

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION
NRHA Judges Committee/Teaching Pool Winter Workshop Minutes
NRHA Office
January 8-9, 2024

Approved 1/25/2024

Members Present: Committee Chair – Eugenio Latorre, Vice Chair – Mike McEntire, Bob Kail, Bub Poplin, Doug Allen, Jared Leclair, Maik Bartmann, Manu Maiocchi, Margaret Fuchs, Matt Lantz, Ollie Griffith, Pat Wickenheiser, Reid Fady, Sebastian Petroll, Steve Ross, Todd Sommers

Members Not Present: Craig Schmersal

Staff Present: NRHA Commissioner – Billy Smith, Executive Committee President – Mark Blake, Sr. Director of Education and Officials – Patti Carter, Education and Officials Coordinator – Lillian Esterl-Byrne

I. Call to Order

Sr. Director of Education and Officials, Patti Carter, called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M. January 8th, 2024 (CST)

II. Welcome – Review of 2024 Judges Committee and Teaching Pool Members

- a. Introduction of new committee members and overview of Judges Committee Major Objectives & Goals

III. Assessment & Reflection of Judging System

- a. Review of scoring statistics from the 2023 NRHA Derby & Futurity and discussion on how to use the statistical information to further advance the education and evaluation of NRHA Judges.

IV. Define Break of Gait Penalties

- a. Review of difficult break of gait penalties from the 2023 NRHA Derby & Futurity and discussion on how to define a break of gait penalty for teaching purposes.

V. Review of Conflict Rules- adjust for five judge vs three or one judge events.

- a. Discussion on updating the current judging conflict of interest rules to achieve a larger pool of qualified judges to officiate at major events who are currently not eligible due to the conflict rules.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to submit the below updates to the Judging Policies and Procedures conflict stipulations:
 1. Conflict (Horse) - A horse may not be shown under a judge if that judge is the owner or owned by a person living in the same household, their spouse, significant other, their child(ren), stepchild(ren) and/or parent(s).
 2. Conflict (Member) - A person may not show under a judge if that person is living in the same household, is their spouse, significant other, child(ren), stepchild(ren) and/or parent(s).
 - ii. Motion made and seconded to allow judges to apply to the NRHA Judges Committee for an on-going conflict of interest exemption which would be evaluated on a per case basis and may be extended permanently should the relationship of the individuals remain the same. Should the relationship change a new exemption request must be submitted. Each case of conflict would be required to have a separate exemption request and must be submitted prior to the start of the event – motion passed unanimously.

VI. Review the Review Standard Operating Procedures as Outlined in the NRHA Handbook

- a. Discussion on the current review protocols and possible improvements.
 - i. Motion made to table discussion regarding the future implementation of reviewing 1-point penalties in a finals situation at NRHA owned events – motion passed unanimously.

VII. Equipment Clarifications

- a. Discussion on legality of Ace of Spades bit and current verbiage on the use of closed reins.

VIII. Review Judge Rating Evaluations

- a. Motion made and seconded to update the Rating Elevation Request form with the below updates
 - i. Change time frame of judged events to within the last two years prior to applying
 - ii. Change verbiage about monitored events to monitored classes.
 - iii. Motion passed unanimously

IX. Judge School & Seminars

- a. Review current Judge Applicant Criteria and discuss possible improvements.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to update the Judge Application with the following Information:
 1. Add – Any disciplinary action taken by NRHA within the last 10 years will be evaluated by the committee upon submission of application.
 2. Add – Have reviewed, agreed to, and signed the Judge’s Code of Ethics
 3. Update – Judges Committee chair can not serve as a reference for a Judge Applicant
 4. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Review of Judge Applicants in consideration for attendance at the March 2024 Judge Applicant Seminar.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to approve 12 of the applicants to attend the March 2024 Judge Applicant Seminar based on the current criteria – motion passed unanimously.
- c. Review current Judge Applicant Seminar teaching materials.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to institute a 60.00% passing benchmark for the penalty clip portion of the applicant seminar – motion passed unanimously.
- d. Discussion on instituting a passing benchmark for the penalty test at NRHA Judges’ Schools and how to address possible retesting on only the penalty test portion.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to institute a passing benchmark for the penalty test portion of the Judges’ School with the exact benchmark to be determined after review of the January 2024 Judges’ School results – motion passed unanimously.
- e. Review of results from the Applicant Seminar held in Mexico in November 2023.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to approve the 6 applicants who achieved an overall score of 80% or higher.

X. Review of Recent Retest Results – Executive Session

XI. Review Judging Major Events

- a. Discussion of current protocols for selecting judges to judge major events and the current challenges of the protocols which could be improved.
 - i. Motion made and seconded that Judges Committee members will not be allowed to vote for themselves during the selection process for major events – motion passed unanimously.

XII. Rule Change vs Policy Change vs Judges Guide -Clarify the Process

- a. Discussion around how to manage a change in teaching and an explanation of the differences between policy change and rule change proposals presented by Patti Carter.

XIII. Another Professionals/Judge Gathering

- a. Discussion and planning to host a second gathering between the Judges Committee and NRHA Professionals. The gathering is to be held in Arizona and Europe to accommodate professionals in broader area.

XIV. Proposal for Updated Scoring System

- a. Discussion on an updated scoring system to allow more differentiation between horses. After discussion the focus was placed on using current teaching practices to encourage judges to use the full scale to separate horses. Suggestions were made about possible additions to the teaching materials used at the school and on the Event Officials Program page.

XV. Update on Judge Recognition Program

- a. Patti Carter provided an update on the Judge Recognition Program. Discussion was had on how to verify the number of years judging for each judge.

XVI. Update of Horse IQ

- a. Patti Carter provided an overview and update of the HorseIQ collaboration project with APHA. The committee reviewed the current material available through the HorseIQ platform and discussed ways to further encourage its use among NRHA Judges.

XVII. Update of EOP Improvements

- a. Patti Carter & Lillian Esterl-Byrne presented the recent updates to the Event Officials Program page. The committee discussed additional educational content which could be added to the program to make it more valuable to NRHA Judges.

XVIII. Videoining Future Judge Schools

- a. Discussion on the purpose of possible implementation of videoing future Judges' Schools or Applicant Seminars.
- b. Discussion on how to utilize the official NRHA social media pages for educational content from the Judges Committee with the goal of educating Judges and the public.

XIX. Monitors Program

- a. Discussion on educational requirements for Judges Monitors and review of content which should be covered at the next Judges Monitor educational session.
- b. Review of current criteria available for evaluating a Judges Monitor's performance.

XVIII. Simple Lead Change Rulebook Clarification

- a. Motion made and seconded to teach that simple lead changes can occur anywhere a lead change is necessary for classes in which simple lead changes are allowed – motion passed unanimously.

XX. Unapproved Reining Policy Discussion

- a. Discussion on how to improve the policies surrounding judging unapproved reining classes in a way that would further support affiliates hosting the classes and protect the judges judging the classes.
 - i. Motion made and seconded to update the exemptions for judging unapproved reining classes in the Judging Policies and Procedures with the following:
 1. ~~(e) affiliate level classes that are held concurrent with NRHA approved classes and added money cannot exceed 50% of the added money of the NRHA approved class~~
 2. (c)Unapproved reining classes held in conjunction with an NRHA Approved Event, if the total added money of the unapproved part of the show is less than 50% than the NRHA approved added money.

XXI. Review of 2024-2025 Judges School & Seminar Content

- a. Review of new content for the 2024 – 2025 Judges' School and Applicant Seminar testing rotation.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M. January 9th, 2024 (CST)