

***CAVE CREEK CUTTING
HORSE ASSOCIATION
RULE BOOK
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010***

MISSION STATEMENT

Cave Creek Cutting Horse Association's (CCCHA) primary mission is to help promote the showing and training of cutting horses in Arizona with its primary emphasis on the beginning cutter by providing an affordable and economic place for the beginning cutter to gain show experience while at the same time providing the professional trainer and experienced non-pro cutter a venue in which they can season young horses and prepare finished horses for major shows in an economical manner while at the same time providing a quality cutting experience with good cattle, good ground, good judges and well run and managed shows.

Horses and riders should enter classes where they will compete against their peers. Even if a horse or rider is technically eligible for a class, they should compete at the level appropriate to their skill level and experience.

GENERAL RULES

I. **The Cave Creek Cutting Horse Association** shall operate its competitions by the same rules as recorded in the current NCHA official handbook of Rules and Regulations. Any exceptions are noted in this set of rules. The CCCHA Board has adopted a number of policies in an effort to clarify specific areas of the operation of the association. These policies are known as the Show Management Policies and are available from the association Secretary and on the website.

II. All CCCHA competitions will be judged by one judge (if 150 contestants or fewer). The decision of the judge will be final and there will be no appeals except for NCHA approved shows and then only to the extent allowed in the NCHA Rule Book.

III. Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner in the show arena or on the show grounds is prohibited. The following "ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY" will be enforced:
ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY: Slapping or hitting a horse on the head, one time or more than one time, in any manner, either with the rider's hands, reins, or any other object; Using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face; Using any object held in the rider's hand other than the bridle reins or a light leather quirt, to hit a horse; Any act which the general public would perceive to be a violation of (NCHA) Rule 35.b is prohibited. This includes such acts occurring not only in the show arena but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds, the warm-up area, practice pen or any other location.

IV. CCCHA events are restricted to members in good standing. Failure to pay membership, entry fees or related show charges within 15 days after request for payment has been made, will result in suspension and cancellation of all accumulated points for that show point year for both the horse and rider. Any NSF checks will be charged a fee of \$25.00 to cover bank fees. After 2 NSF checks, the member will be on a cash only basis.

V. **Membership:** Only members are allowed to compete at CCCHA competitions. Riders must be a member to be inside the arena or practice pen at any time due to insurance requirements. The Club Membership will include the holder, spouse and any children 21 years old and younger at the beginning of the point year. The membership cost shall be \$45. In addition there is a non-voting AHSRA membership available to members of the Arizona High School Rodeo Association (AHSRA) who participate in an AHSRA cutting jointly produced by AHSRA and CCCHA. The AHSRA Membership is valid for the year in which it is issued and entitles the AHSRA member to participate in all CCCHA events during that year. The cost of the membership is \$5 for the year.

VI. A General Election for officers and board members will be held each year prior to the Annual Awards Banquet. A nominating committee will be appointed by the board to prepare a ballot for printing in the November newsletter.

VII. Contestants in the Non-Pro or Amateur divisions must meet the same eligibility requirements as defined by the NCHA.

VIII. There are no horse ownership requirements except in the Non-Pro and Amateur classes.

IX. 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, at any and all contests approved by CCCHA. Failure to show under the horse's correct name shall result in disqualification from the class and any point standing from the class.

X. Contestants may show in any class not to be judged, provided they are eligible and properly entered in that class. Please see the Show Management Policies for details.

XI. Trainers are considered professionals and may not ride in any Non-Pro or Amateur class.

XII. Any person in the arena after the start of the competition must wear western attire; a long sleeve shirt with collar and buttons and a cowboy hat. The hat requirements may be waived, both in and outside the working area of the arena, at outdoor shows in extreme weather conditions with the consent of both the Show Director and the judge.

XIII. Horses must be ridden in a bridle with a bit or with a hackamore. The hackamore shall have no metal parts. Humane training devices such as martingales or tie downs may be used on helping horses. Wire of any kind may not be in contact with the horse's body or face. Spurs and chaps are optional. A judge has the right to have a contestant report to him if he is suspicious of any equipment. Humane training devices may be used on a cutting horse if said horse is in a class not to be judged.

XIV. A class with less than three entries does not constitute a class and shall be canceled. (except the Youth class).

XV. Rules infractions will be addressed by the Show Director and the Board on an individual basis.

XVI. NCHA approved shows sponsored by CCCHA will operate in accordance with NCHA rules. In these shows, NCHA rules will override CCCHA rules when in conflict. These shows will not count toward year end points for CCCHA.

XVII. Some shows may also have AQHA classes. The AQHA classes will be held within a regular CCCHA class (i.e. a class within a class). Contestants showing in the AQHA classes must be CCCHA members. The entry fee for the AQHA classes will be the normal entry fee for the CCCHA class (which has an AQHA class within a class) plus an additional entry fee for the AQHA class. Contestants entered in AQHA classes will be eligible for prize money/awards in the CCCHA class(es) as well as points in the AQHA class(es). An AQHA approved judge and an AQHA approved secretary will be provided for all AQHA approved shows. If there is a conflict between AQHA, NCHA or CCCHA rules then AQHA rules will prevail for all classes within a show having an AQHA approval. A fact sheet with additional details such as which AQHA classes will be represented, which CCCHA class(es) will have an AQHA class(es) within a class, entry deadline and the additional entry fee for the AQHA class(es) and other pertinent information will be posted on the CCCHA web site at least thirty days prior to a CCCHA show with approved AQHA classes.

CLASSES

For eligibility for the point year: CCCHA will count all NCHA current year eligibility earnings and all CCCHA earnings of the horse and both NCHA and CCCHA lifetime earnings of the rider, prior to the beginning of the current show/point year. Lifetime CCCHA points will be counted where applicable for eligibility. The CCCHA point year will be the same as the NCHA point year. The Board reserves the right to move cutters out of a class if it determines the cutter is inappropriately entered in a class. CCCHA reserves the right to combine classes to make changing herds more efficient.

ORDER OF GO

OPEN - Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, or previous performance. Open to any rider, whether professional or Non-Pro. Riders may show four (4) horses per show. Year-end points go to the horse.

NON-PRO - Open to all CCCHA Nonprofessionals (as defined by NCHA rules) and any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, or previous performance. Horse must be owned by rider showing the horse or by the rider's spouse, parent or child under the age of 29. Rider may show one (1) horse per show. Year-end points go to the rider.

\$2,000 LIMIT RIDER/ANY HORSE - Open to all riders having lifetime earnings of \$2,000 or less at the beginning of the point year. A contestant may ride any horse. No limit on CCCHA points. Rider may show one (1) horse per show. Year-end points go to the rider.

\$10,000 NOVICE HORSE - Open to any horse, regardless of breed, age, sex, having lifetime earnings of \$10,000 or less at the beginning of the point year. Open to any rider, whether professional or Non-Pro. Riders may show four (4) horses per show. Year-end points go to the horse.

\$500 LIMIT RIDER - Open to Amateur and Non-Pro riders having lifetime earnings of \$500 or less, or less than 300 lifetime CCCHA points. Contestant may ride any horse. Once a rider has won the \$500 Limit Rider year-end award, he is ineligible to compete in this class again regardless of money earned. Rider may show one (1) horse per show. Year-end points go to the rider.

YOUTH - Open to all youth members of CCCHA who are eighteen (18) years of age or younger on the first day of the current CCCHA point year. Youth may ride any horse and are not required to own the horse. Rider may show one (1) horse per show. Year-end points go to the rider.

\$15,000 AMATEUR – Open to Amateur riders having lifetime earnings of \$15,000 or less and any horse regardless of breed, age, sex, or previous performance. Horse must be owned by the rider. Rider may show only one (1) horse per show. Year end points go to the rider.

\$1,000 LIMIT RIDER - Open to Amateur and Non-Pro riders having lifetime earnings of \$1,000 or less, or less than 600 CCCHA lifetime points. A contestant may ride any horse. Once a rider has won the \$1,000 Limit Rider year-end award, he is ineligible to compete in this class again, regardless of money won. Rider may show one (1) horse per show. Year-end points go to the rider.

\$3,000 NOVICE HORSE - Open to all horses having eligibility earnings of \$3,000 or less. Any rider. Year-end points go to the horse. No limit on horses one can ride per show.

PRACTICE WORK – Time permitting a practice work will be held at the end of each show. The practice work will be done in the main cutting arena with the goal in mind to give members the opportunity to fix those things that didn't quite go right during the show and give new cutters the opportunity to work cattle in a non-competitive environment under simulated show conditions. It is also an opportunity for new cutters to get experience as herd help. The practice work will not be judged and the time limit will be 2 ½ minutes per practice work.

PROCEDURES

CATTLE

- Contestants must reserve cattle by Wednesday night at 9:00pm prior to the show date. Reservations must include name of rider, name of horse owner, name of horse and each class entered.
- Cattle can be reserved by using the club web site at **www.cavecreekcutting.com** or by calling **the phone number listed on the website** and leaving a message.
- Contestants reserving cattle must pay for those cattle whether used or not, unless cattle can be assigned to another cutter at the show. Contestants may cancel cattle up to Wednesday night at 9:00 pm before the show with no penalty. (The club must pay the stock contractor for all cattle reserved even if they are not used Please see the Show Management Policies for specifics.

- The Board will adopt a cattle policy prior to the start of each season. This Policy will be part of the Show Management Policy and may be modified by the Board during the season as needed.
- An “Add” list will be made up of cutters wishing to show but who failed to reserve cattle at least three (3) days prior to the show. These cutters will be allowed to enter and show, depending on the size of the show and availability of cattle as determined by the Show Director. They will be drawn at the end of the regular draw for each class and may or may not have fresh cattle added.
- Each rider will be limited to working no more than four (4) cattle per run.
- **PRACTICE PEN** – Rerun cattle will be used in the practice pen and at the discretion of the Show Director, will be available after the first cattle change in the Open Class. You must be a member of CCCHA to use. You must purchase tickets at the Show Office and deposit in the bucket at the practice pen gate before entering.

YEAR-END AWARDS

- **HIGH POINT HORSE** - Awarded to the horse that accumulates the most points in all combined classes during the year, including both horse and rider classes. The Youth class shall not be counted. More than one person may not show the same horse in a class at the same show. A rider may not ride more than one horse in a rider class unless one is designated “practice only” prior to the start of the class. More than one person may ride the horse in different classes and those points will count towards the high point horse award.
- **HIGH POINT RIDER** - Awarded to the rider that accumulates the most points in all combined classes during the year, including both horse and rider classes. Trainers are not eligible. The rider may show only one horse in each rider class per show for which he is eligible.
- **HIGH POINT TRAINER** - Awarded to the trainer who accumulates the most points in all combined classes during the year, including both horse and rider classes.
- **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** – The “Floyd Brooks Rookie of the Year Award” will be awarded to the rider in their first or second year of showing and who has no more than \$100 total earnings at the beginning of the point year, who accumulates the most points in all combined classes during the year, including both horse and rider classes.
- **MOST IMPROVED RIDER** – Awarded to the rider judged by the Board to have shown the most improvement over the past year. The Board shall consider points earned as well as the overall performance of the riders.
- The Board will consider some more novel awards like “high score of the day”, most improved, high point senior rider, etc.

□ **POINTS** - The computer software will award points with entrants receiving one point for being in the class, and one point for each contestant they beat. Two day cutting events will count as two separate competitions. The Board may designate certain shows as “non point shows” and year end points will not be awarded for such shows. “Non Point Shows” must be so designated in advance of the show. CCCHA sponsored NCHA shows will be “non point shows.”

□ **To qualify for year-end awards:** For horse classes, the same horse must compete in the class in half plus one of the shows. For rider classes, the same rider must compete in the class in half plus one of the shows. For example: if 8 shows are held, the horse or rider must compete in at least 5 of those shows. If 7 shows are held, the horse or rider must compete in at least 4 of those shows. CCCHA sponsored NCHA shows do not count as a “show” for purposes of this section.

□ **In case of a tie for a year-end award:** the parties who tie will each be awarded the prize designated for the place of finish for which the tie occurred. The award for each party below the tie will be the same as if the tie above did not occur. As an example:

Place	Name	Prize Awarded
1 st	Tom	Buckle
1 st	Jane	Buckle
2 nd	Jill	Reserve Buckle
3 rd	Bob	Blanket
3 rd	Mary	Blanket
4 th	John	Sports Boots

Note that awards are for example only and will vary from year to year.

□ **Jackpots** (included in entry fee) will be offered in all classes except the Youth class and Schooling class.

100% of jackpot money will be paid out.

Jackpots will be offered in the Open, Non-Pro, \$2000 Limit Rider, \$10,000 Novice Horse, \$500 Limit Rider, \$15,000 Amateur, \$1000 Limit Rider and \$3,000 Novice Horse. \$20 from each entry will be put into the jackpot. 100% of the total jackpot entries will be paid out.

Distribution of jackpots will be as follows:

No. Of Entries	Number of Places Paid	Percentages of Payouts
1-3	1	100%
4-8	2	60% 40%
9-12	3	50% - 30% - 20%
13-16	4	40% - 30% - 20% - 10%
17-24	5	30%-25%-20%-15%-10%
25-32	6	30%-24%-18%-12%-9%-7%

In the event there are more than 32 entries in a class or in the event the above schedule differs from the NCHA Rule Book, the NCHA Rule Book will prevail.

Rules & Regulations revised effective January 1, 2010

Website www.cavecreekcutting.com