

3. Barrier judge is responsible to change barrier string whenever it may have been weakened, or on request of the next contestant.
4. Barrier judge shall keep a record of the length of the barrier trip rope each performance to assure the same start for contestants each performance.
5. Barrier equipment must be inspected by the judge before each timed event. If equipment is faulty, it must be replaced.
6. Barrier judge shall be sure that nobody can stand close enough to barrier or barrier equipment to tamper with same.
7. Height of barrier in timed events shall be from 32" to 36" measured at the center of the box.

## **CUTTING HORSE EVENT**

### **I. General Rules:**

Cutting horse event will use NCHA rules when not in conflict with NHSRA rules. Contestant may change horses in the cutting event.

### **II. Optional Rules:**

1. Cuttings may be optional at State/Province qualifying and district qualifying rodeos.
  - a. States/Provinces may hold their Cutting Finals earlier than their State/Province Finals Rodeo. If they choose to, the Cutting Finals must be held within 60 days of the State/Province Finals Rodeo.
  - b. Optional cuttings must be approved by State/Province board of director's prior to start of rodeo season.
  - c. If optional cuttings are approved by State/Province, all member clubs will be notified by State/Province secretary by mail, email or website, prior to start of rodeo season (NO EXCEPTIONS).
  - d. If optional cutting are approved, points may be used for an award for the All-Arounds for that qualifying rodeo.
  - e. All-around points in cutting will only be awarded at State/Province and district finals and will count towards both year-end and state finals all-around.
2. Boys and girls cutting must be offered at all State/Province and district finals.
  - a. All cuttings at State/Province and district finals and qualifying rodeos will be run in accordance with NHSRA rulebook.
  - b. All cuttings will be approved on activity sheet by National Director and the National Executive Director.
3. All states/provinces will hold a minimum of three (3) cuttings at qualifying level.
  - a. Group cuttings are encouraged to increase number of cuttings and reduce cost to rodeo committee.

- b. States/Provinces are encouraged to hold as many cuttings as possible.

### **III. Event Rules:**

1. Horse's name will not be announced, only the contestant's name and number may be announced.
2. In the Cutting Event, first go-round will be drawn. Working order positions within the pre-drawn performance of the second go-round will be randomly drawn. Positions will be drawn for final go-round.
3. National Cutting Horse Association open rules will be followed when not in conflict with NHSRA Rules.
4. Standing rules and rules for judging.
  - a. No two (2) boys or two (2) girls can ride the same horse.
  - b. A contestant may drop out of cutting contest, due to injury to himself or horse. A Dr. or DVM excuse must be presented to the Arena Director to release contestant.
  - c. All contestants will work at the appointed time so designated by the arena director or be disqualified. Horses are to be judged on performance only, regardless of conformation, sex, age, color, appearance, previous performance or breed.
  - d. Each judge must sign his score card and the rodeo secretary shall post same in a conspicuous place immediately following each performance. There must not be any consultation between judges until after score cards are turned in and after cards are turned in there will be no changes. When two or more individuals are judging a cutting contest and one or two judges cannot complete judging of a go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge or judges who complete the go-round will be the sole basis of computing the go-round. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one of his scores is counted in a go-round, all of his scores must be counted. Judges must be mounted or seated on stands high enough to see clearly.
  - e. A contestant may be awarded a complete rework if, in the judge or judges' opinion, 2 1/2 minutes time was not allotted for the work, or if excessive disturbance has been created by factors other than these caused by the contestants or their help and the judge or judges have stopped the time. Such unavoidable factors would include gates coming open, or spectators or workmen disturbing the cattle, but would not apply to cattle scattering through wildness or normal arena activities. In the case of wild cattle, plenty of time should be given to settle the herd before the first horse works. Any rework must take place within the group of cattle drawn by the contestant and must occur before a change of cattle is executed. Each horse must have the same rider throughout the contest.

- f. When a contestant is thrown from a horse, or falls off a horse, or horse falls to ground, a penalty should be imposed. But if rider can remount and resume work, both horse and rider are entitled to complete the balance of their allotted time and the amount of penalty imposed should be in accordance with the circumstances causing such a fall. The time allotted each horse to work is 2 1/2 minutes; time to start when horse crosses start line. This gives the rider ample time to ride the herd and work as many cattle as the rider sees fit in the allotted time. Any rider who allows his horse to quit working or leaves the area before his allotted time is up will be disqualified for that go-round with no score. If elimination is held, the same rider must ride in the elimination and contest.
  - g. A mark of 60 is considered a zero and will receive no points. Example: With a two-judge system, a score of 60 and 61 would give the contestant a total score of 61.
5. The following rules were adopted as a judging standard of Cutting Horse Contest after due consideration and careful study by the National Cutting Horse Association. Attention was given to the fact that no two cattle when cut from a herd will act alike. These rules constitute a fair basis for judging all Cutting Horses in contest and determining both their good work and occasional bad habits.
- a. A horse will be given credit for his ability to enter a herd of cattle and bring one out with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought-out. If he (or his rider) creates unnecessary disturbance at any time throughout his working period, he will be penalized.
  - b. When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it be taken toward the center of the arena and credit should be given for the same. No penalty should be assessed if the animal is cut and driven down the arena fence. The horse should never get ahead of the animal and duck it back toward the herd to get more play but should let the turn back man turn it back to him. Credit should be given the horse which drives its stock sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by his work; thereby showing his ability to drive a cow.
  - c. A horse will be penalized 3 points each time the back fence is used for turn back purposes; the back fence to be agreed on and designated by the judge or judges before the contest starts; meaning the actual fence only, no imaginary line from point to point is to be considered. If any of the contestants voice an objection, before the contest starts, the judge or judges shall take a vote of the contestants, and a "back fence" acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.
  - d. If a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd, lanes or circles

- the herd against the arena fence while cutting, he will be penalized heavily.
- e. If a horse turns the wrong way with tail toward animal being worked, he will be disqualified for that go-round with no score.
  - f. A horse will be penalized one (1) point each time he is reined or visibly cued in any manner. If he is reined or cued several times during a performance, he will be penalized each time. When a horse is picked up hard with the reins and set over, one reined, or spurred in the shoulder, a heavier penalty will be marked against him.
  - g. Credit shall be given for riding with loose rein throughout a performance. For riding with a tight rein throughout a performance, a penalty will be given; for part of the time during a performance, or for bumping the bits, less penalty.
  - h. If a horse lets an animal that he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalized 5 points.
  - i. Credit should be given for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the center of the arena as possible. When a horse goes past an animal to the degree he loses his working advantage, he will be penalized each time he does so. If a horse goes past as much as a length, he will be assessed a heavier penalty. Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse actually pawing or biting cattle, will incur a penalty.
  - j. A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is obviously behind the turn back horse. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.
  - k. A judge marks from 60 to 80 points. An average performance should be marked around 70 points. A judge should be careful not to mark an average performance too high because the next horse that shows may put on a top performance that deserves 5 or 6 points above average, and if the average performance was marked 75, that would leave no room to give the top horse the credit he deserves above the other. Winning points will be based on a horse's ability to work cattle and the amount of play he gets from the animal during the performance. In other words, if a horse gets good play and shows plenty of abilities to cut cattle and the judge thinks he deserves a 78 marking for what he did, but he assessed a 3-point penalty against him for reining, he would mark him 75. One-half (1/2) points are permissible.
  - l. If at no fault of the horse, additional cattle leave the herd, no penalty will be assessed. If at fault of the horse additional cattle are picked up from the herd, he shall be assessed a penalty of 3 points.
  - m. If a horse quits a cow or must be restarted by his rider a

penalty of 5 points will be assessed.

- n. If a horse clears the herd with 2 or more cattle and fails to separate a single animal before quitting, a 5-point penalty will be charged.
- o. The score from each go-round will be added together to get the top horses for Finals.
- p. The score a horse had made in go-round performance will be added to the score he makes in Finals to determine the winner of contest.
- q. In a contest where there are no Finals, the score of each go-round added together will determine the winner of that contest.
- r. The committee must determine how many horses will be worked in each group of cattle. After the draw, absent horses shall be counted toward cattle changes and horses will work as drawn in each group of cattle.
- s. A judge (or judges) shall present in writing any grievance that he may have against contestants or show to an officer, director, secretary, or duly elected or appointed representative of the National High School Rodeo Association at the time of the grievance, and his case will be reviewed by the appropriate committee.
- t. A judge shall conduct himself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any NHSRA approved contest. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any NHSRA approved rodeo, such as drinking immediately prior the contest, the use of abusive language, showing obvious favoritism to, or discrimination against, either an individual or a horse performing in the contest, or any misconduct unbecoming to one in his position will make him subject to a complete and impartial hearing of the cause of the complaint before the appropriate committee.

#### **IV. Equipment:**

- 1. No choke ropes, tie-downs, or wire around the horse's neck will be permitted. Horse must be ridden with a bridle (with bits in the mouth and no noseband or bosal), or hackamore. Hackamore must be loose noseband with no metal parts, only rope or braided rawhide. A man must be able to pass his hand between the noseband and the muzzle completely around the horse's nose. Any wire, tight noseband or mechanical device that will give a rider undue control over a horse must not be used in contest. Breast harness may be used. The rider must keep his hand free from horse's mane and breast harness. The judges will have authority to have rider remove anything they think would be unfair to use in a contest. Chaps and spurs may be worn. Quirt or bat must not be carried. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule, or any part thereof, he shall be penalized 10 points by each judge.

A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of this rule.

#### **V. Self-Adjusted Monitor System (SAMS):**

Self-Adjusted Monitor System may be used at the National High School Finals Rodeo and only if three or more judges are used:

Self-Adjusted Monitor System may be used at the State/Province High School Finals Rodeo and only if one or more judges are used:

If SAMS is used, it will be announced to the contestants in the contestant's packet prior to the NHSFR.

- I. There will be no adjustment to the following:
  - a. No changes in run content.
  - b. No change in one (1) point penalties.
  - c. No review of any run not reported to the announcer at the time the judge calls in his score.
- II. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or a five (5) point penalty is in question on the judge's card. The judge must report the score and indicate that a review will take place on that particular score. For instance, if a horse has a completed run with run content score of 74 and has incurred a three (3) point infraction, he must designate the specific infraction in the appropriate penalty box. If the judge wishes to review the penalty, he will report the score as follows to the announcer: "74R". The announcer must announce "74R" for the review to be valid, and this announcement must be made when the run is complete and before the next run takes place. It is the judge's responsibility to be sure the call indicating the "R" is announced. At the same time he records his score with the "R", he circles the penalty to indicate where the review will be made. All reviews should be made during a cattle change, but in no case will the review be permitted to take place during the following class. A judge must resolve any and all reviews in that particular class before moving on to the next class. If the judge, after reviewing the video tape, decides that his score must be lowered based on the penalty review, he does the following:
  - a. He leaves the original mark for the horse and circle in place. He does not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.
  - b. Next to the original score and circle he indicates the new score and initials same. If there is no room on that horse's score line, a judge may use the bottom of his judge's sheet or the back of his score sheet to record the "adjusted" score and initial the change. Under no circumstances should the judge use another piece of paper or any other means to indicate a change of score. The judge then turns his score sheet in to the Cutting Secretary and the announcer will make the following statement:

“Contestant #, Contestant Name, has a score of 74 (if no adjustment) or 71 if adjusted.”

If there are more adjustments in that group of cattle, each announcement will be the same.

Under this system, it is imperative that the Arena Director and Cutting Secretary enforce each and every rule pertaining to “judge-contestant” contact. If a contestant makes any contact with the judge over the review process before, during or after the process, the contestant will be disqualified. The system is being implemented not only as an aid to assist the judge but also to provide the contestant with a more fair and accurate score.

To aid this system, the NHSRA must provide video equipment by which the review process can take place. Any system will work as long as it provides a clear picture and is consistent for all contestants. The procedure has been designed to add an element of fairness to the judging system and the better the review process and equipment, the easier the review becomes.

#### **VI. Summary of “SAMS” for judges:**

1. Deal with the three (3) and five (5) point penalties only. You are never to re-judge the run or the run content or adjust any one (1) point penalties.
2. Make your call after careful thought process and move on to the next review. Do not dwell on the call. Our current system has taught us that after three reruns of the same situation the judge should have a working knowledge and basis in fact for a decision.
3. The review should rule in favor of the contestant if a penalty situation does not have an absolute conclusion.
4. Do not let the review process affect your concentration or confidence. All judges will make an error, and the review process will increase your capacity to make the correct call when the situation reoccurs. The goal of any judging system is to put the horses in the proper order.
5. The penalty review will not have any impact on the run content except to add or subtract the penalty value (3 or 5 points) to the score.

To recap, here are the important points:

- a. Record your score as normal. Designate the appropriate penalty for reviews.
- b. Communicate your score to the announcer, i.e. 74R.
- c. Review the major penalty only; 3 or 5 points as designated.
- d. Complete the reviews and make the class complete before moving to the next class.

In the event of equipment failure, all scores reviewed or not reviewed will re-main official, and the judge continues to mark his card in the normal fashion.

**Two or three judges—one uses the “R” and the other(s) did not:**

The judge(s) marking the “R” will review the situation first. If the judge(s) do not change their score, the other judge(s) will not be required to look at the run. If the judge(s) change the score, then the other judge(s) will be required to review the situation. This should be done totally separate with no communication between the judges during the reviews.

**Two or three judges—no “R” is called:**

If during any run one judge calls a major penalty (3 or 5 points) and the judges do not call a review, then all judges must look at that particular situation, separately with no communication among them. It is the Cutting Secretary’s responsibility to review each judge’s scorecard to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points). They may agree there is, or is not, a penalty. The purpose is that all judges reviewed the situation. This is to better help the judges and also the contestants.

## **REINED COW HORSE – UPDATED RULES FOR NHSFR**

### **I. General Rules:**

REINED COW HORSE will use NRCHA rules when not in conflict with NHSRA rules. Contestant may change horses in the Reined Cow Horse throughout the season. A Contestant may not change horses between the rein work and cow work portion of an event.

1. Reined Cow Horse must be offered at all State/Province Finals. States/Provinces will have two options in conducting their qualify Reined Cow Horses.
  - a. Option I: Reined Cow Horse will be held at or assigned to each qualifying rodeo. All points earned in the Reined Cow Horse will be applied to the All Around.
  - b. Option II: The Reined Cow Horse will be offered at a minimum of three (3) times at the qualifying level. If optional Reined Cow Horse are approved, points may be used for an award for the All-Arounds for that qualifying rodeo.
  - c. Choice of Option I or Option II must be approved by the State/Province Board of Directors prior to the rodeo season. The decision must be conveyed to State/Province membership and the NHSRA office prior to start of rodeo season.
2. The State/Province may hold their Reined Cow Horse Finals prior to their State/Province Finals Rodeo. If they choose to do so, the