

Treasure State Cutting Horse Association (TSCHA)

Protocol, Rules & Policies

PROTOCOL

A substantial amount of time, effort and planning go into the preparation and execution of all our shows. This includes, securing the facility, ordering cattle, hiring a Judge, Announcer, Show Secretary, etc. All this is handled well in advance of producing shows. TSCHA contracts with a supplier for cattle and **MUST** give a final count based on fresh cattle entries the Sunday prior to each show.

TSCHA POINT YEAR is from January 1st – December 31st of each year.

SHOW CANCELATION:

Due to adverse weather conditions. The latest notice the TSCHA board will give for any cancelation will be Friday morning for a Saturday show or Saturday morning for a Sunday show. Due consideration will be given for weather, geographic location, facility conditions, contestants, vendors and attendants. **All Board members** will make the determination prior to any announcements to the membership.

TSCHA maintains sufficient insurance coverage each year to cover all practices and shows. Producer pays \$45.00 for practice day coverage.

Our organization adheres to MT Code § 27-1-725 and posts Liability signs at each show.

All TSCHA equine earnings are uploaded to Equistat following every show.

RULES

HORSE NAMES:

All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their Breed Association. All unregistered horses must be shown under one name only and said name may not conflict with a registered horse's name. *NCHA SR 3 & NRCHA 1.1.4.1/.2.*

This is critical for reporting earnings to Equistat and tracking our points for the show year.

Any TSCHA member whose check 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**

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\$50.00 fee must be received within 30 days from date of notice. Exhibitor is responsible for any and all show related expenses they incur; they shall forfeit all winnings and points toward year end awards until full restitution, including all fees, are received by TSCHA. **Failure to make full restitution, including all fees, within 30 days of date of notice will result in the immediate and automatic suspension of that member.** Suspension will be sustained until full restitution, including all fees, are received and reinstatement is granted by the TSCHA Board of Directors. This policy stands regardless of payment method. TSCHA points, annual awards or certificates forfeited under this policy will not be reinstated. *NCHA SR 4*

A rider may only show again once they have reimbursed TSCHA for any/all outstanding expense(s), as every competitor is required to remain in good standing. *NCHA SR 11 & 12*

Classes based on "Rider Earnings" shall be limited to two (2) entries per rider. *NCHA Standing Rule 18*

No contestant, or other person, shall engage in any form of misconduct or harassment toward TSCHA BOD, Judge, or Show Secretary. Show management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for violation of this rule. *NCHA SR 30*

A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to him/herself, or their horse, or due to sickness or death in their family. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any contest they are participating in due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judge or judges, show management, or other contestants without forfeiting all money they may have won in previous go-rounds. After the draw is complete, a contestant will forfeit all due fees. *NCHA SR 31*

ZERO TOLERANCE:

Abuse is defined as intentionally showing a lame horse, abusive or inhumane showing or schooling techniques, including the use of unapproved bits, etc.

Abusive showing techniques will not be tolerated and will be whistled out by the judge immediately. Failure of exhibitor to stop immediately will result in punishment from the TSCHA Board of Directors/Show Management. *NCHA SR 35A.5* Show Management and/or the Judge at an TSCHA approved event reserve the right to disqualify and/or penalize a rider if that rider violates this policy. Any premiums owed to said contestant shall not be paid nor points considered for standings. The same rule applies to entries and any money owed the association. Initial warning will be verbal, if there is a second warning offending party will be placed on suspension with TSCHA for the remainder of the show season. All dues must be settled up for the board to reconsider membership for the following season. *NCHA SR 35*

HORSE OWNERSHIP:

Any and all present or future ownership rights to any horse being shown in TSCHA classes must be currently owned by the contestant showing the horse or it must be qualified as a family-owned horse as defined in *NCHA Rule 51.a.4*. Any and all present or future ownership rights to any horse being exhibited in Non-Pro or Amateur cutting horse classes must be 100% owned by the contestant showing the horse or be qualified as a family-owned horse as defined in *SR 51.a.4*. There can be no ownership rights related to possession, profits, expenses, or any other ownership interest belonging to any person other than the contestant except as provided above. *SR 50.d.2* If ownership is in question and a contestant is unable to provide adequate proof of ownership at the time of entry, any premium monies won may be withheld by show management until such time as proper proof is provided. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disciplinary action by the TSCHA BOD. For horse transfers that have not been recorded by the breed association for horses that have been shown in Non-Pro and/or Amateur classes at TSCHA approved or produced events, premium moneys won will not be distributed by TSCHA until such transaction is received in the breed association's records. *NCHA SR 50.d.3*

MEMBERSHIP:

Any individual or family may be a member of the association by paying annual dues at any time during the year. Regarding voting privileges, individual memberships receive **one** vote and family memberships receive **two** votes per household. Youth are ineligible to vote.

Trainer and horse owner/client memberships are required.

Youth eligibility is based on their age as of the start of the show season (January 1). Any youth 18 years of age and younger at the start of the TSCHA show year is eligible to obtain a youth only membership at the current rate or may be included in the family membership.

If a member or non-member places in an TSCHA class and does not hold a current paid membership, said person must remit all earnings to show management within 15 days of notification or the ineligible competitor will be placed on membership suspension by TSCHA. *NCHA SR 51.a.2.e*

JUDGING:

After the start of all TSCHA shows, any rider in the working area in front of the Judge's stand must wear proper western attire, including a western hat, western boots, long sleeved shirt buttoned or snapped down the front with collar, and with the sleeves rolled down. T-shirts and any sweatshirt is not acceptable. Chaps are optional to wear in cutting classes; however, according to Cowhorse rules, contestants are required to wear

chaps*. Management of shows which are held outdoors may waive the hat and/or chaps rule if experiencing extreme weather conditions*. In the warmup or practice pen areas at a TSCHA approved show, long or short sleeved 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 any show. Western hats or caps are optional in the warmup and practice pen areas. This rule will be monitored by show management. *NCHA JR 16*

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 has stopped the time. These factors would include gates coming open, fences falling, 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. 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 initial 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 and 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) or a five (5) point (major) penalty prior to the disturbance. Any rework must take place within the bunch of cattle drawn by the contestant and must occur before a change of cattle is executed. Reworks shall not be granted in the event a contestant's equipment breaks during a horse's performance.

LONG CLOCK or NO CLOCK:

This is at the judge's discretion as she/he should be following/know the NCHA guidelines. There is a backup clock (stopwatch) if the main clock should fail during a run. Also see Excessive Disturbances. *NCHA JR 19*

At the conclusion of the 2 ½ minute run, the buzzer sounds and the contestant will discontinue working and ride his/her horse forward past the timeline before dismounting. Exceptions to this rule are a fallen rider, dismounting an unsound horse or to retrieve a lost article. *NCHA SR 34. Please allow turnback help to assist in retrieving a hat, etc.*

The Judge reserves the right to ask any contestant to drop their bridle if there is reasonable doubt that an appropriate show bit is being used in either cutting or Cowhorse classes.

A judge may blow his/her whistle at any time to terminate the work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that time. Also see Zero Tolerance Policy*.

LOPING PEN ETIQUETTE:

The loping pen is where cutting horses are warmed up and prepared for the show arena. Horses in the warmup area travel in the same direction in concentric circles. To enter the loping area, merge into traffic as if you were entering a traffic circle. Look and wait for a clearing. Once in, maintain the same speed as the horse in front of you. If you want to pass, look behind you so you do not crash into the horse in the other lane. Stay to the inside circle if you want to go slow. This is the slow lane. Stay to the outside circle if you want to go fast. This is the fast lane. Try not to bunch up and talk or stand still anywhere in the traffic. Never stop in traffic. If you must stop, please slow down, and exit to an area devoid of traffic. This also applies to dry working your horse. If you are going to do some pulling and spinning, please do it where you have room. When the time comes to boot up or put on chaps, find a safe place out of traffic. Be careful that your horse is not too close to another horse that might kick or bite. Watch your own horse for signs of rude behavior. Do not tie kicking horses or studs in the loping pen. Use the loping pen for exercise and to season young horses only when there is enough room. Be considerate of people in there to get their horse ready to show. There will be a tractor coming in periodically to work the pen. Move your horse out of the way and move any tied horses away from the area to be worked. People will want to change direction from time to time. Whether they want to bend their horse the other way or simply are tired of going right and want to go left, slow down, stop and turn your horse around. If you want to go another direction, simply ask someone if they would like to turn around. Do not be off ended if some contestant ignores your request, it simply means their horse is not broke and they cannot do this maneuver. **Ponying horses to warm up is not permitted unless you are leading the horse to be tied near the show pen.** *(For more information, see NCHA Rulebook - Show Mgmt Handbook - Pgs. 135-136)*

POLICIES

PETS:

Barking or unruly dogs are not permitted in the warmup or practice areas while an TSCHA cutting horse event is taking place. Dogs are not permitted under any circumstances in the show pen or show area of arena at any time during a TSCHA event. Rented facilities require that our pets be kept on a leash and controlled at all times due to insurance requirements. In order to preserve our right to utilize these facilities, it is mandatory that all contestants and those on site during one of our produced shows, adhere to this policy.

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If a show is held at a rented facility, there will be a \$10 Arena Fee per rider charged at settlement.

CANCELATIONS / NO SHOWS:

Any member that has pre-entered for a fresh cattle class by the stated entry deadline and **cancels within 48 hours of the start of practice** is responsible to cover the association's cost of the fresh cattle that were secured/delivered for their entry/entries. The same rule applies if a member does not show up to ride in their class(es). Full entry fees must be paid for any pre-entered class(es).

If a rider withdraws after the fresh cattle class has been drawn, they are responsible to pay the entire entry fee(s).

ENTRIES:

Fresh cattle class entries must be received by the Sunday prior to the show by 9:00pm via online submission, email to info@treasurestatecha.com or by phone correspondence with the Show Secretary. If a member enters a fresh cattle class after the stated entry deadline, but before the draw, a \$15 late fee will be charged per class/horse entry. If a member makes an entry change after the cattle are ordered but before the draw, and those changes do not affect the number of fresh cattle ordered and paid for, there is no additional charge to the member. Cattle changes must be designated before working order is drawn. Used cattle classes do not require pre-entry, but entries must be made before the draw. If contestant has paid their entries and then cancels after the draw, there will be no refund. Fresh Cattle Class late entries received after a posted date/time may be accepted until the first horse in the class starts to work. Any late entry accepted must work last in the set. When two or more late entries arrived simultaneously, a draw will be held by the officiating judge and said entries inserted in the next subsequent groups of cattle with (1) one entry being placed in each group. There will be an additional \$15 late charge per class/horse. *NCHA SR 12*

PRACTICE:

Any member may enter a designated number of horses for the pre-show practice by the fresh-cattle entry deadline. Practice entries as well as show entries are considered by Show Management to secure a set number of cattle by a certain date. Unlike used cattle classes where any amount of cattle may be re-run for classes, there are only a certain amount of cattle secured for the practice based on pre-entries. If a member wishes to enter for practice between the pre-entry deadline and start of practice, they must notify Show Management to see if additional cattle may be secured or accept practicing on a re-run cow. In any case, if a member cancels practice within 48 hours of the start of practice, they are responsible to pay TSCHA the \$45.00 per head charge multiplied by the number of horses they had entered. If a member has entered at any time for practice, then does not show up is also responsible to pay \$45.00 per head charge multiplied by the number of horses they had entered.

All contestants must work at the appointed time so designated by the Show Management or be disqualified for that class or go-round with a no score. No late entry will be accepted from a contestant who fails to work at their appointed time. **If a contestant fails to work at the appointed time will receive no score for that class and must cover their entry fees.**

CLASS ELIGIBILITY / HONOR SYSTEM:

This is determined at the beginning of the show/point year. Once eligibility is determined, riders and horses may show in any appropriate class for the remainder of the point year, regardless of the amount of NCHA money earned during the point year. **Any owner or rider who shall permit their horse to be entered and compete in an approved class, in which the owner(s), the horse or rider is ineligible, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the BOD.** To determine your horses NCHA earnings, enter your horses registered name and search under <https://nchacutting.com/ncha-shows/secretary-tools/horse-earnings> <https://nchacutting.com/ncha-shows/secretary-tools/rider-eligibility>. *TSCHA does not base class eligibility off of Equistat earnings.*

We do not track NCHA rider or horse earnings so it is expected that TSCHA members will enter classes that both horse and rider are qualified for based on the criteria stated in our Show Rules.

A contestant may substitute a horse in place of the injured horse, prior to the draw, provided that the same owner owns the horse to be substituted, and all eligibility requirements are met. Show management and the Show Secretary must be notified and approve prior to showing replacement horse.

STANDINGS:

If an Amateur or Non-Pro shows two different horses in the same class/herd, but on different days they will accrue cumulative rider points. This allows a rider to change horses mid-season for any reason.

Cowhorse Non-Pro classes: if a rider elects to show two different horses in one class/herd at the same show, then the points will be kept separately on each horse/rider combination from that point on. Allowing a Non-Pro to show two horses in the same class on the same day gives them an opportunity for more show experience, but the points on horse/rider combination will be kept separately for the show season and rider must choose which horse to track points on for the year.

YEAR-END AWARDS:

Qualifications for year-end awards is based on participation and cumulative points throughout the show year. For any rider or horse to qualify for year-end awards, riders and horse owners must be a TSCHA member in good standing and must meet the following criteria: Compete in a minimum of three (3) shows during the point year. If class is determined on the horse's eligibility the horse must ridden to the herd and shown at least three (3) times.

In 12 classes, there will be year-end awards given through fourth place. For the Ranch Horse and \$1,500 Novice Open classes, highest point earners at year-end will receive a buckle each. The Never Won A Buckle winner receives their buckle at the conclusion of the show.

Graduating Classes

Ranch Horse – Year end winner does not graduate from class.

\$2,000 Limit Rider – May ride in class until NCHA earnings meet or exceed this amount. Horse ownership is not required. NCHA SR 51.a.4.A

\$500 Limit Rider – Year end winner earns a buckle and graduates from class. Horse ownership is not required. NCHA SR 51.a.4.A

AMENDMENTS:

2022

TSCC is now a DBA: Treasure State Cutting Horse Association (TSCHA). We have maintained our 501c(7) non-profit status and original TAX ID number. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are mailed to donors by the Treasurer.

Move the Cowhorse Bridle Open (and NP, if necessary to combine) to go after the Open.

NEW: "Ranch Horse" Class. Beginner class, anyone can ride any horse with any legal bit.

Everyone is eligible to ride whether they have earnings in cutting horse competition or not. The class will be judged using all the guidelines for judging an NCHA class EXCEPT reining will be excluded from penalty points. The rider may use two hands or one hand and can change throughout the class and rein as often as needed. All other items on the judge's card will be considered in judging. Class does not offer payouts, 2 | Page but one year end award will be given for the high point earner in this class. Year-end winner does NOT graduate from class. Both the new Ranch Horse and \$1,500 Novice Open classes will run essentially as practice classes at a low cost with no payouts. Both qualify for one year end award each, being a high-quality buckle.

USED: Pre-entry not required but appreciated. No penalty for cancelation, enter any time before draw of class on show day.

Implement a generic Facility Agreement with facility management in the event they do not offer one. This will help ensure we do not have unforeseen expenses.

Agreed to drop \$8 Turnback fee on all used cattle classes.

No entry fees for new Ranch Horse

Qualification: must attend at least 3 shows to qualify for a year end award.

Rookie of the Year Award: Must be a rider's first year in the \$500, \$2,000 & Ranch Horse classes. Board will decide on recipient prior to the year-end Awards Banquet.

NEW WEBSITE Big Sky Internet Design, their specialty is cutting horses, ranch/farm websites.

2023

Add a Member Directory to our website for anyone to access. Add option on membership form for members to opt in or out.

2025

Credit card fees are 1.9% for Venmo and 3% for Square. Members are now required to cover fee with the exception of Sponsors wanting to pay by Credit Card or Venmo.

Annual election process will be handled to Big Sky Internet