit Association must be deposited or cashed within six months (180 days) from the date of issuance. Any check not deposited or cashed within this six month period will be considered void, and the funds associated with the check will be donated back to the NSBA for use in supporting its programs and initiatives.

Recipients are responsible for ensuring that checks are deposited in a timely manner. Requests for replacement, for any reason, will incur a non-refundable service fee as assessed from NSBA's financial institution that will be subtracted from the replacement check.

3. NSBA regular memberships are available by paying \$75 \$78 (U.S.) for the first individual or owner membership and \$40 \$42 (U.S.) for each additional immediate family member at the same address. Three year regular memberships are available for \$200 \$210 (U.S.). International memberships are available for \$35 \$40 (U.S.). Lifetime memberships are available for \$1,500 \$1,560 (U.S.). Youth memberships are available for \$40 (U.S.) with current 4H/FFA verification card or recognized breed youth card. Regular membership includes the magazine. Lifetime membership includes the magazine for one year.

Other fees:

b) Rush Membership - \$45 \$48 + membership fee (2 business days)

4. NSBA lifetime membership begins the date the payment is received in the NSBA office or paid at a show and has no expiration date. Each new life membership processed will receive the NSBA magazine for the remainder of the regular membership year, at no charge. All other life members will be provided with the NSBA's magazine "The Way To Go" upon payment of \$35 \$45 (U.S.) per regular member year.

CLASS FORMATS

25. The following class formats are approved:

a) Classes can be held in the following combinations:

1) Open

2) ~~Open, and Limited (Open and Limited - one entry~~

~~fee 60/40-split)~~

3) ~~Open and Limited (separate classes with two entry fees).~~

2) Open and Limited

3) Open and Intermediate

4) Open, Intermediate and Limited

b) The Open class will run first in whatever combination of go's specified in the show's format. An extra entry fee may be charged for entering the Intermediate and/or Limited portion of this class but riders declaring their Intermediate and/or Limited status must do so when entering.

REGISTRATION

56. The fees for NSBA Horse Registration are as follows:

a) Registration - \$45 \$48

b) Transfer of ownership - \$45 \$48

c) Duplicate certificate - \$45 \$48

d) Rush - \$45 \$48 + registration fee (2 business days)

EXHIBITOR DIVISIONS

65. OPEN WESTERN PLEASURE (WP) rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-e d). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Western Pleasure classes

1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Western Pleasure class.

2) ~~All riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club are automatically in the Open.~~

3) ~~Riders not in the Quarter Million Dollar Club but are in the top 75 money earners in Western Pleasure in the last three years.~~

2) Riders ranked 1-25 based on 3 Year Open Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Open Western Pleasure Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Western Pleasure classes

1) Riders ranked 26-50 based on 3 Year Open Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

2) Riders ranked 16-100 based on Lifetime Open Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Open Western Pleasure classes

1) ~~All riders are eligible for participation in any Limited Open WP class except those riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club or in the top 75 money earners in Open Western Pleasure in the last three years.~~

1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Western Pleasure Riders List

e) d) \$2,500 Open Western Pleasure classes

1) All riders are eligible for any \$2,500 Open West-

ern Pleasure class except those whose lifetime earnings in Open Western Pleasure exceed \$2,500

66. NON PRO WESTERN PLEASURE (WP) rider classes may be offered in any combination of divisions (a-e d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Western Pleasure classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Western Pleasure class.

~~All Non Pro riders whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) are automatically in the Open Non Pro.~~

- 2) ~~Riders whose lifetime earnings do not exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) but are in the top 50 money earners in Non Pro Western Pleasure in the last three years.~~

- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Non Pro Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Western Pleasure Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Western Pleasure classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Non Pro Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Non Pro Western Pleasure Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Non Pro Western Pleasure classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for any Limited Non Pro class except those whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) or in the top 50 money earners in Non Pro Western Pleasure in the last three years.

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Western Pleasure Riders List

e) d) 50 and over Non Pro Western Pleasure Rider may be offered as a separate class.

67. OPEN HUNTER UNDER SADDLE (HUS) rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-b c). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Hunter Under Saddle class.

- 2) ~~All riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club are automatically in the Open.~~

- 3) ~~Riders not in the Quarter Million Dollar Club but~~

~~are in the top 15 money earners in Open Hunter Under Saddle in the last three years.~~

- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Open Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Open Hunter Under Saddle Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Open Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Open Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Open Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) ~~All riders are eligible for participation in Limited Open HUS class except those riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club or in the top 15 money earners in Open Hunter Under Saddle in the last three years.~~

- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Hunter Under Saddle Riders List

68. NON PRO HUNTER UNDER SADDLE (HUS) rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-e d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle class.

- 2) ~~All Non Pro riders whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) are automatically in the Open Non Pro.~~

- 3) ~~Riders whose lifetime earnings do not exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) but are in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle in the last three years.~~

- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe

Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for any Limited Non Pro class except those whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) or in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle in the last three years.

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Riders List

e) d) 50 and over Non Pro Hunter Under Saddle Rider may be offered as a separate class.

69. OPEN TRAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-b c). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Trail Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Trail class.
- 2) All riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club are automatically in the Open.
- 3) Riders not in the Quarter Million Dollar Club but are in the top 35 money earners in Open Trail in the last three years.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Open Trail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Open Trail Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Trail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Open Trail Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Open Trail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Open Trail Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Limited Open Trail class except those riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club or in the top 35 money earners in Open Trail in the last three years.
- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Trail Riders List

70. NON PRO TRAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-c d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Trail classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Trail class.
- 2) All Non Pro riders whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians

With Disabilities) are automatically in the Open Non Pro.

- 3) Riders whose lifetime earnings do not exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) but are in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Trail in the last three years.

- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Non Pro Trail Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Trail Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Trail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Non Pro Trail Earnings and/or

- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Non Pro Trail Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Non Pro Trail classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for any Limited Non Pro class except those whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) or in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Trail in the last three years.

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Trail Riders List

e) d) 50 and over Non Pro Trail Rider may be offered as a separate class.

71. OPEN WESTERN RIDING rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-b c). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Western Riding Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Western Riding class.

- 2) All riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club are automatically in the Open.

- 3) Riders not in the Quarter Million Dollar Club but are in the top 25 money earners in Open Western Riding in the last three years.

- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Open Western Riding Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Open Western Riding Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Western Riding classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Open Western Riding Earnings and/or

- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Open Western Riding Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed

\$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Open Western Riding Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Limited Open Western Riding class except those riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club or in the top 25 money earners in Open Western Riding in the last three years.

- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Western Riding Riders List

72. NON PRO WESTERN RIDING rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-e d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Western Riding classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Western Riding class.
- 2) All Non Pro riders whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) are automatically in the Open Non Pro.
- 3) Riders whose lifetime earnings do not exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) but are in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Western Riding in the last three years.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-15 based on 3 Year Non Pro Western Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Western Riding Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Western Riding classes

- 1) Riders ranked 16-30 based on 3 Year Non Pro Western Riding Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 16-30 based on Lifetime Non Pro Western Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

b) c) Limited Non Pro Western Riding classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for any Limited Non Pro class except those whose lifetime earnings exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities) or in the top 15 money earners in Non Pro Western Riding in the last three years.
- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Western Riding Riders List

e) d) 50 and over Non Pro Western Riding Rider may be offered as a separate class.

74. OPEN RANCH RIDING rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-c). To offer the Limited

division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Ranch Riding Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Ranch Riding class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Open Ranch Riding Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Ranch Riding classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Open Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Open Ranch Riding Classes

- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Ranch Riding Riders List

75. NON PRO RANCH RIDING rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Ranch Riding Classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Ranch Riding class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Riding Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Riding classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Riding Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Non Pro Ranch Riding Classes

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Riding Riders List

d) 50 and over Non Pro Ranch Riding Rider may be offered as a separate class.

76. OPEN RANCH TRAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-c). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Ranch Trail Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Ranch Trail class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Trail Earnings and/or

- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Open Ranch Trail Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Ranch Trail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Trail Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Open Ranch Trail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Open Ranch Trail Classes

- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Ranch Trail Riders List

77. NON PRO RANCH TRAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Ranch Trail Classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Ranch Trail class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Trail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Trail Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Trail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Trail Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Trail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Non Pro Ranch Trail Classes

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Trail Riders List

d) 50 and over Non Pro Ranch Trail Rider may be offered as a separate class.

78. OPEN RANCH RAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-c). To offer the Limited division, a show must also offer the Open division.

a) Open Ranch Rail Classes

- 1) All riders are eligible for participation in any Open Ranch Rail class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Rail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Open Ranch Rail Earnings

b) Intermediate Open Ranch Rail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Open Ranch Rail Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Open Ranch

Rail Earnings and/or

3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or

4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Open Ranch Rail Classes

- 1) Any rider not on the Open or Intermediate Open Ranch Rail Riders List

79. NON PRO RANCH RAIL rider classes may be offered in combinations of divisions (a-d). To offer the Limited Non Pro division, a show must also offer the Non Pro division.

a) Non Pro Ranch Rail Classes

- 1) All Non Pro riders are eligible for participation in any Non Pro Ranch Rail class.
- 2) Riders ranked 1-10 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Rail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders ranked 1-5 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Rail Earnings

b) Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Trail classes

- 1) Riders ranked 11-20 based on 3 Year Non Pro Ranch Rail Earnings and/or
- 2) Riders ranked 6-15 based on Lifetime Non Pro Ranch Rail Earnings and/or
- 3) Riders in the Quarter Million Dollar Club and/or
- 4) Non Pro riders with lifetime earnings that exceed \$150,000 (all divisions and categories, except Longe Line, Walk Trot and Equestrians With Disabilities)

c) Limited Non Pro Ranch Trail Classes

- 1) Any Non Pro rider not on the Non Pro or Intermediate Non Pro Ranch Rail Riders List

d) 50 and over Non Pro Ranch Rail Rider may be offered as a separate class.

SPORTSMANSHIP

105. NSBA members, non members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owners representatives, spectators and all other persons on the show grounds or facilities of an NSBA approved event must display good sportsmanship at all times. Good sportsmanship includes, but is not limited to, the conduct of the exhibitor, owner, or agent anywhere on the show grounds. All exhibitors, owner and agents are expected to conduct themselves in appropriate manner at all times with show management, judge(s), NSBA steward, show participants or spectators.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be defined as, but not limited to, any action of disrespect, misrepresentation, deceit or fraud or use of profanity directed to judges, show management, NSBA, NSBA Staff or personnel, NSBA members or other exhibitors or spectators. Any conduct that involves the use of physical force and/or results in physical harm to another individual (s) or property will be dealt with severely by the appropriate committee. The suggested minimum penalty

for each individual is \$10,000 fine and a one years suspension per incident. Violators will be handled by Disciplinary Hearing Committee or other such committee as deemed acceptable by the NSBA per the rules and guidelines under the "Disciplinary Procedure" section of this handbook. NSBA has the right to publish the name of any member, non member, or legal entity who has been disciplined by the Association, to include those suspended, put on probation or involved in the aforementioned disciplined process. Additionally, show management may immediately expel individuals exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct from show grounds. Show management must notify the NSBA Executive Director immediately (within 1 hour) of knowledge of said incident and/or expulsion, followed by a written report submitted to NSBA concerning the conduct in question within 14 15 days following the event.

a) Exhibitors, owners or spectators who wish to file a formal complaint to take action against another owner, exhibitor or spectator for a violation of this rule may do so by submitting a letter in writing within 30 15 days of said incident to the NSBA office accompanied by a \$200 (U.S.) deposit. Said deposit will be refunded if complaint is sustained in the formal hearing process. Judges and show committees may file a complaint without payment of the \$200 deposit.

106. Exhibitors, owners, agents or spectators are prohibited from ~~contacting~~ communicating with a judge directly regarding their placement decisions until 24 hours after the conclusion of a show, unless said contact is arranged through the ring steward or show management.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

112. b) Every person who is suspended or otherwise disciplined by one of the NSBA's recognized equine associations and/or any NGB which have enacted and effected the same rules, shall be suspended or disciplined by the NSBA, upon official notice to NSBA by the disciplining association, for the following offenses:

4) judging credentials revoked or suspended

JUDGES

119. NSBA will approve restricted judges in the following classes:

- a) Working Hunter/Jumping
- b) Ranch Riding/Ranch Classes
- c) Category I/Rail

123. Judges shall not directly communicate through any means with exhibitors, owners, agents or spectators regarding their placement decisions until 24 hours after the conclusion of a show, unless said communication is arranged through the ring steward or show management. ~~owners, trainers, exhibitors or agents in the absence of show management or ring stewards while officiating.~~

GENERAL

135.

k) Disqualifications

4) Use of two-way communication device by another person outside the show arena unless necessitated for safety or a medical variance has been granted (refer to EWD rule).

m) Outside assistance will be penalized at the judge's discretion unless authorized under NSBA Rule #135 k) 4).

1) It is the exhibitors' responsibility to present the letter or photocopy to the show management when making their entries.

2) It is show management's responsibility to inform the judges of special accommodations being used.

137. Exhibitors, owners or an agent may communicate with a judge at a show or event regarding their placement only through show management or ring steward. Refer to NSBA Rule #106 and Rule #123.

WESTERN EQUIPMENT

143. b) A braided rawhide or leather bosal or rope bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit, no more than 3/4" (three-quarter inch) diameter at the cheek. Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. The noseband of the all hackamores must measure at least 5 1/2" of smooth rawhide or leather before any braided buttons and be at least 1/2" in diameter. The bosal must be a minimum one finger space (approximately 3/4") between the bosal and nose. Absolutely no paracord, metal or rigid material is allowed under the jaw or on the nose or anywhere on the bridle regardless of how padded or covered it is. Bosals shall be soft and flexible. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to the horse's size and conformation. This rule does not refer to so called mechanical hackamores.

TRAIL

163. 4) THREE POINT

e. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads

f. Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

HORSEMANSHIP

171. a) Three (3) Point Penalty

4) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads

5) Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

LONGE LINE

195. a) Once the class has started, a horse warming up prior to their go ~~shall~~ may only warm up at the walk. Any exhibitor that blatantly disregards this rule shall be disqualified.

210. Penalties and disqualifications

- 10) Any horse that is disruptive or a danger to the exhibitor, other exhibitors or horses
- 11) Blatant disregard to maintain a walk during the warm up prior to an exhibitors go

RANCH HORSE CLASSES

212.

- a) Each Ranch class can be offered for Open, Amateur, Youth, Novice Amateur, Novice Youth, Non Pro and Small Fry for horses three years of age or older.
- b) No horse may cross enter, i.e. a Junior/Senior Western Pleasure horse shown at a show is not eligible to show in the Ranch Riding at the same show; a Youth Western Pleasure horse shown at a show is not eligible to show in the Ranch Riding at the same show; Ranch Trail horse cannot cross enter into any other Trail class; Ranch Rail horse cannot cross enter into any other Western Pleasure classes; Ranch Horsemanship horse cannot cross enter into any other Western Horsemanship class at the same show.

RANCH RIDING

217. 2) THREE POINTS

- e. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
- e. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- f. Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

RANCH TRAIL

220. 2) Three (3) Point Penalties

- j. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- k. Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

RANCH HORSEMANSHIP

224. Available only in the Small Fry, Novice Youth, Youth, Novice Amateur and Amateur divisions. The same rules apply in Walk Trot Ranch Horsemanship as apply in Ranch Horsemanship, except loping is prohibited. Ranch Horsemanship highlights the rider's skill in performing practical maneuvers essential to everyday ranch work. The ideal pattern showcases a seamless partnership between horse and rider, demonstrated through forward-moving gaits, smooth transitions, and efficient maneuvers. The rider's position should enhance the horse's ability to execute each task with ease, maintaining a consistent effective connection throughout the performance. The horse's frame should reflect balance as needed to execute each maneuver. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level

with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

Exhibitors may only show one (1) horse.

It is mandatory that the judge post the pattern to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class. Patterns may be chosen from the 15 Ranch Riding Patterns. The use of natural logs is encouraged. Use of cattle is optional.

CLASS FORMAT

225. Each rider will work individually from the gate utilizing a random working order. Exhibitors will be scored on the basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average score. Each maneuver will be scored and should be added or subtracted from 70 on the following basis, ranging from +1 1/2 to -1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted as well. Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence. All ties will be broken at the judge's discretion.

JUDGING

226.

- a) Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse, the exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class as well as the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount except to check equipment.
- b) Appropriate western attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. For all attire and equipment rules refer to Rule # 143, 144 and 214.

Ranch Horsemanship is to be judged on a rider's ability to perform the required maneuvers that are observed in the Ranch Riding classes while maintaining an effective position. Emphasis on a correct natural position, effective pattern placement, connection with the horse through rhythm and timing while in motion and when performing maneuvers. The exhibitor should maintain a functional position throughout the pattern. It should reflect a solid feel for the horse and the task at hand. Results as shown by the performance of horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain them. The rider's position should always appear effortless and in total unison with the horse. It should enhance the foot work, cadence and degree of difficulty throughout each maneuver. Credit should be given to the rider having the horse in balance from leg, seat, and hand, maintaining the correct cadence at all gaits. The rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Exhibitors

should sit in the saddle, for the walk, trot and lope, with legs hanging slightly forward to stirrups with knees bent. Body should always appear comfortable, heels relaxed, flexible and lower than toes. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. At the extended trot standing or posting is optional. Exhibiting the correct diagonal when making turns to maintain a balanced horse is credit earning. Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized. Those exhibitors that can maintain a position that facilitates an optimal performance throughout the maneuvers should receive more credit. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, allowing for effective communication with the horse. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or down at the rider's side. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized. The type of reins used (romals, split reins, mecate or two-rein) should not affect the score awarded in each maneuver.

SCORING

227. Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers scored in 1/2 point increments from a low of -1 1/2 to a high of +1 1/2 with a score of zero denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. The primary focus will be that the required maneuvers are rider driven, with the rider using their position, seat and use of aids to assist their horse to its best performance. Credit will be given to riders who are effective and connected with their horse, making their performance appear effortless.

A contestant will be penalized each time the following occur:

1) No specific penalties will be incurred for but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

- a) nicks/hits on logs/cones
- b) over/under spins less than ¼ of prescribed turn

2) ONE POINT

- a) Too slow (per gait)
- b) Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- c) Out of frame (per maneuver)
- d) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
- e) Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less

3) THREE POINTS

- a) Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- b) Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an

incorrect lead

- c) Wrong lead or out of lead for more than 2 strides
- d) Draped reins (per maneuver)
- e) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change
- f) Severe disturbance of any obstacle
- g) Trotting more than three strides in a lope departure or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- h) Loss of stirrup
- i) Obviously looking down to check leads

4) FIVE POINTS

- a) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each occurrence
- b) Cueing with the end of the romal (refer to Rule # 143 g for proper use of romal reins)
- c) Spurring in front of the cinch
- d) A horse which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn, overly tired
- e) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern
- f) loss of rein

5) DISQUALIFICATIONS (should not be placed) include:

- a) Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number in visible manner
- b) Willful abuse
- c) Knocking over the cone, going off pattern or working on wrong side of cone
- d) Excessive schooling or training
- e) Fall by horse or rider (Refer to Rule #135 j)
- f) Illegal use of hands on reins (per Rule # 143 g, romal reins may be shortened using the free hand)
- g) Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions
- h) Failure to follow pattern correctly including failure to ever execute correct lead or gait where called for
- i) Over/under spins more than ¼ of prescribed turn

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

261. a) Three (3) Point Penalty

- 5) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- 6) Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES – DIAGNOSIS

374. f) A rider may not show in any other Youth, Amateur or Open categories while showing in the Equestrians With Disabilities classes at the same show. In mounted classes, a rider may show in only one of the Equestrians With Disabilities categories, Independent or Supported. Participation in independent category mounted classes does not prohibit an exhibitor from entering supported Showmanship or Halter at the same show. If a rider's condition deteriorates so that the rider can no longer ride as an independent rider,

but now needs support, this must be documented by the physician and if participating in a therapeutic riding program, the certified PATH instructor. A copy of the documentation must be provided to NSBA.

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES WALK ONLY SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER – Independent or Supported

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

386. Class can be shown English or Western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor. It is recommended to use a plain leather halter and plain lead for English attire. A plain leather halter or sterling silver mounted leather halter with leather lead is recommended for Western attire. The use of a chain is permitted but discouraged. No bridles and/or bits and/or lip chains may be used.

387. Use of a wheelchair is permitted exclusively in Supported Showmanship classes.

388. Use of alternative footing, i.e. boards, concrete, etc. is discouraged by NSBA for safety and animal welfare purposes.

CLASS FORMAT

389. All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required.

390. In EWD Supported Showmanship, if a spotter/handler is required on pattern with the exhibitor, the spotter/handler should be positioned immediately to the left of the exhibitor for the entirety of the class unless required to relocate for safety purposes.

INDIVIDUAL PATTERNS

391. The judge may select an appropriate EWD pattern. In the event that the judge in concert with the show management develops a pattern instead of using existing EWD pattern(s) the following are unacceptable maneuvers: back in a curved line, pull turns. No exhibitor will be disqualified except for safety reasons at the judge's discretion. Exhibitors going off pattern will be penalized and placed at the bottom of the class.

SCORING

392. Scoring will be on a basis of 0-infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Refer to Showmanship At Halter Rule #182-185 for description and scoring.

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES WALK JOG SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER – Independent or Supported

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

394. Use of a wheelchair is permitted exclusively in Supported Showmanship classes.

395. Use of alternative footing, i.e. boards, concrete, etc. is discouraged by NSBA for safety and animal welfare purposes.

CLASS FORMAT

397. In EWD Supported Showmanship, if a spotter/handler is required on pattern with the exhibitor, the spotter/handler should be positioned immediately to the left of the exhibitor for the entirety of the class unless required to relocate for safety purposes.

NSBA HORSE OF THE YEAR

434. Each year NSBA will present ~~two~~ four Horse of the Year Awards to the owners of the horses, (at time of most recent NSBA competition) which are most deserving of these prestigious awards based on NSBA participation, show record and points earned in that year in the following divisions: Rail, All Around Performance, Ranch Performance and Show and Hunter/Jumper Divisions respectively.

NSBA INCENTIVE FUND PROGRAM

GENERAL RULES

436.

a) The Incentive Fund License nomination fee is as follows:
*Foals by 12/15 of their weanling year:

1-4 foals: ~~\$125~~ \$130 per foal

5 + foals: ~~\$100~~ \$105 per foal

Foals by 5/15 of yearling year - ~~\$200~~ \$210

After 5/15 of yearling year - ~~\$1,000~~ \$1,050

Two year old - ~~\$2,000~~ \$2,100

b) Grandfather Clause: Any stallion not enrolled and sold in the IF program may enroll into the program any year following the foaling year for a fee of ~~\$800~~ \$850, making offspring from each year enrolled eligible for licensing.

c) 3) The Owner will earn 80% of the earnings of the foal. If a point earning horse is owned by multiple record-
ed owners during a year, the money awarded to each of the recorded owners will be in proportion to the points earned during each record ownership period according to NSBA records. In the event a change of ownership occurs, a Transfer Form and a copy of the breed papers must be forwarded to the NSBA office. The fee for the transaction is ~~\$45~~ \$48. The date of receipt of the Transfer Form by the NSBA office will determine the date of ownership change for monetary distribution.

c) 4) An NSBA membership is required for all foal enrollments, stallion nominations, horse registrations, transfers, and leases ~~and to receive payments from any incentive program.~~ A current membership is also required to receive payments from any NSBA incentive program, excluding Smart Points.

If a current membership is not active at the time of program disbursement (e.g., Incentive Fund or Breeders Championship Futurity), a membership must be obtained within sixty (60) days of the original payment date to claim funds.

If the membership is obtained after the original payment date, the member must notify NSBA of their updated membership status in order to receive payment.