

National Reining Horse Association
Minutes of the Stewards Committee Winter Meeting
February 6, 2024

Approved 2/20/2024

Members Present: Committee Chair – Van Luse, Matt Lantz (virtually), Lyle Jackson (virtually), Alessandro Dezzutto (virtually), Manu Maiocchi (virtually)

Staff: Sr. Director of Education and Officials – Patti Carter, Education and Officials Coordinator – Lillian Esterl-Byrne, Assistant Commissioner – Christa Morris-Stone, Sr. Director of International Affairs & Development – Sam Oldfield, Director of ReinerSuite & Sale – Angie Honeywell

Guests: ProTrainer Editor – Jen Paulson, Judges Committee Chair – Eugenio Latorre, NRHA Derby/Futurity Show Manager – Cheryl Cody, Jennifer How

I. Call To Order

Committee Chair, Van Luse, called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. (CST)

II. New Business

a. NRHA's Strategic Plan

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Strategic Plan which serves as a roadmap for all future goals. It was noted that GOAL A, B & C of the Strategic Plan pertain directly to the Stewards Committee and the importance of its goals moving forward.

i. Communication with Other Committees

The Committee discussed the marked improvement in communication between the Stewards and Professionals as well as the improved communication with the Judges at events.

ii. Steward Program Social Media Promotion

Discussion was had on potential strategies for implementing more promotion of the stewards program on various social media platforms. Suggestions included “Meet the Steward” features for major events and articles in the ProTrainer to continue to build relationships with the Professionals and Stewards.

b. Steward Schools

The current educational curriculum was reviewed and discussed. The content used for recertification of stewards will be condensed and new stewards will be required to go through the full content.

It was discussed to advertise the steward schools in the ProTrainer as the professional membership would be a suitable recruiting ground for new, qualified stewards with detailed knowledge of the rules and accepted training practices.

c. Develop Standard Operating Procedure for Violation of Conduct

Discussion was had on the need to develop a process for handling a Steward's Code of Ethics violation. This will be modeled off the current policies for Professionals and Judges.

d. Nighttime passes at NRHA Derby and Futurity – Next Steps

The Committee discussed the need for implementing nighttime passes at the NRHA Derby and Futurity. Nighttime schooling will be advertised as a closed practice in the effort to create an atmosphere in which professionals can focus on preparing their horses with limited distractions. These practices would continue to be monitored by NRHA Stewards as usual.

e. Tentative Call Schedule for 2024

Stewards Committee calls will be scheduled for once a month unless other situations arise which need the committee's attention.

III. Open Discussion

a. International Stewards

The Committee noted the improvements of the Stewards Program abroad and discussed the additional challenges which international stewards encounter.

b. Tie Declaration Card

With the intent of improving the way in which ties are handled, the Stewards Committee is developing a tie declaration card to provide better structure and communication in tie and run off situations. Further meetings will be held to finalize the implementation of a tie declaration card at NRHA owned events.

c. Foot Traffic Control at the NRHA Major Events

Discussion was had on how to improve foot traffic going through the back gate alley way during the finals at major events.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44 P.M. (CST)