



April 14, 2026

Jeff Sandberg, Tara Thurgood, Dyllan Fowers, Nate Ellis, Mike Muir, Karl Jensen, Rance Jensen, Jack Taylor, Rachel Wilkinson, Taelor Hansen, Robyn Gruber, Crystal Norman, Liz Martin-Taylor, Alan James, Lisa Ketchum, Heather Hansen, Megan Wood, Aain Evans, Ron Brinkerhoff, Rebekah Brackus, Kara Kindez, Madie Torgerson, Heidi Stout (phone)

Judges Meeting/Clinic 7:00pm

- 1) Jeff Sandberg, President welcomed everyone to meeting. Reminded people to sign roll.
- 2) Review March meeting. Nate Ellis motion to approve, Liz Martin Taylor 2nd. Approved
- 3) Reminder that State dues are due at June meeting.
- 4) Stewart meeting- July 14, 2026- Bring those who will be stewarding shows to come and participate.
- 5) Potluck after show at State. Please talk to your Districts to see if anyone would be interested in having a potluck or have a concession stand provide food at a cost after State show and give out year-end awards.
- 6) Jeff wanted to thank Candace Ogaz for a great job as State Secretary. Candace request to take a leave for being secretary this year. Jeff asked Robyn Gruber (fun2rope@yahoo.com) to be state secretary.
- 7) Jeff turned over the meeting to State Judge Karl Jensen
- 8) Apprentices: Dyllan Fowers turned in his paperwork. Jack Taylor motioned to accept Dyllan as a state judge. Seconded by Nate Ellis. Motion passed
Requirements to be a state judge:
 - a) Attend meeting & clinic
 - b) Judge under 2 different judges in the same year.
 - c) Signed application for approval
 - d) Must be a roster member
 - e) Please let Robyn know who the judges are for District shows, so apprentices can attend
- 9) Make sure you read the new rulebook for any changes. Glossary, #12, Western bridle rule should be shown 305 in the AQHA handbook
- 10) General Judging guidelines:
 - a) Dress professional long sleeve shirt, pants, boots, western hat
 - b) Good conduct
 - c) Good place to stand while judging is a corner. This way you can watch at least 90% of the arena. Standing in the middle your vision is limited
 - d) Judges' sheets- Know the penalties. DQ only in pleasure classes, cow cutting. Reining is a penalty not DQ

e) Scribe- make sure they write down everything that you tell them and understand what you are asking for. Scribe should stand on the side, only listen to the judge as they tell them what they see. Scribe is not to be telling judge that person missed a lead etc. Scribe is only there to scribe not judge.

f) Legal equipment: Check equipment before start of class.

- a. No leg boots in pleasure classes
- b. Romal reins- Riders hold the reins in one hand and the romal in the other, with the thumb up in the rein hand. Split reins- Riders can hold the reins in one or two hands, depending on the bit and the horse's training level. Must have index finger between reins, tail of reins must be on the same side of hand holding the reins.
- c. Helmet is optional

11) Ladies, Men's Pair's Pleasure

- a. Check chin straps, bits, reins. If bits look illegal check. If not sure if bit is legal send a picture to Karl to verify.
- b. No circling at a lope
- c. No leg boots
- d. Must have chaps
- e. No tie downs, running, martingales, roping reins.
- f. No posting at a jog or extended jog.
- g. Pairs' pleasure- work as a pair. When dismounting romals must come over the horse's head when doing the ground tie. Split rein must drop one rein.
- h. Riders do not change sides when reversing.
- i. Pull horses that are having problems into the middle of arena or remove if necessary.
- j. Can back horse on the rail.
- k. Work walk, jog, & lope both directions. Pair's pleasure should dismount also
- l. Dismounting in pairs- ride forward, one horse side pass then dismounts walk three steps away from horses, then remount. Do not change horses
- m. Keep showing during the whole class until placings are made.

12) Reining:

- a. 2026 NRCHA #15 pattern
- b. Must have cones in position for pattern.
- c. If going to drop bits do everyone before reining starts.
- d. Score sheets has two lines per contestant. One for score other for penalties. Score from -1 1/2 to +1 1/2
- e. On back, make sure you back to center of arena, 20 feet from fence, make sures nice and round between cones. One large (fast) and one small (slow).
- f. Can use leg boots, chaps are optional.

13) Cow Cutting

- (a) Judge the best horse with rider
- (b) Working advantage- give 3-4 before penalizing
- (c) All participates either contestants or helps must be dressed appropriately, along with correct equipment for horses.
- (d) Verify back fence
- (e) Make sure as contestants please check with helpers not to over help before starting your cutting.
- (f) No 30 second warning
- (g) Verify after each contestant that scribes have provided the information you have scribed is correct.
- (h) If a lose cow leaves cutting area, do not penalize the contestant for a lose cow.

14) Parade/Drill

- (a) Count how many participants in each group. A: 11 & over B: 10 & under
- (b) Grooming, show shape equipment, matching.
- (c) Judge on smoothness, alignment. Can change gates during drill.
- (d) Parade- One person must be going forward at all times
- (e) American flag- Parade- must be first, Drill- Flag must enter arena first, exit first and must be posted. American flag will be counted in drill
- (f) Drill is not to exceed 8 minutes. Time starts when first person enters the arena and time stops as last person exits arena.
- (g) Can wear long or short sleeves western shirts in parade/drill

15) Judges pay: District show is \$50 plus \$0.62 per mile one way. (Paid by District) Region show is \$75 plus \$0.62 per mile one way (paid by State) District or State is not responsible for hotel room. It is recommended that whenever possible judges should be picked from the Judges 'Roster of the USWRCA unless approved by the Board of Directors.

Adjourned at 8:33pm

- District 1
- District 2 Tara Thurgood
- District 3 Dyllan Fowers
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6 Dyllan Fowers
- District 7 Amanda Hoesel
- District 9
- District 10
- District 13