

American Cutting Horse Association

Rule Changes for 2022

Page numbers refer to the printed rule book effective January 1, 2020

Revisions for 2022 are highlighted and italicized

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Rule 8 A. Annual Membership: An annual fee of \$50 shall be paid for each annual *Individual* membership and *\$75 for each Household (family) membership*; said fee to become due on January 1 and to be considered delinquent if not received within thirty (30) days from date of invoice addressed to any prior or new member at the address shown on the membership records of the ACHA or information which the ACHA may (but not obligated to) have obtained from any affiliate or other source. Annual *Household* membership shall cover the holder, his or her spouse and minor children under twenty-one (21) years of age, in the same household, on January 1 of the year in which the membership is paid. In the event the annual membership is for a single minor child under twenty-one (21) years of age with no other member residing in the same household, the annual fee shall be *\$25*. Each annual membership in good standing shall have one (1) vote. In all voting matters, all ballots returned to the ACHA office by the stated deadline shall be tallied by at least two members of the Executive Board who are not on the ballot. In the event that there are not two members of the Executive Board excluded on the ballot, then an alternate(s) from the Board of Directors who is excluded on the ballot, may be named by the President. Alternatively, the President may, at his discretion, select a CPA firm to tally the ballots.

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Rule 16 C (a) 2. *\$25,000* Novice Cutting Horse Class: Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of *\$25,000* or less as determined by the combined records of the ACHA and the NCHA on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited

age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$25,000 Novice Horse will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$25,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class.

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Rule 16 C (a) 3. ACHA \$5,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class: Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$5,000 or less as determined by the combined records of the ACHA and the NCHA on the first day of the current ACHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$5,000 Novice Cutting Horse will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$5,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class.

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Rule 16 C (a) 4. ACHA \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class: Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$25,000 or less as determined by the combined records of the ACHA and the NCHA on the first day of the current ACHA point year and open to all ACHA Non-Professionals. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion, and Top Ten \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Open or Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by

the ACHA. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class. Participants in any ACHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class must comply with all Non-Professional Rules. Rules set forth in Section III, Rule 16 a, b, c, d, and e apply.

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Rule 11. ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class: Open to all ACHA Non-Professionals *aged 55 years and older*, regardless of lifetime earnings. Earnings toward American Champion, Reserve American Champion and Top Ten Senior Non-Professional will be counted only from ACHA approved classes bearing the title ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all standing rules and, in addition, the class is scheduled with an accompanying Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class approved by the ACHA. Participants in any ACHA Senior Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class must comply with all non-professional rules.

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Rule 18. *The designated contestant representative shall determine the number of cattle bunches for the class. Show Management shall then determine how many horses will be worked in each cattle bunch. The decision on the number of cattle bunches and the number of horses per bunch must be made before the draw for working order of horses. The designated contestant representative in each affected class may conduct a binding contestant vote after the draw on combining classes. The majority vote in the second class must be in favor of combining classes before any classes can be combined.*

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Rule 23. An exhibitor may enter one (1) or more horses in an ACHA approved show; however, a rider may ride only one (1) horse per class except in the Open Class, \$25,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class, \$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class, and the \$5,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class in which a rider may show two (2) eligible horses. In all aged event classes, a rider may ride an unlimited number of horses. Each horse must have the same rider

throughout any contest with more than one (1) go-round or a finals. Under no circumstances can the same horse be shown by more than one (1) rider in any one (1) class at an ACHA approved show.

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Rule 26 A. Qualifications for the American Championships in all classes are based on the rider's participation. For any rider to qualify for the American Championships, he or she must be an ACHA member and must meet the following criteria:

1. Show at least four (4) times in the same ACHA approved class, excluding aged events, held by any ACHA affiliate or combination of affiliates, any approved ACHA cutting in an ACHA-produced show or show conducted by an ACHA-approved producer, or any combination of ACHA-approved shows.

2. A rider qualified for the American Championships may qualify to show in additional classes by showing one (1) time in an approved class held by any ACHA affiliate, any ACHA-produced show, or any show conducted by an ACHA-approved producer providing both the horse and rider are eligible for that class. No rider may enter the American Championships on a horse that has not been shown by that rider at least one (1) time during that point year in every class entered at the American Championships. A qualified rider may enter any horse that he or she has shown at least one (1) time in the specific class entered at the American Championships. For purposes of Rule 26 A, the term "show" or "shown" means that the contestant must cross the timeline and enter the herd.

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Rule 26 E. *All ACHA-approved contests in any class during the point year, whether produced by an affiliate, the ACHA, or an ACHA-approved producer, are recognized as qualifying contests for the American Championships.*

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Rule 33. Any contestant may protest a judge's decision regarding a class in which the contestant participated, if the alleged protest involves a major penalty of *three*

points or more, or three or more one-point penalties in the same run by submitting to the ACHA Judge's Committee a written statement requesting a review of a judge's performance. Said statement must be filed (postmarked, faxed, or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved and must be accompanied by a personal check, money order, or cashier's check in the amount of *one hundred dollars (\$100.00)* made payable to the American Cutting Horse Association. If after review by the Judge's Committee, the protest is found to be valid, the fee will be returned to the contestant. When protests are not found to be valid, the fee will be retained by the ACHA.

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Rule 37 C 2. *Any person who has received direct or indirect remuneration for showing, training or assisting in the training of a cutting horse within the past three (3) years will not be eligible to enter or show in a Non-Professional cutting horse class. An individual may apply for non-pro status if he/she has not performed training duties in the past three (3) calendar years and has not won more than \$50,000 in combined open earnings in ACHA, NCHA, and/or any other cutting horse organizations.* For the purposes of this rule, open earnings consist of winnings from the Open, Novice Horse, and Open Aged Event Classes.

All Non-Professional applications made based upon Rule 37 C 2 shall be referred to the Non-Professional Committee. After investigation and review, the committee will report their findings and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors. All decisions of the Board of Directors shall be final.

This Association does not consider cutting horse trainers' spouses who do not teach cutting horse riders or train cutting horses on cattle as receiving indirect remuneration.

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Rule 37 C 3. A Non-Professional may show a horse that is not owned by the contestant ~~*or the contestant's immediate family*~~ in the \$2500 or \$1000 Novice Rider classes.

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Rule 37 C 4. *If an ACHA Non Professional member publicly exhibits in any contest, whether approved or unapproved, a cutting horse not owned by the member or by the member's Immediate Family as defined herein, the member will be subject to disciplinary actions as provided in this rule, in addition to potential disciplinary actions under Rule 50.d.4. For purposes of this rule "Immediate Family" shall mean the member's spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparents, grandchild, step-parent, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, spouse's parent, spouse's step-parent, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step sibling's spouse, sibling's child, sibling's step-child, half-sibling's child, half-sibling's step-child, step-sibling's child, step-sibling's step-child, parent's sibling, parent's half-sibling, parent's step-sibling, parent's sibling's child, parent's sibling's stepchild, parent's half sibling's child, parent's half sibling's stepchild, parent's step sibling's child, parent's step sibling's stepchild, legal ward or legal guardian.*

The owner of any horse shown in an ACHA-approved show must be a current ACHA member. Any member who owns a horse that he/she wants his or her immediate family to show pursuant to this rule is responsible for completing the forms prescribed by the relating to a family-owned horse and filing those forms with the ACHA prior to the show in which any qualified family member will show that horse. The horse owner member is also responsible for updating their family-owned horse information with the ACHA to be sure it is accurate and up to date.

Penalties for ownership rule violations may include immediate loss of Non Professional status of the member, up to three (3) years suspension from the ACHA, up to a maximum of \$10,000 fine. Also, any other member found guilty of aiding and abetting the rule violator will be subject to the same penalties depending on the severity of the incident.

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Rule 37 C 6. Upon request by a Non-Professional rider of the Show Secretary at the show where a horse is to be tried, a permit will be issued authorizing the same. The permit will allow the ACHA Non-Professional to show a horse not owned by that contestant in the Open, \$25,000 Novice Class, or \$5,000 Novice Class, only if the horse is eligible, at a maximum of two (2) ACHA contests. The horse and shows must be named with the exact dates, and there must be no violation of

Standing Rule 16 d. Only one such permit will be granted a rider for a given horse. Under no circumstances will points/earnings won count toward any ACHA or affiliate awards, title, or certificate for either rider or horse. The Show Secretary will verify eligibility and forward the permit to the ACHA office.

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Rule 38 M. After the start of any ACHA approved or sponsored show, any person in the working area in front of the judge's stand must wear western attire, including a western hat/equestrian helmet, boots, long sleeved shirt buttoned or snapped down the front, with collar, and with sleeves rolled down. T-shirts and slipover knits are not permissible. Chaps are optional. Management of shows being held outdoors may waive any part of the attire rule under extreme weather conditions, or for the practice sessions held before or after the show. Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score. In the warm up or practice pen areas at an ACHA approved show, long or short sleeved collared shirts are permissible. *Non-collared shirts, sleeveless shirts, and T-shirts ARE acceptable at any time while horseback in the warm up or practice pen areas of an ACHA approved show.* Tank tops, shorts, and flip flops are NOT acceptable at any time while horseback in the warm up or practice pen areas of an ACHA approved show. Hats are optional in the warm up and practice pen areas.

No unsafe activities ~~such as riding double (including small children) lead lining, ponying, or unruly horses or riders~~ will be tolerated. This rule will be monitored by show management, as well as ACHA Directors. Any ACHA member who wishes to report a violation of this rule may do so to show management or an ACHA Director at the time of the incident. First offense will result in a written warning. Each subsequent offense will result in a fine of \$50. Nonpayment of this fine will result in suspension of ACHA membership.

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Rule 40 E. *ACHA has the right to suspend or deny membership to any person suspended from other horse/equine associations.*

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ACHA Point Year: The ACHA point year runs from January 1 through December 31. *No points will be awarded during a point year after the Championship Show.* Annual awards will be based on the current point year. Once a horse or riders class eligibility is determined as of the beginning of a point year, that horse or rider is eligible to show in that class the remainder of the point year. This eligibility remains in effect throughout the point year regardless of the amount earned during the point year. The Limited Aged Event point year shall be January 1 to December 31, to coincide with the calendar year of the horse's aged event eligibility.

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ACHA High Point Open Rider of the Year: The High Point Open Rider of the Year will be presented to the open rider that has accumulated the most points each ACHA point year. Points from all ACHA approved weekend *Open, \$25,000* Novice Horse, *\$5,000* Novice Horse classes and Open Aged Event classes shall be included. Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

ACHA High Point Non-Professional Rider of the Year: The High Point Non-Professional Rider of the Year will be presented to the non-professional rider who has accumulated the most points in that point year. Points from all ACHA approved weekend Non-Professional, *\$25,000* Novice Horse/Non Pro, \$50,000 Non Pro, \$20,000 Non Pro, Senior Non Pro and Non Pro aged event classes shall be included. Award: ACHA Official Trophy presented at the American Championships.

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ACHA American Champion Standings:

ACHA American Champion standings for each class are determined by the total points or earnings from all ACHA approved contests:

Open

Non-Professional

\$50,000 Non-Professional

\$25,000 Novice Horse

\$20,000 Non-Professional

\$25,000 Novice Horse/Non-Professional

\$5,000 Novice Horse

\$2,500 Novice Rider

\$1,000 Novice Rider

Senior Non-Professional

ACHA American Champion Youth standings are determined by the total points earned in all ACHA approved Youth classes.

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ACHA American Champion Awards:

At the end of each point year, the ACHA will recognize and honor the following in each of the approved weekend classes:

American Champion Rider and/or Horse

Reserve American Champion Rider and/or Horse

Top Ten Finalists

Award: To be determined by the Board of Directors and presented at the American Championships

In Limited Aged Event Classes, the horse must show four times in the same Limited Aged Event Class at any combination of ACHA contests to be eligible for year-end awards.

Awards: To be determined by the Board of Directors and presented at the American Championships

In all classes, champions will be determined by the most number of points earned in that class. *No points will be awarded during a point year after the Championship Show.* All ties will be broken by the most number of times shown in

liability, loss or injury to livestock, or accidents arising out of or related to this membership.