



RULEBOOK 2025

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About the USCHA

The USCHA is a for profit limited liability company. USCHA was created to serve as a national governing body for the equine sports of Cutting and Ranch Cutting. As a membership-based organization, the USCHA represents riders of all ages and riding abilities. Membership is FREE.

Each year, the USCHA will host a variety of competitions that attract riders from around the United States, in addition to assisting private show owners in producing USCHA events. The USCHA also functions as an advocate for the working cow horse, promoting its use in our sports and educating the public about the fun, family competitions that the USCHA sanctions throughout the United States each weekend. Through member services, competition regulation, championship production and general promotion of the sports of Cutting and Ranch Cutting, the USCHA is committed to promoting the western lifestyle.

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the United States Cutting Horse Association is to engage those with an affinity for the western lifestyle in the sports of cutting and ranch cutting, develop resources and services for the benefit of USCHA members, and growth of the sport.

About this Rule Book:

The Rules contained herein have been considered and approved by the Committee Members of United States Cutting Horse Association. These Rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced by the Committee Members and Staff of the USCHA.

USCHA Committee Members and staff will determine whether violations of the rules have occurred, all rulings of USCHA Committee Members or staff shall be final.

USCHA will have ten (10) regions:

Region 1. North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming

Region 2. S. California, Arizona, S. Nevada, S. Utah, W. Colorado

Region 3. N. California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, N. Nevada, W. Utah, and Alaska

Region 4. North Texas, East Texas, and Oklahoma and Arkansas

Region 5. Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama

Region 6. Ohio, W. Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Delaware, Maryland, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island

Region 7. Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota

Region 8. E. Colorado, S. Colorado, New Mexico, and West Texas

Region 9. Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan

Region 10. South Texas and Louisiana

Standings Rules

Section 1 – General

SR1. In as much as the United States Cutting Horse Association (USCHA) has for its basic purposes the public exhibition and promotion of the cutting horse, it is hereby established that all contests conducted by a producer of the USCHA must first be approved by the USCHA before they become sanctioned USCHA shows.

SR1A. USCHA approved contests are restricted to USCHA members only.

SR1B. All owners and riders must be members in good standing with the USCHA to compete in an approved show.

SR1C. The USCHA may, within its discretion, approve shows sponsored or conducted jointly by the USCHA with other equine organizations or associations.

SR2. Any individual or group production conducting a cutting horse contest sanctioned by the USCHA must follow the Standing Rules of the USCHA, unless modified in conjunction with contests held jointly with other organizations or as approved by the USCHA committee.

SR2A. All references hereinafter contained providing for compliance with the standing rules of the USCHA shall be enforced with the understanding that exceptions or modifications may be approved by the Committee Members.

SR2B. The rules of the USCHA shall supersede the rules of all other associations whether said rules are in concert or conflict with the Standing Rules of the USCHA.

SR3. All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to the respective horse by their breed associations and all unregistered horses must be shown under the name designated to the respective horse at all contests approved by the USCHA.

SR3A. USCHA will allow the showing of cloned horses and their offspring. Their winnings will count in the USCHA standings.

SR4. The term “Show Management” as used herein is the organization or individual acting as sponsor of a cutting horse contest for which said producer or producers sought and received the approval of the USCHA to conduct the same.

SR5. Show Management may take any actions necessary which it feels are in the best interest of the show, in compliance with USCHA Standing Rules. In the event that a member feels that Show Management has not acted in the best interest of the show or has violated USCHA Standing Rules, the member may file a protest with the USCHA. The fee for filing a protest will be \$100. If the protest is found to be valid the \$100 fee will be returned to the contestant.

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Section 2 – Membership

SR6. Membership in the USCHA is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made on forms and by procedures prescribed by the USCHA. Membership, or application thereof, may be cancelled or denied by Committee Members for any cause detrimental to the interest of the USCHA, its programs and policies, or harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Committee Members.

Such decision by Committee Members of cancellation or denial shall be final. The effect of membership cancellation or denial may be denial of privileges, including show privileges, of the USCHA. A suspended member is prohibited from entering the warm up area or the contest arena either on foot or on horseback. Every member, by joining the USCHA, or non-member, by participating in USCHA approved events, does hereby agree:

SR6A. If legal action is undertaken against the USCHA, whether in law or equity, such action must be taken in courts located in Hopkins County, Texas.

SR7. Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, trust or any other legal entity organized or approved by any state in the United States of America, or organization of good character and reputation (collectively “Entity”) interested in cutting horses may become a member of the USCHA by applying to the USCHA. To be eligible for any USCHA monetary awards or prizes, both owners and riders of horses must be current USCHA members in good standings.

SR8. Membership shall be in two categories: Annual Adult Membership (Professional/Non-Professional/Supporter) and Annual Youth Membership. Membership in the USCHA is non-transferable.

SR8A. Annual Membership: An annual membership shall be FREE to all members. Prior to participation in any contests a new member shall complete a membership form of the USCHA. Returning members membership will automatically renew annually unless canceled in writing to the USCHA office by the member.

Section 3 – Approved Contests

SR9. Each show producer must submit to USCHA a show application and show flyer with detailed information (Qualifying shows are allowed). There shall be no dues, application, or any additional producer's fees. No percentage of any purse shall be sent to USCHA. USCHA software is available for purchase. Manual or handwritten USCHA approved documents may be used eliminating computer generated show. USCHA show producers may, at their discretion, charge memberships to owners and/or riders for participation in their entities sanctioned events. Show producer shall provide the USCHA with the following, with must be received by the USCHA office with seven (7) days of the closing date of a show:

- a. Five dollars (\$5.00) per horse shown in all approved contests.**
- b. Completed and signed Judge's Cards for each show.**
- c. Video of all runs of all horses shown in all USCHA approved contests.**

SR9A. To be USCHA approved, a signed Show Application form must be received in the USCHA office at least fourteen (14) days prior to the show. If Show Management subsequently determines that any change is necessary, Show Management must request and obtain written approval of the change from the USCHA. Any approved change concerning an approved show, including but not limited to added money, entry fees, payout schedule, office charges, dates, location or start time of a contest, must appear on the website at least 7 days prior to the scheduled event. See SR13.

SR9B. Producers holding shows which are located within 200 miles of each other on the same date are subject to additional approval by the USCHA.

SR10. A show that is approved by the USCHA must comply with all USCHA Standing Rules.

SR 11. All judges for USCHA approved shows must be selected from the USCHA Approved Judges List. All Judges for USCHA approved shows must be current USCHA members. Any USCHA adult member not currently on the USCHA approved judges list may request a USCHA Judge Application form from the USCHA office. Once the completed USCHA Judge Application along with fee is received by the USCHA office, it will be forwarded to the Judges Committee for review. The individual's name will be added to the USCHA Approved Judges List upon unanimous approval of members Judges Committee.

SR12. When a Show Application is submitted for show approval by a current USCHA producer, show approval will be considered for that particular show, provided: (1) The show is directly sponsored or conducted by the producer requesting show approval; (2) The added money does not exceed \$500.00 in any one orthodox class, unless specifically approved by USCHA Committee Members. Ranch/Herd work classes may not exceed \$300 in added money.

SR12A. Early applications are encouraged by the USCHA office.

SR13. Show Management of all USCHA approved contests must use official Judge's Cards provided by the USCHA and shall post same in a conspicuous space immediately following each class and go-round. Show Management must forward Judge's Cards, a video copy of all runs to the USCHA along with completed USCHA Show Results (including a copy of contestant sign up sheets) copies of horse papers/transfers, new memberships and fees within seven (7) days of the closing date of the shows. A fine of \$250 will be incurred if all information is not provided timely. See SR 13A.

SR13A. In the event USCHA Show Results are not received in the USCHA office within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show, the USCHA producer which sponsored the show will be fined a \$250.00 late charge. Failure by a producer to pay the assessed fine will be cause for cancellation of future USCHA approved shows.

SR14. The USCHA Committee Members reserve the right to deny approval or cancel the approval of a show which it deems not to be in the best interest of the Association.

SR15. All USCHA approved contests must be videoed. The video cost may be passed on to the contestants. Videos must be sent to USCHA office along with show results. The video must have horse, rider and cow in the picture at all times. Do not zoom in on rider too closely to prevent getting the overall action. Do not omit any horses in any class.

Allow lead-in footage before horse begins to work and after buzzer sounds and horse begins to leave arena. Be sure the horn and buzzer sound is heard on recording as well as the announced score. Do not leave the camera stationary. Video must contain horse crossing the timeline going to the herd as well as crossing the timeline leaving the herd.

SR16. All members of the USCHA are responsible for determining class eligibility for themselves and all horses they own or exhibit. We recommend owners and exhibitors to print an Equi-stat report at the beginning of show year. Point year shall be 01/01/2025-10/12/2025. All USCHA & NCHA earnings are used to determine eligibility with the exception of Ranch Cuttings and 5000 Limited Rider Classes. Monies won at 2024 USCHA National Finals will also be included in determining class eligibility for the 2025 point year immediately following the USCHA National Finals.

SR16A. Upon determining that a horse or rider has won money in a class for which the horse or rider is ineligible, the rider/owner of the horse must repay any winnings to show producer. USCHA records will be adjusted, show producer will be notified by USCHA to remove the ineligible horse or rider, with the ineligible earnings to be allocated by show producer among the remaining class participants to establish the correct class standings.

SR16B. To be eligible for any USCHA earnings or awards, both owners and riders must be current USCHA members in good standing. SR16C. There are 16 (Plus Level 1 / Level 2) classifications of USCHA approved contests. Earnings toward any national top 5 titles will be counted only from USCHA approved classes.

1. USCHA Open Cutting Horse Class:

Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, color, appearance, or previous performance. Horses are to be judged on performance only. A Non-Professional may exhibit a horse in the Open Class provided the horse is owned by the Non-Professional. The Non-Professional rider must pay all entry fees and charges in relation to the entry and must not receive direct or indirect remuneration. A rider may ride (3) horses in this class per approved show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

2. USCHA \$35,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$35,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Riders may elect to ride (3) eligible horses in this class per approved show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

3. USCHA \$15,000 Novice Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$15,000 or less as determined by the combined recorded of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Riders may elect to ride (3) eligible horses in this class per approved show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

The Open, \$35,000 Novice Cutting Horse, \$15,000 Novice Cutting Horse and the Non-Professional Cutting Horse Classes will offer Level 1 and Level 2 divisions. Level 1 will be determined by riders eligibility. The riders will have combined NCHA/USCHA earnings of less than \$500,000 combined and or be over the age of 65. Level 2 will be determined by riders eligibility. The riders will have a combined NCHA/USCHA earnings greater than \$500,000 combined and be under the age of 65. It is the Show Producers discretion what Classes and Levels will be offered at any sanctioned USCHA Events.

4. USCHA \$25,000 Novice Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$25,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year and open to all USCHA Non-Professionals. Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings. Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class per approved show, both of which must be owned by the contestant or Immediately Family (See 37B). Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

5. USCHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all USCHA Non-Professionals. Participants in any USCHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class must comply with all Non-Professional Rules. Awards and standings will be calculated on rider's performance. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved show. Earnings toward this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standings Rules.

6. USCHA \$75,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all USCHA Non-Professionals with total lifetime earnings of \$75,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Limited age contest money shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved

show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

7. USCHA \$45,000 Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all USCHA Non-Professional with a lifetime earnings of \$45,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year.

Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standings Rules.

8. USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all members of the USCHA who are eighteen (18) years of age or younger on Jan 1st, the first day of the current USCHA point year. The age of a youth on the first day of the current USCHA point year shall be maintained throughout the entire point year. Both Junior and Senior youth USCHA Regional titles, USCHA National Champions, USCHA Reserve National Champions, and Top Five National Champions will be awarded. Junior Youth are thirteen (13) and under on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Senior Youth are aged fourteen (14) through eighteen (18) on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Points won toward the Junior and Senior Youth will be counted only from USCHA approved Youth Cutting Horse Classes. One class may be held bearing the title Youth Cutting Horse Class in which both Junior and Senior Youth compete. Whether or not one Youth Class is held or the Youth Class is divided into two classes based on age. Unless separate Junior and Senior Youth classes are held, points shall be separated into Junior or Senior Youth divisions only in the USCHA records. Points towards the Junior and Senior Youth will be counted only from the USCHA approved shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

- a. A maximum of two contestants in an USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Class may ride any horse, regardless of a horse's sex, breed, or ownership as long as one contestant is a boy and one a girl.

- b. Only youth members of the USCHA shall be eligible to receive any youth awards offered by the USCHA.
- c. No points shall be awarded in a youth class having less than three (3) entries.
 - 1. If there is to be one (1) class, undivided, the age group is to be eighteen (18) and under.
 - 2. If the classes are large, Show Management may elect to divide the Youth Cutting Horse Class into two (2) groups.
 - 3. If there are to be two (2) age groups, the age division must be thirteen (13) and under for the Junior Youth age group and fourteen (14) through eighteen (18) for the Senior Youth age group.
 - 4. A record of points earned shall be maintained in the rider's name by the USCHA.
 - 5. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the Junior Youth, having accumulated the greatest number of points in USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes, will be named by the USCHA as its USCHA National Champion Junior Youth. The USCHA National Reserve Champion and National Top Five Champions shall be named as well.
 - 6. At the conclusion of the annual point year, the Senior Youth having accumulated the greatest number of points in USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes will be named by the USCHA as its USCHA National Champion Senior Youth. The USCHA National Reserve Champion and National Top Five Champions shall be named as well.
 - 7. Married contestants, regardless of age, are ineligible for competition in USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes.
 - 8. Points shall be awarded in approved USCHA Youth Cutting Horse Classes based on the number of entries listed below:

	Place:					
Number of Horses	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

1 – 3 horses	3	2	1			
4 horses	4	3	2	1		
5 horses	5	4	3	2	1	
6 horses or more	6	5	4	3	2	1

In case of identical scores, a tie shall be declared, and all places involved will Each receive the highest number of points allocated to that placing. Under no circumstances, regardless of the number of entries, shall a contestant be awarded more than six (6) points. No points will be received marking a zero score.

9. **USCHA Select Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class:**
Open to all USCHA Non-Professionals over the age of 55 years. Participants in any USCHA Non-Professional Cutting Horse Class must comply with all Non-Professional Rules. Awards and standings will be calculated on rider’s performance. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved show. Earnings toward this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules. A rider may enter upon turning 55 years of age anytime during the point year.
10. **USCHA \$5,000 Limit Rider Class:**
This class is open to any rider who has won less than \$5,000 as determined by all money earned as reported to Equi-stat / Q-data banks will be used to determine eligibility on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex color, appearance, or previous performance. Riders are not required to own the horses they show in this class. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved show. Earnings toward this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.
11. **USCHA Ranch Cutting Class:**
This is a limited rider herd work class that will be open to all riders that have lifetime earnings less that \$100,000 in any performance horse discipline riding on cattle. The horse must have lifetime earnings less than \$3,000 in any performance horse discipline riding on cattle. All money earned reported to Equi-stat data bank will be used to determine eligibility.

USCHA National Champions, USCHA Reserve National Champions, and Top Five will only be determined from shows that comply with all Standing Rules. Riders are not required to own the horses they show in this class.

Ranch Cutting Class: Rider's may ride 3 horses in this class per approved show. All USCHA ranch cutting classes are judged using a modified version of the USCHA's official rules. The modifications will pertain only to scoring as it relates to reining a horse. Contestants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules. A participant shall not be penalized for guiding or reining a horse. This class is designed for horses that need to be assisted.

A participant excessively jerking by force or pulling a horse around may be penalized. This rule may be subject to each individual judge's interpretation.

*** See additional USCHA Ranch Cutting Rules below.**

12. USCHA \$1,500 Limit Rider Ranch Cutting Class:

This class is open to any rider who has won less than \$1,500 in any performance horse discipline riding on cattle and to horses that have won less than \$15,000. All money earned reported to Equi-stat data bank will be used to determine eligibility. Riders may ride 1 horse in this class per approved show.

All USCHA ranch cutting classes are judged using a modified version of the USCHA's official rules. The modifications will pertain only to scoring as it relates to reining a horse. Contestants are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules.

A participant shall not be penalized for guiding or reining a horse. One point reining penalties and second hand on rein penalties will not be charged by judge. This class is designed for horses that need to be assisted. A participant excessively reining a horse or using direct force by jerking or pulling a horse around may be penalized. This rule may be subject to each individual judge's interpretation.

*** Additional USCHA Ranch Cutting Rules:**

Horses in Ranch Cutting classes must be shown two handed. Only split rein ring snaffle bits or hackamores are allowed. If a rider becomes unseated during his or her run and needs to secure their seat by grabbing saddle horn, once balanced and reseated they must resume showing their horse 2 handed or face disqualification. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules. Horse shown in any Ranch Classes are not eligible to be shown in orthodox cutting classes during the same show year. Horses who have shown in an orthodox cutting class in any association may not be shown in a Ranch cutting class.

13. \$20,000 Non- Professional Cutting Horse Class:

Open to all USCHA Non-Professional riders having lifetime earnings of \$20,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year. Limited age contest money won shall be included in determining a rider's lifetime earnings. A rider may ride one (1) horse in this class per approved show. Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all the Standing Rules.

14. USCHA \$10,000 Novice Horse Non-Professional Cutting Class:

Open to all horses having lifetime earnings of \$10,000 or less as determined by the combined records of USCHA and NCHA cutting horse associations on the first day of the current USCHA point year and open to all USCHA Non-Professionals. Limited age contest money won shall not be included in determining a horse's lifetime earnings.

Riders may elect to ride two (2) eligible horses in this class per approval show, both of which must be owned by the contestant or Immediately Family (See 37B). Earning for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

15. USCHA Preliminary Boxing Class:

This is a Limited Rider Class. Riders are not required to own the horses they show in this class. To determine eligibility, Equi-stat data bank will be used. Riders with earning less than \$1,500 in all western performance horse events where cattle are utilized. Horse may not have won in excess of \$15,000 as determined by Equi-stat data bank earnings. Riders may ride 2 horses in this class per approved show. Introduction cattle work class Split or Romel reins. Class designed for beginners to ride and control a single cow solo in the cutting pen. This class will utilize a 1 minute clock. The class will be judged using the Official USCHA Boxing Rules and Judges Score Card (will be exempt from orthodox cutting judging rules). Horse shown in any Boxing Class are not eligible to be shown in orthodox cutting classes during the same show year. Horses who have shown in an orthodox cutting class in any association may not be shown in a Boxing cutting class during the same show season. No reining pattern is required. Boxing Classes may be held a class within a class during an approved USCHA show. (See SR 68 for Rules and Tips). (See page 57) Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

16. Non Professional Green Horse Boxing Class:

This is a Non Professional class. Riders are required to own the horses they show in this class. To determine eligibility, Equi-stat data bank will be used. Riders with earnings of less than \$100,000 are eligible. The earnings used to calculate eligibility will come from western performance horse events where cattle are utilized. Horse may not have won in excess of \$3,000 as determined by Equi-stat data bank earnings. Riders may ride 2 horses in this class per approved show. Introduction cattle work class Split or Romel reins. Class designed for Non Professional to ride and control a single cow solo in the cutting pen. This class will utilize a 1 minute clock. The class will be judged using the Official USCHA Boxing Rules and Judge Score Card (will be exempt from orthodox cutting judging rules). Horse shown in any Boxing Class are not eligible to be shown in orthodox cutting classes during the same show year. Horses who have shown in an orthodox cutting class in any association may not be shown in a Boxing cutting class during the same show season. No reining pattern is required. Boxing Classes may be held a

class within a class during an approved USCHA show. (See SR 68 for Rules and Tips). (See page 57) Earnings for this title will accumulate only from shows that comply with all Standing Rules.

Jackpot Cuttings:

Producers may hold Jackpot Cuttings provided there is no added money and subject to the following additional conditions:

- a. Money earned in Jackpot Cuttings will be considered for lifetime earnings only (Please refer to SR20F).

USCHA Double Judged Double Payout:

USCHA double judged/payout events will be comprised of one show wherein two judges independently score each entry. The contestants will be automatically entered under both judges. Judges at double judged events will be titled as Judge A and Judge B prior to the start of the contest. Contestants that enter double judged show will be entering under Judge A and Judge B to potentially earn monies under both judges scoring separately on one run.

Scores under both judges will be posted and announced after any reviews and after reviews and after the class is complete.

Double judged events will be allowed to charge an additional office charge, as well as an additional entry fee. The latter is to be jackpotted at 100%. No additional cattle charges will be approved. All monies, including added monies, will be split, and paid out equally under each judge.

Double judged events must be in compliance with all USCHA Standing Rules. *A show producer will be allowed to hold (8) one-day double judged events each year between January 1st and October 12th.* Double judged shows will count as double qualifying event.

Co sanctioned Events:

The USCHA is open to co sanctioning with many organizations. There are many co sanction formats that can be approved. (Contact the USCHA, if you have any questions regarding hosting a co sanctioned event).

SR16C. No Horses may be shown twice in the same class on any single day with the exception of the Youth class.

SR16D. There must be a minimum of 3 horses entered to conduct a USCHA approved class. Classes with 3 or 4 horses maybe held as jackpot only at the show producer's discretion, with no added money and with no change to advertised fees. Any class with 3 or more horses will count towards qualifying for year-end standings and lifetime earnings. Only classes with five (5) or more horses entered will be required to have added money as advertised by show Producer. In all contests monies won in any USCHA approved class will count towards year end standings, qualifying for year-end finals events and lifetime earnings.

SR17. Any owner who shall permit his horse to be entered or exhibited by an ineligible rider in classes for Non-Professional riders shall be subject to disciplinary action by USCHA Committee Members. Such disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to monetary fines and or suspension form the USCHA.

SR18. The designated contestant representative shall conduct a binding contestant vote on the number of cattle bunches for the class or on combing classes. 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.

SR19. Judge of the contest must draw for working order of horses in all classes. Any draw may be witnesses by any contestant for the class involved. All draws must be made before each class or go-round. The draw will be conducted by using numbered tokens or balls. A numbered token for each entry shall be placed in a container, and a blind draw shall be conducted by the judge.

SR19A. In the event that a horse which was properly entered is left out of the draw, a complete redraw of the class will not be held. In order to establish a working order for the additional entry, the judge will draw one numbered token from the tokens originally drawn. The additional entry shall work after the entry originally drawn in that position. For example, if the number six (6) is drawn for the additional entry, that additional entry will work as entry six (6)A.

SR19B. If a horse is drawn twice, the judge shall draw to determine which draw position is to be used.

SR19C. If a horse is drawn which is not in that class, the entry shall be scratched.

SR19D. USCHA requires a minimum 2 ½ head of cattle per entry in fresh cattle classes. USCHA recommends 4 head of cattle per entry in rerun cattle classes.

SR20. USCHA Fee and Payout Schedule:

SR20A. In all cutting horse contests approved by the USCHA, show producers will remit to the USCHA office a \$5.00 per horse fee based on the number of horses entered at their shows. \$3.00 of this fee will be guaranteed to be utilized by the USCHA as added money at the USCHA National Championships and \$2.00 for USCHA National Championship Awards.

In all cutting horse shows approved by the USCHA, three percent (3%) of the total entry fees paid in the contest shall be deducted by the Show Management and retained by the Show Producer.

SR20B. Entry fees and added money will be determined by Show Management. If any charge is to be made other than an entry fee, such as cattle charge, office charge, handling fee, stall fee, video or grounds fee, it must be stated and separated from entry fee.

SR20C. No deduction, other than as specified above, shall be made by Show Management or producer. Failure to comply with this rule will result in show approval being withdrawn.

SR20D. The number of horses in a class determines the determines the number of monies to be paid. Mandatory payout schedule for all classes is as follows:

# of Entries	Monies Paid	Percentage Distribution
3	1	100
4-5	2	60, 40
6-9	3	50, 30, 20
10-13	4	40, 30, 20, 10
14-17	5	30, 25, 20, 15, 10
18-21	6	30, 24, 18, 12, 9, 7
22-25	7	26, 21, 17, 13, 10, 8, 5
26-29	8	25, 20, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4
30-33	9	24, 18, 14, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 4
34-37	10	22, 16, 13, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
38-41	11	21, 15, 12, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3
42-Over	12	20, 15, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

SR20E. USCHA will not recognize any classes with fewer than three (3) horses in order to be an approved USCHA class. Refer to SR16E.

SR20F. *For a USCHA approved show to count towards qualifying for a USCHA National Championship event. There is no added money requirement.*

SR20G. All show producers may qualify their added money in any class based on the number of entries. The following example is recommended NOT MANDATORY:

5 – 9 horses per class \$200 added

10 – 14 horses per class \$300 added

15 - 19 horses per class \$400 added

20 – UP horses per class \$500 added

SR21. Show Management may accept late entries until one-fourth (1/4) of the horses in the class concerned have worked. Any late entries must work last in the first available bunch of cattle. When two (2) late entries arrive simultaneously, a draw will be held and said entries inserted in the next subsequent bunches of cattle with one (1) entry being placed in each bunch. If the number of late entries exceeds the number of cattle bunches, additional late entries will be added to the first available bunch.

**Example: 1st Group – late entry A
2nd Group – late entry B
3rd Group – late entry C**

A 4th entry would be added to the first available bunch of cattle.

SR22. Each horse's scores from all go-rounds will be added together to determine which horses advance to the finals.

SR23. Rider's may ride more than one horse in the following classes:

<u>Classes that you can ride three (3) horses</u>	<u>Classes that you can ride two (2) horses</u>
Open	\$25,000 Novice Non Pro
\$35,000 Novice	\$10,000 Novice Non Pro
\$15,000 Novice	<i>USCHA Preliminary Boxing</i>
<i>Ranch Cutting Class</i>	<i>Non Professional Green Horse Boxing</i>

SR23A. Each Horse must have the same rider throughout any contest with more than one (1) go-round or a finals. With the exception of the youth classes. (See SR 16B. 8 page 13). Under no circumstances can the same horse be shown by more than one (1) rider in anyone (1) class at an USCHA approved show.

SR24. At all USCHA contests, announcers are required to make known the name of each horse and the horse's owner and rider at the time of their performance. The winners are also to be announced in a similar manner after each class.

SR25. The time allotted each horse to work is two and one-half (2 ½) minutes; the time will start when a contestant crosses a timeline designated by Show Management. If the clock has not been started or if it malfunctions, the Show Secretary or timer shall notify the judge(s). The judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a horse's performance.

SR25A. Short Clock: A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the judge(s) opinion two and one-half (2 ½) minutes was not allotted for the work or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those created by the Contestant, or his/her help and the judge(s) has stopped the time. These factors would include gates coming open, fences falling down, and objects entering or falling in or near the working portion of the arena but would not apply to cattle scattering or normal arena activities. Any rework must take place with the bunch of cattle the contestant is drawn in and must occur before a change of cattle is executed. At the contestant's option, the rework may occur immediately or as the last work in that bunch of cattle. After a contestant has completed a two and one-half (2 ½) minute work, if in the contestant's opinion, a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness to warrant a rerun, the contestant may immediately make a request for a rerun to the judge via show management before leaving the working area before the next horse works. If the judge agrees that due cause did exist, a rerun may be granted provided the original work was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) penalty prior to the disturbance. Reworks shall not be granted in the event a contestant's equipment breaks during a horse's performance. Long clock of No clock: In the instance of Long Clock or No Clock will be automatically granted whether or not a major penalty has occurred. The contestant must take a rework.

SR25B. Pre-Entry

Pre-Entry will be **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for all USCHA contests utilizing fresh cattle. The contestants shall be responsible for paying the cattle charge portion and at the discretion of the show producer any other advertised portions of total entry fee if they fail to participate in any contest they pre-enter and are not placed in final draw. "Slots" prior to the draw may be used by substitutions or sold with or without penalty as long as all standing rules are upheld. Pre-entry will occur at least 1 day prior to the first day of the date of the contest or contests. (Each producer will be

responsible for designating pre-entry contact and detailed information for their show. Including but not limited to exact time entries are closed and contact options). This information must be on the USCHA website five (5) days prior to contest. A credit card can be required for pre-entry. Credit Card may be replaced day of show by check or cash at the requested of the contestant. If credit card secured for cattle charge payment is used there will be an additional 4% convenience fee charged for total amount due.

If the show producer cannot secure the proper amount of cattle required by contestants that have pre-entered, they must notify the contestants the day before any contest.

Cattle will not be ordered for contestants in fresh cattle classes that do not have at least three (3) entries. Show producers will be responsible for contacting all contestants that are involved in these pre-entry situations.

Any contestants that do not pre-enter a fresh cattle class underspecified pre-entry rules shall be considered an "Add on".

SR25C. A horse that is entered in the draw of any class at a USCHA event, may not be used to settle cattle during the class for which the horse is in the draw.

Section 4 – USCHA National Finals and USCHA Annual Regional Weekend Events

SR26. The USCHA National Finals will be held annually in compliance with USCHA Rules established by the Committee Members. Entry fees, any additional charges, and schedules for the USCHA National Finals will be established by Committee Members and distributed to USCHA members. Each active Region during the months of May, June, or July in a calendar year will have a USCHA Annual Regional Weekend event. Annual Regional weekend events will be produced by regional show producers and rotated annually among interested producers. Additional added monies and or awards will be supplied by the USCHA for the annual regional weekend 2/3-day events.

SR 26A. Qualifications for year end awards or to participate in the USCHA National Finals in all classes are based on horse and or rider's participation. For any rider or horse to qualify for USCHA National Finals or year end awards, riders and horse owners must be a USCHA member and must meet the following criteria:

Show at least four (4) times by riding to the herd in a respective USCHA approved class during a Point Year. If class is determined on the horse's eligibility the horse must show four (4) times and be ridden to the herd.

SR26B. No entry fees will be refunded after the draw at any USCHA National Finals Event. A horse may be substituted after the draw provided a written veterinarian's release is presented to the USCHA prior to the start of the first horse's work in the class.

SR26C. Late entries will be allowed after the draw upon receipt of full entry fees plus one hundred dollars (\$100.00) late penalty and will be an add-on entry only. No late entries will be accepted after 7:00 AM on the day of the first round of the class entered.

SR26D. *USCHA National Finals qualifying, and earnings/points will begin on January 1st of each year and run through October 12th of the calendar year.*

SR26E. No entry will be qualified for the USCHA National Finals for any year awards by showing less than four (4) times in any one class unless adjusted and or modified by Committee Members. All qualified horses and riders must enter and ride to the herd in the National Finals events to be eligible for awards and to be in the Final National Standings.

SR26F. Earnings won at any USCHA National Finals will be counted toward contestants' and horses' total lifetime earnings. These earnings will be included in determining contest eligibility for the point year immediately following any USCHA National Finals. Earnings won in the USCHA National Finals will be included in determining any USCHA Top 5 National Finals Awards.

SR26G. All qualified USCHA National Finalist will be eligible to compete for added monies/purses at the National Finals Event. Additionally, the USCHA will crown an award National Finals Show Champion and Reserve Show Champion for each class or class level that is held at the National Finals Event. All qualified contestants will start the National Finals "clean slate" to determine the National Finals Show Awards for Champion and Reserve Champion in each division. This does not affect USCHA Top 5 National Standings or Awards per division. Also all qualified National Finals Contestant are eligible for Weekend Incentive Program Awards.

Section 5 – Judges

SR27. Designation as an USCHA approved judge is a privilege, not a right bestowed by the Judge's Committee, according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals having shown cutting expertise and good character. An individual's conduct as a member, contestant, and/or judge must be exemplary. A judge's conduct and ability are subject to the continual review of the Judge's Committee. Designation as a judge is revocable by the Judge's Committee with or without notice.

SR27A. Any judge that has a valid complaint lodged against him/her may be put on probation by the Judge's Committee. Any judge having 3 valid protests filed against him/her within a three-year period shall be removed from the judges list. The Judge's Committee has the power to control, monitor, advise or counsel judges. Any recommendation for disciplinary action shall be put in writing to the committee members for their approval.

SR 28. Individuals over the age of twenty-one (21) and who meet all requirements of the USCHA may be designated as a USCHA Judge upon approval by the Judge's Committee.

SR28A. No individual will be approved as a judge who has a record of suspension, probation, or other disciplinary action with the USCHA.

SR28B. No person appearing on the published USCHA, NCHA, American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), or American Paint Horse Association (APHA) suspended lists shall be permitted to judge an USCHA approved cutting horse contest.

SR29. Judges in all USCHA approved contests must use USCHA Judge's Card and sign each card. The following criteria must also be met in regard to judging at any USCHA approved contest. With the exception of co-sanctioned events.

SR29A. Each judge(s) shall indicate penalties assessed in the spaces provided on the Judge's Cards. Also, it is mandatory for each judge(s) to fill in "credit" columns on the Judge's Cards with the following symbols:

√ Average; + Above Average; - Below Average

SR29B. There must not be any consultation between judges until after Judge's Cards are turned in. After the Judge's Cards are turned in, there will be no changes made, other than in monitored events approved by the USCHA. In such event all changes must be signed by the judge.

SR29C. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest or go-round and one (1) or more judges cannot complete judging a contest or go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge(s) who completes the contest or go-round will be the sole basis of computing the contest or go-round results. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one (1) of a judge's scores is counted in a contest or go-round, all that judge's scores must be counted except as provided herein.

SR 29D. When two (2) or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one (1) go-round and one (1) or more judges becomes unable to continue between the go-rounds or before the finals, the said judge(s) shall be re-placed by an alternate judge(s) designated by Show Management.

SR29E. Where four (4) or more individuals are judging the cutting horse contest, the highest and lowest scores for each horse may be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the contest or go-round results. This rule shall also apply to finals.

SR30. A judge may not judge his/her parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, employer, employees or relatives of either the judge or his/her spouse. A judge may not judge any-one who lives in the judge's household.

SR30A. A judge may not judge a horse that he/she or a judge's immediate family member has owned, exhibited, trained, managed or sold for direct or in-direct remuneration

within the thirty (30) day period prior to or immediately preceding any USCHA approved contest at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part. Immediate family shall defined as spouse, common law spouse, son, daughter, step son or step daughter living at judges property or residence.

SR30B. A judge may not judge any rider, or the horse of any said rider, who he or she (said judge) has managed, trained, coached, schooled, given lessons, or assisted in training within thirty (30) days prior to or preceding any USCHA approved contest at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part. If such a horse, owner, or rider is entered in a class, the entry fee shall be refunded and the entry not shown. A judge may be suspended from the Approved Judges List for an infraction of this rule.

SR30C. The judge officiating contest may not judge over 150 horses unless approved by a Judge's Committee Member of USCHA. Show producers that use a judge over 150 horses without approval will be subject to a fine.

SR31. Show Management shall report to the USCHA office any judge who is absent from his duties after accepting an assignment. The judge shall be removed from the USCHA Approved Judges List until the judge submits a written statement to the USCHA office explaining his absence and requesting reinstatement to the USCHA Approved Judges List only after USCHA Judge's Committee determines that a judge's absence was for just cause.

SR32. Complaints and/or protests regarding an USCHA judge may be made by current USCHA members only.

SR33. 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 (3) points or more, or, three (3) or more (1) point penalties in the same run by

submitting to the USCHA 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) made payable to the United States Cutting Horse Association. If after the review by the Judge's Committee, the protest is found to be valid, the fee will be returned to the contestant.

SR33A. USCHA Judge's Committee will review complaints within ten (10) days of receipt of complaint. Any judge that has a complaint filed against them will not be allowed to judge another USCHA event until the complaint is resolved. When protests are not found to be valid, the fee will be retained by the USCHA.

SR33B. In the event an USCHA approved judge's membership is suspended by the United States Cutting Horse Association for any reason, the judge's approved status shall be cancelled, and all rights and privileges forfeited until otherwise determined by the USCHA Committee Members.

SR34. A judge(s) must present in writing any grievance that he/she may have against contestants or Show Management to the USCHA Committee Members. A complaint by a judge must be filed (postmarked, faxed, or hand delivered) within seven (7) days of the alleged violation.

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SR35. Once an USCHA approved cutting has commenced, Show Management is not authorized to dismiss a judge for any reason relating to the actual performance of his judging responsibilities. Show Management, however, may dismiss a judge for

blatant misconduct while on the show grounds, such as using abusive language, consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs immediately prior to or during a contest, etc. A judge may be dismissed for any reason by the USCHA Committee Members if, in their opinion, it is in the best interest of the USCHA to do so.

SR36. A judge shall conduct himself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any USCHA approved contest. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any USCHA contest, such as consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs immediately prior to or during a contest, the use of abusive language, showing obvious favoritism to, or discrimination against either an individual or a horse performing in a contest, or any misconduct unbecoming a judge, will make him subject to disciplinary action following a complete and impartial hearing before the USCHA Committee Members regarding an alleged rule violation.

SR36A. A judge should not appear on the show grounds before the stated time for entries to close except as may be required by Show Management. Judges shall not visit, beyond the exchange of normal greeting, with owners, trainers, exhibitors, or agents during the show.

SR36B. Under no circumstances will a judge be permitted to enter a contest for which said judge is officiating. This will include if he or she has been advertised or listed as officiating judge and is replaced prior to the contest. Unless approved by USCHA Committee Members (for example: Overflow judges).

SR36C. A judge shall not discuss with any contestant previous scores, or class information related to his or her judging during a show or within thirty (30) days after a contest at which the judge has officiated. A judge shall not intimidate or attempt to intimidate a contestant. The penalty for violating this rule will be six (6) months suspension from the USCHA.

SR36D. When two or more judges are judging and no review is called by a judge, if a major penalty is marked the judge calling the major penalty will review the run. If

the judge calling the penalty after review determines the penalty stands the other judges must also review the run.

SR36E. If a review of contestants run is called by a judge, the score can only be lowered or remain the same.

SR36F. If a review of a contestant's run is called by the Contestant Review system, the score may be raised or lowered depending on the outcome of the review for a specific infraction.

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Section 6 – Contestants

SR37. There are three classifications of USCHA Contestants:

SR37A. Professional Rider: Any person who has shown, trained, or assisted in training a cutting horse, cutting horse, or cutting horse rider for direct or indirect remuneration shall be considered a Professional by the USCHA.

SR37B. Non-Professional Rider: A Non-Professional in the USCHA is a person who has not received direct or indirect remuneration or other consideration for training, showing, or assisting in the training of a cutting horse/cow horse or cutting/cow horse rider. Employees of a cutting/cow horse training operation may be considered Non-Professionals by the USCHA provided they do not teach cutting/cow horse riders or train cutting/cow horses.

The following rules shall govern all Non-Professionals:

- 1. Any person who has received indirect or direct remuneration for showing, training, or assisting in the training of a cutting/cow horse will not be eligible to enter or show in a Non-Professional USCHA cutting horse class. Unless such a professional has been approved by USCHA committee members to return to Non-Professional status.
 - (a) All Non-Professional applications made shall be referred to the USCHA Committee Members and after investigation and review, the committee members will report their findings and make a final determination. This will also include all professional trainers requesting to return to Non-Professional status. This Association does not consider cutting/cow horse trainer's spouses who do not teach cutting/cow horse riders or train cutting/cow horses as receiving indirect remuneration.****
- 2. The first time a horse is entered into a USCHA contest each year, a contestant must provide each Show Secretary with a copy of the horse's registration papers and proof of eligibility.**

3. Any horse exhibited by any USCHA Non-Professional in any approved or unapproved cutting horse class must be owned by the contestant showing the horse except:

a. Allowed to ride Immediate Family (Family owned) horses:

For the purpose of this rule Immediate Family shall mean:

Member's Spouse, Sibling's Spouse, Half Sibling's Spouse, Step Sibling's Spouse

Child, Stepchild, Sibling's Child, Sibling's Stepchild

Half Sibling' Child, Half Sibling's Stepchild,

Step Sibling's Child, Step Sibling's Stepchild,

Parent, Spouse's Parent, Spouse's Stepparent

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, Parents step sibling's stepchild

Grandparents, Grandchild Stepparents

Sibling, Half Sibling, Step Sibling

Legal ward or legal guardian. 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 USCHA relating to a family-owned horse and filing those forms with the USCHA 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 USCHA to be sure it is accurate and up to date. A member showing a horse owned by an immediate family member under this rule may have his or her entry fees and expenses paid by an immediate family member. Penalties for ownership rule violations may include immediate loss of Non-Professional status of the member, up to three (3) years suspension from the USCHA, up to a maximum of \$5,000 fine. Also, any other member found guilty of aiding and abetting the rule violator on the severity of the incident.

- b. Before any horse is exhibited by any USCHA Non-Professional where horse ownership is in the name of a Ranch, Partnership, or other entity the Non-Professional rider must provide legal documentation of proof of entity owners at the request of the USCHA or Show Management. Any Non-Professional who enters or competes on an ineligible horse in the USCHA cutting horse class shall be subject to disciplinary action from Committee Members, by probation, suspension, fine or restitutions of earnings, whichever in their opinion best fits the infraction. The Committee Members may require, within their sole, absolute and unlimited discretion, any supportive documentation (including but not limited to sworn affidavits, legal opinions, certified public accountant's certificates, K-1's) at the expense of the Non-Pro contestant, to conform and verify the legal and equitable ownership interests of the entity.**

- 4. Documented proof of ownership, together with documented evidence of consideration paid, may be required on any horse ridden in any USCHA Non-Professional Class. Proof of ownership shall be exhibited to Show Management. The original breed association registration certificate for a registered horse, or a sworn affidavit (which shall include as an exhibit thereto a photocopy of the current breed association registration certificate) executed by the Non-Professional contestant, showing current ownership shall be deemed as acceptable proof of ownership (non-conclusive) for a registered horse under this Standing Rule.**
 - a. If a contestant is unable to provide proper proof of ownership at the time of entry, any premium monies won may be withheld by Show Management until such time as proper and acceptable proof has been provided.**

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b. Only one name may be used for an unregistered horse in all USCHA approve classes. If an unregistered horse has been shown and given a name and number in another cutting horse association, that name and number will be used for identification purposes for said horse in USCHA. Before entering and USCHA approved class, an owner of an unregistered horse is responsible for filing with the USCHA Secretary a name and description of the unregistered horse in addition to a statement of ownership. This shall be deemed as acceptable proof of ownership for an unregistered horse.

c. A Non-Professional will only transfer ownership or receive a transfer of ownership of a horse for purposes of competing in USCHA contests on a permanent basis; permanent shall mean to own with the intent to retain ownership and no present intent to transfer ownership. A Non-Professional shall only be allowed to show a horse two times during owner registration transfer process. USCHA allowed transfer process is 45 days from date of sale or purchase. A Non-Professional must present a fully completed breed association transfer document that includes date of sale or date of purchase to show management. A Non-Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which (1) the Non-Professional or any third party is to have an express or implied present or future interest in the ownership of the horse for the purpose of showing the horse at USCHA contest; (2) any part of the winnings, profits or expenses are to be shared, directly or indirectly, between the Non-Professional and any other person; or (3) all or part of the purchase price is to be paid from the winnings of the horse. Penalties for ownership rule violations may include immediate loss of Non-Professional status of the member. 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.

- d. A Non-Professional may not show a horse which is an agreement express or implied, that the horse will be transferred to another person in the future for the purpose of showing the horse in USCHA Non-Professional contest. The Committee Members shall have the right to review and investigate any transaction regarding the purchase, gift, or sale of a horse by a Non-Professional.**
- e. A Non-Professional may purchase a horse on time provided a copy of the written sales agreement, signed by both parties, is provided to USCHA and is states the name of the horse, the sales price, date of sale and terms of payment.**
- f. A Non-Professional will not transfer or receive transfer of a horse pursuant to any arrangement in which:**
- (1) the Non-Professional or any third party is to have any express or implied present or future interest in the ownership of the horse for the purpose of showing the horse at USCHA contests**
 - (2) any part if the winnings, profits, or expenses are to be shared, directly or indirectly, between the Non-Professional and any other person**
 - (3) all or part of the purchase price is to be paid from the winnings of the horse. All parties to any transaction in violation of this paragraph are subject to disciplinary actions by the USCHA.**
- g. If a horse is transferred, sold, or gifted back to the previous owner with 1 year, that horse cannot be shown by the previous owner or their immediate family in any USCHA sponsored or approved Non-Professional competition for the 6-month period following the transfer back to the previous owner.**

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5. **At the request of a Non-Professional rider, the Show Secretary at the show where a horse is to be tried will issue a permit authorizing the same. The permit will allow the USCHA Non-Professional to show a horse not owned by that contestant in the Open, \$35,000 Novice Horse Class, or \$15,000 Novice Horse Class, only if the horse is eligible at a maximum of two (2) USCHA contests. The horse and shows must be named with the exact dates. Only one such permit will be granted a rider for a given horse. Under no circumstances will points/earnings won count toward any USCHA Awards, Title, or Certificate for either rider or horse. The Show Secretary will verify eligibility and forward the permit to the USCHA office.**
6. ***It is the intent that all USCHA Members granted Non-Professional status shall show, and ride horses they own. Non-Professional USCHA Members are not precluded from assisting "loping" or exercising horses they do not own, at USCHA sanctioned events. This is to be acceptable on the grounds of any USCHA sanctioned event before, during, and after a show. Non-Professionals assisting in loping or exercising horses that they may or may not own are allowed and expected to keep horses under control at all times. However, Non-Professional are prohibited and shall not prepare horses to show that they do not own in the following manner. (Here is an example list)***
 - a. ***Working a mechanical cow device.***
 - b. ***Dry, working a horse.***
 - c. ***Performing a stride a horse any training techniques.***

These offenses by Non-Professional are considered punishable by fine, and/or membership suspension. Each case as reported by individuals or Show Management will be reviewed by USCHA Committee Members on a case-by-case basis. If evidence via complaint is found to be valid. The following penalties will apply:

 1. ***First offense \$250 fine***
 2. ***Second offense \$500 fine.***
 3. ***Third offense, loss of Non-Professional membership privileges.***

- 7. Professional riders or members that are approved to return to Non-Professional status by USCHA Committee Members will only be allowed to compete in the following USCHA approved classes:
Non-Professional, \$25,000 Novice Non-Professional, and Limited Aged Non-Professional classes.**

SR37C. Youth Rider – Open to any member of the USCHA 18 years and younger as Jan 1st, 2025, at the beginning of each USCHA point year.

SR38. USCHA Apprenticeship Program

SR38A. Apprenticeship program must be applied for using USCHA Apprenticeship Application.

SR38B. Applicant must have won less than 10K lifetime cutting earnings.

SR38C. From the date of the application, the applicant must participate in a specified apprenticeship program under the direction of a cutting horse training professional, (training professional must be approved by USCHA Committee Members) for one calendar year and during that time may receive indirect or direct remuneration for assisting only training cutting horses. The USCHA Committee Members shall request an evaluation in writing from the training professional (s) under which the apprenticeship is performed. If the applicant chooses after one year to return to Non-Professional status this evaluation and the applicant's full-time occupation shall be considered of major importance for Non-Professional status reinstatement.

SR39. Rules governing contestants:

SR39A. Show Management has the right to disqualify or refuse any entry to any contestant for violating the Standing Rules of the USCHA, actions of misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or harassing the judge(s), Show Management, employees, or other contestants. If a contestant is disqualified for violating a Standing Rule of the USCHA, all entry fees or premiums pertaining to said contestant shall be forfeited.

SR39B. A contestant may substitute a horse in place of the injured horse, prior to the class starting, provided that the same owner owns the horse to be substituted and all eligibility requirements are met. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any class in which the contestant is participating due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge(s), Show Management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money won in previous go-rounds. In no event will entry fees, or any part thereof, be refunded after a class starts. A class will be considered started when the draw is completed by Show Management and Judge.

SR39C. All contestants must work at the appointed time so designated by the Show Management or be disqualified for that class or go-round with no score. If a contestant fails to work at the appointed time will receive no score for that class or go-round.

SR39D. A contestant shall not enter the show arena and/or warm up area at any time at an USCHA approved cutting horse contest with any kind of training device. Training activities of any kind while on the show grounds, may only be performed in designated practice facilities. A contestant shall not be allowed to abuse or mistreat any horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds. Show Management or the judge at an USCHA approved contest may disqualify a contestant if that contestant violates this rule, and all premiums pertaining to said contestant shall be forfeited.

SR39E. After the buzzer sounds, the contestant will discontinue working and ride his/her horse forward past the timeline before dismounting.

SR39F. A contestant shall not talk with the judge (s), beyond the exchange of normal greetings, during the show or until the entire contest or show is completed.

Contestants are prohibited from speaking to judges while judges are on the judges stand. Nor may a contestant make any comments within a judge's hearing about any performance during the contest or show. A contestant or member is prohibited from making comments to a judge(s) regarding the manner in which a class was judged until at least thirty (30) days after the class involved. Violation of this rule may be subject to fines and/or suspension. Contestants are prohibited from asking favoritism from any judge before, during or after a USCHA contest.

SR39G. A contestant, or member, shall not engage in any form of misconduct or harassment toward Show Management, judges or USCHA employees at any USCHA approved show or animals at event. Infraction of this rule will result in a fine and possible suspension by Committee Members.

SR39H. Unsportsmanlike, lewd or misconduct conduct in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited. Infraction of this rule will result in a fine and possible suspension by Committee Members.

SR39I. A contestant shall not intimidate, or attempt to intimidate, a judge (s). The penalty for violating this rule will be a minimum of six (6) months suspension from USCHA.

SR39J. Unruly dogs are not permitted in the Show Pen or Show Arena during an USCHA approved contest. Dogs must be contained or on a leash at all times.

SR39K. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be consumed or brought into the show arena or designated warm up or practice areas while an USCHA approved cutting horse sanctioned event is taking place. Anyone found consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any of the areas defined above shall be asked to leave by Show Management. Members shall be disqualified from the contest and will be subject to disciplinary procedures for violation of this rule by Committee Members.

SR39L. USCHA will have no tolerance for Inhumane or abusive treatment of a horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited. A judge may request contestant to drop his or her bit before or after any run.

- 1. If show Management or a judge at any USCHA approved show discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, they may immediately bar the responsible party and horse from further competition in the show. Show management may appoint a monitor or other person to monitor treatment of horses and all animals on show grounds and report to Show Management. Show Management must notify the USCHA Committee Members of any action taken regarding enforcement of this rule within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved. After further review, the USCHA Committee Members may impose additional disciplinary action for violations of this rule.**
- 2. Inhumane or abusive treatment includes, but is not limited to, the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with a health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. The decision of Show Management or a judge as to inhumane treatment should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian if a veterinarian is available.**

Any member desiring to file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of any USCHA Standing Rule may do so by submitting the complaint in writing to the USCHA Committee Members with seven (7) days of the closing date of the contest or incident involved.

- 3. Abuse and inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, or hitting a horse in or about the head or using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face. Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse a horse, in the show arena or on the show grounds which could also potentially endanger the safety of other persons or animals will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner by the USCHA Committee Members.**

- 4. Administration of drugs while in the show arena, practice arenas is strictly prohibited, unless administration is required in a lifesaving situation. Such an instance shall be reported to Show Management. The decision of Show Management as to lifesaving treatments should be based on consultation with a veterinarian. Show Management shall disqualify rider and/or owner for violation of this rule.**

SR39M. After the start of any USCHA approved show, any person in the working area in front of the judge's stand must wear western attire, including a western hat or equestrian helmet, boots, long sleeved shirt buttoned or snapped down the front, with collars, and with the sleeves rolled down. T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts are not permissible. Chaps are optional. Management of shows with are held outdoors may waive any part of the attire rule under extreme weather conditions. Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score.

In the warmup or practice pen areas at an USCHA approved show, long or short sleeve collared shirts as well as T-shirts are permissible. All other tank tops, sleeveless shirts, shorts or flip flops are NOT acceptable at any time while horseback in the warmup or practice pen areas of an USCHA approved show. Caps may be worn in warm up and practice areas. This rule will be monitored by Show Management. Any USCHA member who wishes to report a violation of this rule may do so to Show Management at the time of the incident. First offense will be a verbal warning. Each subsequent offense will result in a \$50.00 Fine. Nonpayment of this fine will result in suspension of USCHA membership. This rule may be modified for co-sanctioned events by Committee Members.

SR39N. Any USCHA member whose checks given in connection with the exhibition of cutting horses is returned by the maker's bank shall result in the contestant being assessed a fee of \$50.00 per occurrence. Full restitution for the face value of the check plus the \$50.00 fee must be received within 30 days from date of notice.

- 1. Any check given by the owner, contestant or on contestant's behalf in connection with the exhibition of cutting horses that is returned by the maker's bank and the payer or contestant fails to make full restitution within 30 days of date of notice, or any owner or contestant who fails to pay entry fees and/or related show expenses, shall forfeit all winnings and such winnings shall not count for any USCHA awards until full restitution, including all fees, are received.**
- 2. Failure to make full restitution, including all fees within 30 days of date of notice will result in the suspension of all parties involved from the USCHA. Suspension will be sustained until full restitution, including all fees, are received and reinstatement is granted by USCHA Committee Members.**

SR39O. Any member desiring to file a complaint regarding any alleged violation of any USCHA Standing Rule may do so by submitting a written description of the occurrence to the USCHA office and address to USCHA Committee Members within seven (7) days of the closing date of the contest or incident involved. The Committee Members shall request an immediate written response from the aggrieved party. The Committee Members will review the complaint and the response. If after review and investigation of the matter by the Committee Members it is of the opinion that a rule violation has occurred, the Committee Members shall make the final decision on disciplinary action. A letter shall be sent to the parties involved by the USCHA Committee Members informing them of the decisions made.

SR39P. Cell phone usage in the cutting arena or on the judge's stand is not permissible at any time. Fines for this rule violation shall be:

First offense	\$100.00
Second offense	\$200.00
Third offense	\$500.00

SR39Q. Failure to pay fines will result in the member's automatic suspension from participation in any USCHA events until all fined are paid in full.

SR40. A Contestant Representative shall be designated for each USCHA approved class to serve as sole liaison between contestants and Show Management.

SR40A. The Contestant's Representative must submit a Confidential Contest Report if he/she observes any actions be a contestant, Show Management or judge detrimental to the best interests of the USCHA. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following: any horse being abused, abusive language, intoxication, use of an illegal drug, use of a prohibited training device, or any other infraction of USCHA Standing Rules.

SR40B. Contestants may participate in an USCHA region. Contestants must attend at least four (4) shows and show in respective (same) class four (4) times prior to the USCHA National Finals Championships or to receive any USCHA Championship.

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Section 7 – Disciplinary Procedures

SR41. Any USCHA member may be disciplined, fined, placed on probation, or suspended from the USCHA, and any member may be denied all privileges, including show privileges, of the USCHA by the Committee Members whenever it shall have been established by a preponderance of the evidence that such member has violated any rule of the USCHA. When the rule in question contains a specific punishment provision, any disciplinary action taken must be consistent with that provision.

SR41A. The decision of the USCHA Committee Members shall be final and binding on all parties.

SR41B. A suspended person by the USCHA will not be allowed to participate in any USCHA approved cutting horse contest as an owner of a horse, a rider, or an agent. A suspended person shall be prohibited from entering the warmup area or contest arena on foot or horseback during a USCHA event.

SR41C. USCHA shall have the right to suspend or deny membership privileges to any person suspended from other horse associations for unsportsmanlike conduct or inhumane treatment of horses.

SR42. Any member of the USCHA who threatens or inflicts bodily harm or injury to another person based upon that person's actions, conduct, or decisions while acting in any official capacity for the USCHA or for any USCHA approved contest shall be suspended from membership in the USCHA for a period of time to be determined by USCHA Committee Members.

SR43. Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the USCHA for the failure to pay when due, any obligation owing to the USCHA or an USCHA Producer or for giving a check (or one given on contestant's behalf) returned by the maker's bank for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, stock charges, premiums or any other fees or charges connected with the exhibition of cutting horses; provided, however, that the member subject to suspension shall be given fourteen (14) days written notice of the amount due and the intention of the USCHA to suspend or withhold all privileges. Any suspension and denial of privileges under this section shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due the USCHA.

SR44. If any member institutes litigation in which the USCHA is included as a defendant in an effort to recover damages, to overturn enforcement or interpretation of the Rules or Regulations, or for any other reason what so ever, and does not prevail in said litigation by the recovery of all relief requested, said member shall be liable to the USCHA for its attorney's fees, costs of courts, and other expenses incurred in connection with such litigation. Venue for any litigation in which the USCHA is included as a defendant shall be Hopkins County, Texas.

SR45. No person shall make a derogatory remark, or threaten to take, adverse action against an USCHA Sponsor, its agent, or employees, relating in any manner to the sponsor's involvement with the USCHA or an USCHA approved contest. Any person who violates this rule is subject to disciplinary action and is also responsible to the USCHA for any loss or damage caused by a violation of this rule.

SR46. Every notice required by these USCHA rules and regulations may be served by delivering a copy of the notice to the person to be served, or his/her attorney, either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, to his/her last known address as it appears on the USCHA records and upon mailing, such notice shall be deemed received by such person when it is deposited in the United States mail.

Section 8 – Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests

SR47. A horse will be given credit for his ability to enter a herd of cattle quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the cow being brought from the herd. One (1) deep cut must be made into the herd, failure to make a deep cut will result in a three (3) point penalty being assessed.

SR47A. When a cow is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that the cow be taken toward the center of the arena, and credit will be given for same. Additional credit will be given to the horse which drives a cow a sufficient distance from the herd to ensure that the herd will not be disturbed by the horse's performance.

SR47B. Credit will be given for the ability of the horse to hold a cow in the center portion of the cutting arena, although no penalty should be imposed if a cow goes to a fence on either side of the arena.

SR48. Additional credit will be given for riding with a loose rein throughout a performance.

SR48A. During a run, a rider will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct the horse. If the reins are tight enough so that the bit is bumped at any time during the run, even though the rider does not move his or her hand, a one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

SR48B. The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty will be assessed if the rider's second hand touches the reins for any purpose other than to straighten the reins while returning to the herd only after working a cow.

SR48C. A rider must cease reining his/her horse as soon as the desired cow is cleared of the herd. Additional reining or cueing will result in a one (1) point penalty for each occurrence. A rider is allowed to place his hand and touch the horse's neck. The rider at no may run his hand up the neck of the horse. At the discretion of the judge, a one (1) point penalty may be assessed each time the rider cues the horse with his hands.

SR48D. If a rider or the rider's horse creates a disturbance at any time throughout the working time, penalties will be assessed as follows:

- 1. Any noise created or directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized one (1) point.**
- 2. Any time that a disturbance causes cattle enter the working area through the fault of the horse or contestant, the contestant will be penalized three (3) point. If, at not fault of the horse or contestant, additional cattle leave the herd, no penalty will be assessed.**
- 3. The judge shall stop any work because of excessive training or abuse of the horse by the contestant or disturbance of the cattle. Any contestant failing to stop immediately when requested or upon a whistle blown by the judge will be subject to disciplinary action by the USCHA that will automatically result in a fine of \$300.**

SR48E. A horse will be penalized three (3) points each time the back fence actually stops or turns the cow being worked within one (1) stride or three (3) feet of the back fence. The "back fence" is to be agreed on and designated by the judge(s) before the contest starts, meaning the actual fence only, no imaginary line from point to point to be considered. If any of the contestants in the contest objects to the proposes back fence before the contest starts, the judge(s) shall take a vote of the contestants and a back fence acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.

SR49. If a horse is to "lose" a cow or lets a cow that he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalized five (5) points.

SR50. If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed. A Cutter shall be committed whenever he makes tow moves to a specific animal. One move may also result in commitment to a specific animal when that single move clearly and obviously indicates a specific animal has been selected.

SR51. If a horse turns tail toward a cow being worked, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

SR52. If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed.

SR53. If a horse clears the herd with two (2) or more cows and fails to separate a single cow before quitting, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed. There will be no penalty if time clock expires before a single cow is separated.

SR54. Unnecessary roughness or aggression, such as a horse pawing, biting, or kicking a cow, will result in a three (3) point penalty being assessed.

SR55. If a rider spurs a horse in the shoulder, a three (3) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence. Spurring behind the shoulder is not to be considered a visible cue and should not be penalized.

SR56. A rider makes contact using a toe, foot, or stirrup on a horse's shoulder it is considered a visible cue, and a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence.

SR57. When a horse goes past a cow or is working out of position to a degree that the horse loses his working advantage, a one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence.

SR58. A contestant may quit a cow when it is obviously completely stopped, obviously turned away, or is behind the turn back horses and the turn back horses must be behind the timeline. If the cow is quit under any other circumstances, a penalty of three (3) points shall be assessed.

SR59. All horses in the show arena must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. Bridle must have split reins. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal, and hackamores shall be rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. A judge must be able to freely pass two (2) fingers completely around the horse's nose between the hackamore and muzzle. A judge may request a bit drop at his or her discretion. Choke ropes, lip wires or lip string, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose bands, quirts, bats, whip or mechanical devices giving the rider excessive control over a horse will not be permitted in the

arena where an USCHA approved contest is being held. Breast collars may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Chaps and spurs may be worn. The tail of a horse that is competing must not be restrained or tied in a manner which restricts movement of the tail. A Judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of this rule. Anytime a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule, the contestant shall be disqualified.

SR60. At any USCHA approved show, any person in the working area in front of the judge's stand shall be required to adhere to the dress code. Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from a class or go-round with no score.

SR61. Any rider who allows his horse to quit working or who leaves the working area before his allotted time is up will be disqualified for that class or go-round with no score. A zero or no score will receive no monies or points.

SR62. When a contestant is thrown, falls or steps off a horse, or if a horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of zero (0) will be given. A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.

SR63. Each contestant is limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers.

SR64. A judge marks each performance from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (1/2) points may be used.

SR65. When a judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit of doubt always should go to the contestant.

SR66. The judge may give a score with a review. The judge must report that there will be a review prior to the next horse in a class crossing the timeline. All reviews must be made prior to the judge turning in his or her judging card to the show secretary and prior to the announcement of the official placing of the class.

SR67. In any contest judged by two (2) or more judges, the judge calling a review will always review the run first. If a major penalty of three (3) or five (5) points is assessed, that penalty and only that penalty, shall be reviewed by all judges (or the monitor when applicable), and a determination made immediately following the completion of the class. No review may be conducted subsequent to the announcement of the official placing of the class.

SR68. *USCHA Preliminary Boxing Class is a single solo rider cow working class.*

Where the contestant is judged on their ability to hold a cow on the designated end of the arena for 60 seconds, demonstrating the ability of both horse and rider to control the cow.

The exhibitor will ride into the center of the designated area and call for a cow. The time clock will begin when gate closes. The completion is indicated at the end of 60 seconds with a horn or a whistle. Horses are allowed to be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, or bridle. You must use Split or Romel reins. Holding on to the saddle horn is allowed. (See page 57)

Boxing Tips:

- *When the cow moves the horse and rider reacts.*
- *Cautiously approach the cow one step at a time.*
- *A slower approach usually results in a better run.*
- *Give distance between the horse and cow. Enough so that the cow doesn't run past you for better control.*
- *If your cow is standing still or does not have much movement. Approach your cow slowly to start your cow.*
- *Remember Boxing is to show the horse and riders ability to control the cow and not let the fence stop the cow.*
- *The proper position is having your horses nose between the head and neck of the cow as it goes parallel across the end of the arena. A horse should mirror the cow.*
- *Only the judge has the ability to call for a new cow if they feel it is necessary or to terminate the run.*

SUMMARY OF PENALTY POINTS

Infraction	Points Deducted
Reining	1
Bit is bumped	1
Cueing after cow has cleared the herd	1
Noise directed toward the cattle	1
Cueing on the horse's shoulder or neck	1
Losing working advantage (a miss)	1
Failure to make a deep cut	3
Second hand on reins	3
Disturbing the herd (picking up cattle)	3
Back Fence	3
Horse's unnecessary aggression	3
Spurring in the shoulder	3
Hot quit	3
Losing a cow	5
Switching a cow	5
Horse quitting a cow	5
Failure to separate cows	5
Horse turns tail to cow	Automatic score of 60
Contestant falls or is thrown	Automatic score of 60
Horse falls to the ground	Automatic score of 60
Dismounting in working area	Disqualification
Improper equipment	Disqualification
Horse's tail restricted	Disqualification
Failure to adhere to dress code	Disqualification
Leaving arena before time expires	Disqualification
Failure to stop after judge's whistle	Disqualification
Reining penalty points do not apply to Ranch Cutting classes. Ranch Cutting classes are two rein classes.	
<i>For USCHA Preliminary Boxing See SR 68</i>	

The following questions and answers are included here as an aid and example to understanding the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests in the USCHA.

1. What is the desired number of cattle to work?

The desired number of cattle to cut in the two and one-half (2 ½) minute time limit is three (3) head of cattle. If a cutter can do as much on two (2) head as another cutter can do on three (3), the cutter working the two (2) head should have the higher score because he or she has not spent as much time in the herd.

2. What is the preferable way to approach the herd?

A horse should approach the herd quietly, as not to disturb the cattle. The horse should display no hesitation, weaving, or reluctance to approach and enter the herd.

3. What characteristics should a cutting horse demonstrate when entering and working a herd of cattle?

A cutting horse should enter the herd calm and quiet, concentrating and not being easily distracted. The horse should be alert and intent but make no unnecessary movements to disturb the cattle. A horse should proceed deep enough into the herd on at least one (1) cut to demonstrate the ability to bring out a single cow. The rider may enter the herd from either side or to go completely behind the herd to bring out a cow.

4. When should a rider cease reining a horse?

A rider may have light rein contact with the horse when entering the herd and can maintain this light contact while the rider is in the herd and in the process of cutting a single cow from the herd. When a cow is cut completely free from the herd, the rider should cease reining the horse, allowing ample slack in the reins so that it is obvious to the judge that the horse is working without being reined.

5. What is the most desirable way to bring a cow from the herd?

The cutting horse should stay a reasonable distance from the cow if possible, showing a great deal of expression but no illness such as biting, trying to bite, pawing, kicking, or charging at a cow. The horse should mirror and counter a cow's movement regardless of the distance separating them. The horse should not rush or push on cattle when bringing a cow from the herd unless the cow turns around and tries to get back at the edge of the herd. The horse should drive a cow a sufficient distance from the herd toward the center of the arena, so the herd will not be disturbed while the horse is working and set up the cow to be worked.

6. When is a cow in the proper working position?

The cow should be driven out of the herd and positioned as close to the middle of the arena as possible with the horse counteracting or mirroring the movements of the cow. The horse should not move when the cow is standing still. When the cow moves, the horse should control and hold the cow, not only from returning to the herd, but also from going from the side of the pen wall to the opposite side of the pen wall. A higher score will be given to a cutting horse that "heads" to stops cattle and holds the cow closest to the center of the arena.

7. When is a cutting horse out of working position?

A horse is out of position when he goes past a cow excessively and is unable to regain control of the cow. Credit should be given to a horse who shows the ability to stop a cow and regain control moving in the opposite direction.

8. What is considered picking up or scattering cattle or herd during a run?

Any time a horse is close to the herd and initiates disturbance of cattle causing them to scatter or come out from the herd and enter the working area.

9. What is a satisfactory way of quitting a cow?

A contestant may quit a cow when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is behind the turn back horses and the turn back horses are behind the timeline. If a cow is quit under any other circumstances, a three (3) point penalty will be assessed.

10. USCHA Boxing Penalties and Credits:

Guide for "New Cow"

(At judges' discretion, rider will receive new cow(s) as necessary to Show Horse)

A- Cow with little movement

B- Cow that will not honor a horse

C- Cow that exits working area

Credits

A- Maintaining control of the cow at all times

B- Maintaining Proper Position

C- Degree of difficulty

D- Eye Appeal

E- Time Worked

1 Point Penalties

A- Loss of working advantage

N- Excessive Noise directed toward cow

P- Working out of Position

3 Point Penalties

L- Loss of Control of Cow

5 Point Penalties

A- Spurring in shoulder at any time.

B- Blatant disobedience, defined as kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or obviously insubordinate

0- Score

A- Turn Tail

B- A Finger between the reins when using a split rein bridle, with the exception of a ring snaffle

C- Balking

D- Out of Control

E- Bloody Mount (inside)

F- Illegal Equipment. No training devices

G- Leaving working area before time expires

H- Rider falls off horse. Horse falls to its side

I- Schooling between cows. If a new cow is awarded

J- Improper Western Attire

K- Failure to work in proper working order

No Score

A- Abuse

B- Lameness

NE – Failure of an exhibitor to attempt to complete work

Note: Judge may blow whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at the time

Suggestions for Show Management

- **Complete and return show application in a timely manner to the United States Cutting Horse Association. All requests for show approval must comply with standing rules of USCHA. The premium lists and entry applications must be filled out completely.**
- **Determine the amount of purse, entry fee, and the date that entries will close.**
- **Pre-Entry (See SR25B regarding Pre-entries)**
- **The entry fee must not be less than \$20.00 per horse. Entry fees shall be added to the purse. If any additional charges are to be made other than an entry fee, they must be denoted as a stall, grounds, handling, cattle, or office charge, and must be separated from the entry fee. In any class where rerun cattle are used, the cattle charge should be reduced.**
- **Any show with added money exceeding \$500.00 in any one contest or class must be approved by the Committee Members.**
- **Select judge(s) from the USCHA Approved Judges List.**
- **Determine the number of go-rounds that will be worked.**
- **Appoint a Contestant Representative for each approved class.**
- **A judge who is judging a contest must draw for working order of horses in all class.**
- **If the clock malfunctions, the Show Secretary or show staff shall notify the judge(s). The judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a horse's performance.**
- **Show Management should monitor the loping pen conduct. Riders should walk or trot keeping slower traffic to the inside or the warmup area, and lope to the outside of the loping area. Keep sufficient distance away from other riders. Ponying or riding double on horses in warm up area is prohibited. Stop and back horses away from the flow of horses. All horses will be kept in a flow of one direction. USCHA recommends monitoring appropriate attire and conduct in the loping pen.**

Show Producers Guide For A Better Show

- 1. Keep a tractor on hand with the dirt working equipment to properly maintain the arena.**
- 2. Have the ability to wet down the arena, cattle pens, etc. to control dust.**
- 3. A good sand arena surface should be created to protect the competing horse. It should not overly deep and should have a consistency that allows a horse to turn hard without fear of the ground slipping or giving away.**
- 4. Ensure that the facility has adequate lighting for late evening or nighttime shows.**
- 5. Facilities with small arenas will need to supply an adjacent warm up area. Consideration should be given to good, safe footing in any additional warm up areas.**
- 6. It is very important that cattle are taken care of properly. Give them plenty of space in pens, shade and shelter if needed. Provide clean water to drink and hay or forage.**
- 7. Judging stands should be centered and placed where judges can see the horses work without interference. Keep all bystanders and horse traffic away from them and their stands.**
- 8. Have concessions or drinking water available for contestants.**
- 9. Have restroom facility.**
- 10. Follow all USCHA rules and treat everyone alike and a be courteous.**

Ground

There are three key elements to make a great cutting: good cattle, good judges, and good ground.

Cutting horses should be loped and exercised before working. Horses do not need to lope and work on hard ground; it is debilitating to their joints and muscles. The loping pen and the working pen must provide ground deep enough to provide protection to the horse. Injuries can occur to both horses and riders from falls that result from slick or hard ground.

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Summary of USCHA Awards

USCHA Point Year:

The USCHA point year runs from Jan 1st, 2025, through Oct 12th, 2025. Once a horse's or rider's class eligibility is determined at the beginning of a point year, that horse or rider is eligible to show in that class the remainder of the point year. Please (see SR 16. This eligibility remains in effect throughout the point year regardless of the amount of money earned during the point year.

Annual Regional USCHA Awards

These awards will be based on current point year. Champion Awards will be presented to the Champion in each class in each active region at the National Finals annual event. Regional Champion Award winners do not have to enter the National Finals to receive the Regional Champion class awards. Awards will be determined each year by the USCHA Committee Members. You must show 3 times (in the same respected class) in the same respected region to be eligible for Annual Regional Champion Awards. To be determined on a point bases.

Annual USCHA Regional Weekend

At the Annual USCHA Regional Weekend events to be held in each region during the months of May, June, or July, the USCHA will provide additional awards and or added monies in USCHA sanctioned Weekend and Ranch cutting classes. Awards and added monies will be determined each year by USCHA Committee Members.

Annual USCHA National Finals Champion Awards

USCHA National Finals Championship Youth Shoot-out:

The USCHA junior youth and the senior youth will be eligible to compete in shoot-out style event to be held during the United State National Finals. USCHA Youth class rules will apply. Each rider must compete on a horse which the rider has shown at least once in the youth class during the qualifying year. Each rider will be allotted two and one-half (2 ½) minutes to work, and each run will receive a score. The rider with the highest scores in the event will be the USCHA Youth Shoot-Out Champion in each of the junior and senior division. At the beginning of each point year, qualifications for the youth shootout will be posted on the USCHA website. Award: Will be determined each year by Committee Members.

USCHA National Rookie of the Year:

The USCHA National Rookie of the Year award will be presented to the Rider with the most total combined money won in the \$20,000 Non-Pro and \$5,000 Limited Rider classes during the USCHA point year Jan 1st, 2025 to Oct 12th, 2025. The total combined money won in the \$5,000 Limited Rider and the \$20,000 Non-Pro classes at USCHA approved contests will be used to determine the rider to be honored as the USCHA National Rookie of the Year. To be eligible for the Rookie of the Year award, the rider must have total lifetime earnings of \$5,000 or less or less than 15 youth points as determined by the records of all cutting horse associations, including limited age contest winnings, on the first day of current USCHA calendar year. This USCHA National title may be won only (1) time.

Award: USCHA Official Trophy Saddle

USCHA National Champion Horse of the Year:

The USCHA National Champion Horse of the Year award will be presented to the horse that has won the most money during the USCHA calendar year (Jan 1st, 2025 through Oct 12th, 2025) in all regions. Monies won from all USCHA approved weekend classes shall be included. Ties will be broken by number of times show.

Award: USCHA Official Trophy Saddle

USCHA National Champion Non-Pro Rider of the Year:

The rider of the year will be presented to the non-professional rider that has won the most monies in all regions during the USCHA calendar year (Jan 1st, 2025, through Oct 12th, 2025). Monies from all USCHA approved weekend classes shall be included.

Award: USCHA Official Trophy Saddle

USCHA National Owner of the Year Award:

Open to all USCHA members in good standing. The USCHA Owner of the Year Award was established to recognize those individuals who have invested and supported USCHA contest. Also, their outstanding contribution to the USCHA's purpose, which is the public exhibition and promotion of the cutting and ranch cutting horse. **Total earnings of all horses owned by a single owner or entity as listed on horse's registration papers will be used to determine our National Award Winner in this category Jan 1st, 2025 – Oct 12th, 2025.** Unregistered horses must be approved by USCHA in order for the earnings to accrue toward this annual award.

Award: To be determined by USCHA Committee Members

USCHA National Finals Championship Standings:

USCHA National Finals Champion standings for each class are determined by the total points (youth only) or earnings from all USCHA approved contests.

Orthodox Classes

Open

Non – Professional

\$35,000 Novice Horse

\$25,000 Novice Horse Non – Professional

\$15,000 Novice Horse

\$ 5,000 Limited Rider

\$75,000 Non – Professional

\$45,000 Non – Professional

Select Non – Professional

\$20,000 Non – Professional

\$10,000 Novice Horse Non - Professional

Jr. Youth

Sr. Youth

Non-Orthodox Classes

Ranch Cutting Class (Limited Rider)

\$1,500 Limit Rider/\$15,000 Limit Horse Ranch Cutting

USCHA Preliminary Boxing

Non Professional Green Horse Boxing

USCHA National Champion Youth standings are determined by the total point earned in all USCHA approved Youth classes held from Jan 1st, 2025 - Oct 12th, 2025.

USCHA National Finals Champion Awards:

At the end of each National Finals, the USCHA will recognize and honor the following in each of the 17 approved Classes and Levels:

USCHA National Champion Rider and/or Horse

Top Five National Finalists

Awards: To be determined by Committee Members and presented at USCHA National Finals Championships.

In all classes, placings will be determined by the most monies earned in that class. Monies won at the USCHA National Finals will count to determine all Top Five National Finalists in each class. Top Five National Finals awards will only be awarded to those that qualify and enter the USCHA National Finals. All ties will be broken by the most number of times shown in that class.

All qualified USCHA National Finalist will be eligible to compete for added monies/purses at the National Finals Event. Additionally, the USCHA will crown and award National Finals Show Champion and Reserve Show Champion for each class or class level that is held at the National Finals Event. (SR 26G for more info)

USCHA National Youth Scholarship Awards:

Upon request, USCHA youth members may obtain a Youth Scholarship Application from the USCHA office. The application must be received by the USCHA office on or before October 1st of each calendar year. The USCHA Committee Members shall review the applications received from the USCHA Youth Scholarships per year. The Committee Members will determine the amount. The awards will be presented on or before December 31st each year.

USCHA Hall of Fame:

Horse: Required lifetime earnings of \$75,000 in USCHA approved classes.

Open Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$75,000 in USCHA approved classes.

Non-Pro Rider: Required lifetime earnings of \$50,000 in USCHA approved classes. This will exclude all Youth class earnings.

Members: The USCHA Member's Hall of Fame was established to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the USCHA's purpose, which is the public exhibition and promotion of the cutting and ranch cutting horse. Individuals honored have exhibited superior moral character, good sportsmanship, fairness, and an exemplary contribution of time, effort, and interest in the USCHA and its basic endeavors.

The Committee Members shall review all candidates received by member presented nominations. Inductions will be limited to a maximum of two (2) inductees per year.

Award: To be determined by Committee Members.

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USCHA Membership

Any individual, firm, partnership, limited partnership, corporation, limited liability company or organization of good character and reputation interested in cutting or ranch cutting horses may apply for membership in the USCHA. You do not have to own or ride a cutting horse to be a member.

Membership is Free.

Membership Benefits Include:

- 1. The right to participate in USCHA contests and events.**
- 2. Results of shows publicized through various media outlets.**
- 3. Access to USCHA rider and horse earnings and standings records in office or online. Pictures of champions along with a brief summary of the show will also be featured in the Cutting Horse Journal as furnished by the show secretary.**
- 4. USCHA Rule Book in office or online.**



USCHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

One person per membership form

I hereby apply for membership in the United States Cutting Horse Association. My annual membership when approved by USCHA shall be FREE. With this application, I acknowledge that I shall comply with all Standing Rules of the USCHA. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the United States Cutting Horse Association LLC, its producers, and authorized agents from any claim of personal injury, liability, loss or injury to livestock, or accidents arising out of or related to this membership.

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

Social Security No: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Circle One: Professional Non-Professional Youth Supporter

For Non-Professional Status:

() I attest that I have never received direct or indirect remuneration or any other considerations for the training of a Cutting or Cow Horse, nor the training or a Cutting or Cow Horse Rider.

Signature:

Minor Applicants (under age 18) must have signature of Parent or Legal Guardian:

Mail to: USCHA
PO Box 695
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483