

Central Alberta Cutting Horse Club

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

The Central Alberta Cutting Horse Club (CACHC) was formed to provide cutting competition that offers a comfortable yet competitive environment where beginner, novice, and advanced contestants are encouraged to participate to:

- Improve ability to show a cutting horse,
- Improve ability to ride a helping horse,
- Develop show management skills,
- Provide opportunity for new, approved judges to judge shows to gain experience.

GENERAL RULES

- All contestants must be members of the CACHC.
- To be eligible for year-end awards in horse classes (e.g., Open, Novice Horse, Open Ranch), the owner must be a member of the CACHC.
- All late entries will be charged \$20 per class and be placed at the bottom of the draw.
- Everyone who enters and does not attend will be charged the Cattle, Office, and Secretary charges for each class entered.
- Entry fees for classes required to cut used cattle will be reduced by \$10 per class.
- Alcohol is not allowed in the working or warm up areas of the facility.
- Unless advertised to all contestants, no practice works will take place in the cutting arena on the same day prior to the official CACHC show.
- Entries close Tuesday at **9:00** p.m. prior to show. Entries will be received by phone, e-mail, or *text*.
- It is the responsibility of the contestant to confirm their entries before the cattle are ordered Wednesday night.
- Contestants will pay the entries as posted on the Entry and Class Sheets. Discrepancies should be registered with the Show Director and will be dealt with at a later time by the Board of Directors.
- Persons who issue NSF cheques will be charged at \$25.00 Service Charge in addition to any bank chargeback fees for each occurrence.

ELIGIBILITY

- Horses must be of sound sight, wind, and limb to be judged. Stallions, mares, and geldings of any breed are eligible without discrimination.
- Owners and riders shall ensure the good behavior of their animals both in and outside the working area of the arena. Any horse deemed to be unmanageable may be dismissed.
- If a horse begins the show season eligible for a class, it may remain in that class for the entire year.
- In each class, an exhibitor may enter one or more horses, but a rider may only ride one horse except in the Open, Novice Horse \$3000 Limit and Open Ranch Classes, in which he may ride two.

INTRODUCTION

During a 2 and 1/2 minute interval to be timed by show management, a contestant shall enter the herd of cattle from a specific starting position for the purpose of cutting out an individual animal and bringing it to the front of the herd. The contestant must hold this particular animal, keeping it from returning to the herd, until the rider feels the horse has had sufficient time to show its ability at the task. The number of cattle to be cut out by a contestant during the allotted time is to be determined by the rider (usually two or three).

It shall be up to contestants to assemble their turnback help. The responsibility to see that the herd is settled shall be with the first contestant in each set of cattle. No horse entered in the class being judged at the time shall be used to settle the herd.

RULES FOR JUDGING

All judges shall be governed by CCHA Judging Rules. The following rules have been modified and condensed from the Canadian Cutting Horse Association (CCHA) Rule Book, and shall be applied when judging a CACHC show. Any discrepancies or omissions will be ruled on by the CACHC directors with the assistance of the CCHA Rule Book, and their decision will be final.

1. Each horse is required to enter the herd deep enough to show his ability to make a cut. One such deep cut will satisfy this rule. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in a three (3) point penalty. A horse will be given credit for his ability to enter the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought out.
2. When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it is taken toward the centre of the arena and credit will be given for it. Additional credit will be given the horse which drives its stock a sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by its work; thereby showing its ability to drive a cow.
3. Credit will be given for riding with a loose rein throughout a performance.
4. Credit will be given for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the centre of the arena as possible.
5. If the cutting horse or his rider creates a disturbance at any time throughout its working period, he will be penalized:
 - a. noise directed to cattle by contestant: one (1) point
 - b. runs into herd, scatters or picks up cattle: three (3) points (if additional cattle leave the herd at no fault of the horse, no penalty will be assessed)
 - c. the judge shall stop any work because of training or abuse of the horse by the contestant or disturbance of cattle

6. A horse will be penalized three (3) points each time the back fence actually stops or turns the animal being worked within one step (three (3) feet) of the fence. The back fence to be agreed on and designated by the judge or judges before the contest starts. Back fence means the actual fence only. No imaginary line from point to point to be considered. If any contestant voices an objection before the contest starts, the judge or judges shall take a vote of the contestants, and a 'back fence' acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.
7. If a horse turns the wrong way with tail toward the animal being worked, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.
8. While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse, regardless of whether the reins are held high or low. A one- (1) point penalty shall also be charged when a horse is visibly cued in any manner. If the reins are tight enough that the bit is bumped at any time, he shall be penalized one (1) point each time, even though the hand of the rider does not move. (Ranch classes - See Rule #22)
 - a. A horse must be released as soon as the desired animal is clear of the other cattle. Additional reining, cueing, or positioning will result in a one- (1) point penalty for each occurrence.
 - b. The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty shall be charged if the second hand touches the reins for any purpose except to straighten them.
 - c. Spurring behind the shoulder shall not be considered a visible cue. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed each time a horse is spurred in the shoulder.
 - d. A toe, foot, or stirrup on the horse's shoulder is considered a visible cue. A one- (1) point penalty shall be charged for each occurrence.
9. If a horse lets an animal that he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalized five (5) points.
10. If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five- (5) point penalty will be assessed.
11. When a horse goes past an animal to the degree he loses his working advantage; he will be penalized one (1) point each time he does so.
12. Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse pawing, biting or kicking cattle will be penalized three (3) points.
13. A contestant may quit an animal when it's obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is obviously behind the tumback horses and the turnback horses are behind the time line. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.

14. If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed.
15. If a horse clears the herd with two- (2) or more cattle and fails to separate a single animal before quitting, a five- (5) point penalty will be charged. There is no penalty if time expires.
16. Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. A bridle shall have no noseband or bosal, and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. A judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse's nose. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat, or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where a CACHC approved event is being held. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible. Breast collar may be used; no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Chaps and spurs may be worn. A competing horse's tail cannot be tied in any manner, which would restrict movement of the tail. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he shall be disqualified. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any infraction of this rule. (*Ranch classes - See Rule #22*)
 - a. All competing horses must comply with this rule while in the arena.
 - b. Any contestant in the arena after the start of a CACHC event must wear western attire, including hats. Long sleeved shirts with collars and buttons or snaps down the front must be worn. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Long sleeves must be worn rolled down. The dress requirement may be waived both inside and outside the working area of the arena, in outdoor shows in extreme weather conditions, with the consent of both show management and the judge(s).
 - c. Contestants are limited to a maximum four (4) helpers.
17. When a contestant is thrown from a horse or horse falls to ground, an automatic score of sixty (60) will be given.
18. Any rider who allows his horse to quit working or leaves the working area before his allotted time is up will be disqualified for that go-round with no score.
19. A contestant will be rewarded a complete rework if in the judges opinion 2 1/2 minutes time was not allotted for the work, or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those caused by the contestants or their help, and the judges have stopped the time. Any rework must take place within the group of cattle drawn by the contestant 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 set of cattle. No rework shall be granted if the contestant involved has incurred a three (3) or five (5) point penalty prior to a disturbance.
20. A judge marks from 60 to 80 points. One-half points are permissible.
21. When the judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit always goes to the contestant.

22. In Ranch classes, all CACHC rules apply with the following exceptions:
- Horses may be shown with two hands.
 - No penalty for reining a horse - however, credit may be given to a horse showing a willingness to work with less assistance.
 - Horses must be shown in a regulation snaffle bit or a rope or rawhide bosal.
 - Snaffle bits shall have a smooth, broken mouthpiece (minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter, 1 inch from outer end of the bit).
 - If a chinstrap is used, it must be flat leather or nylon (not chain) at least 1/2 inch wide. Reins must be attached behind the chinstrap.

RULES SUMMARY

RUN CONTENT: Herd Work - Driving a cow (+/-)
 Controlling the cow - Working center of arena (+/-)
 Degree of Difficulty (+/-)
 Eye Appeal (+/-)
 Time Worked (+/-)
 Amount of Courage (+/-)
 Loose Reins (+/-)
 Horse Charging (-)
 Forced Off a Cow (-)
 Excessive Herd Holder Help (-)

PENALTIES:

1 point: (A) Miss - Loss of working advantage
 (a) ½ Miss – Loss of working advantage
 (B) Reining or visibly cueing (*reining penalty not applicable in Ranch classes*)
 (C) Noise directed toward cattle
 (D) Toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder
 (E) Hold on too long on a cut
 (F) Working out of position
 (G) Hand too far forward

3 points: (A) Hot quit (*cow must be obviously stopped, obviously turned away*)
 (B) Cattle picked up or scattered
 (C) Second hand on reins (*not applicable in Ranch classes*)
 (D) Spur in the shoulder
 (E) Pawing or biting cattle
 (F) Failure to make a deep cut
 (G) Back fence

5 points: (A) Horse quitting cow
 (B) Losing a cow
 (C) Changing cattle after a specific commitment
 (D) Failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd

60 score: (A) If horse turns tail
 (B) If horse falls to ground

Disqualification: Illegal equipment
 Leaving working area before time expires
 Inhumane treatment to the horse
(Score = 0)

DEFINITION OF NON-PROFESSIONAL

A Non-Professional is a person who holds a current CCHA Non-Pro card, or who has not shown, trained, or assisted in training reining horses, cow-horses, or cutting horses, or cutting, reining, or cow horse riders for remuneration, directly or indirectly, and has not been paid to work in any manner in the above named activities on the premises of a cow horse training operation. ***A non-professional in this Association may not train horses in any equine discipline.*** Anyone participating in the previous activities will forfeit his or her Non-Professional status. In the event that a member who has Non- Professional status publicly exhibits in any CACHC approved contest a cutting, reining, or cow horse not owned by the member or the member's spouse, father, mother, minor son, or daughter, the said status will be automatically revoked. Eligibility for riders who do not possess a CCHA Non-Pro card shall be determined on a case by case basis by the CACHC directors whose decision will be final.

Upon written notification to the CACHC, and after having received permission, a non-professional will be permitted to show a horse he/she does not own in a maximum of three (3) approved shows, either open or novice horse classes only, provided the horse and shows are named with dates, and there is no remuneration received directly or indirectly (*monies won are not considered remuneration*). Only one such permit will be granted a rider for a given horse, and points won will not count toward any CACHC annual award, title or certificate.

DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

Applications

The provisions of these disciplinary rules and procedures will apply at any recognized show of the CACHC to the following persons: owner, exhibitor, agent, trainer, manager, and rider, parent of any exhibitor, or member of the family or employee of any of the aforementioned or any individual member of the CACHC.

Violations

Punishable offences are:

1. Misrepresentation of the eligibility of a horse to participate in any class.
2. Misrepresentation of one's professional or non-pro status
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the show arena or show grounds is prohibited.
4. No contestant, or other person, shall engage in any form of misconduct or harassment towards show management, judges, or CACHC representatives. Show management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for violation of this rule.
5. A contestant shall not make any comment within a judge's hearing regarding any work or shall not intimidate or attempt to intimidate a judge.

6. Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited.
 - a. Inhumane treatment is the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. The decision of show management or judge as to the inhumane treatment should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management or judge determines that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action and a veterinarian is not available, the show management or judge may implement any action allowed by this rule, at their sole discretion.
 - b. Abuse includes excessive jerking, spurring, whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to a horse. Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse a horse, in the show arenas 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 as provided by this standing rule.
 - c. A violation of sub-section (a) or (b) of this rule will call for a minimum ninety (90) day probation or suspension for an infraction of each of the above stated sub-sections.
7. Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the CACHC, and any non-member, approved show, or official thereof may be denied privileges of the club for giving a worthless cheque, or failure to pay when due any obligation owing to the CACHC for entry fees, stall fees, office charges, cattle charges, penalty charges, premiums, or any other charges connected with the exhibition of a cutting horse.

Penalties

The CACHC Directors will decide on disciplinary action after consulting the CCHA Rule Book. Penalties may include suspension, probation, or warnings. CCHA penalties may or may not be applied.

Suspensions

1. Any person suspended will not exhibit nor have their horse(s) exhibited in any show approved by the CACHC for the period of the suspension.
2. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified to hold or exercise office in the club.
3. Any person suspended for the failure to pay when due any obligation owing to the club will remain suspended until all payments are made.
4. Any person suspended will have their name published in the club's newsletter.

YEAR-END STANDINGS AND AWARDS

- The show season will begin the first of January of any given year. During a show season, points will be awarded to horses for their placing in any approved CACHC class. *Points for the entire season are totaled for the final standings.*
- A rider and/or horse must attend 50% of the shows that offer classes for them to be eligible for year-end awards.
- A cumulative tabulation of all points earned by all horses during the show season will be kept at the office. Said tabulation shall be published in the current CACHC newsletter.
- If there is a tie for a placing in the points for year-end standings, the horse with the highest earnings will be declared the winner.
- Awards will be presented to 4th place.

CACHC DIRECTORS

The CACHC Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting in the fall. A maximum of ten (10) Directors are elected for a term of two (2) years. The President and Vice-President are elected by the Directors. The President serves for a two (2) year term and must have been a Director for at least one (1) year.