



**OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

**Date: Last adopted February 6, 2024**

### Forward

Cave Creek Cutting Horse Association is an Arizona non-profit organization founded by Arizona cutting horse enthusiasts in 1996. Known as CCCHA, the Association's overall mission and objective is to develop and increase interest in the sport of cutting as well as promote the enjoyment and thrill of riding the cutting horse. CCCHA is a grassroots organization catering to the needs of all those with a passion for cutting and offering a full range of classes from the Open to the Ranch Class. CCCHA cutting shows provide exhibitors, trainers, and breeders the opportunity to compete for awards and provides a venue for the public to learn about the cutting discipline and to witness and enjoy the athletic style of the cutting horse. Our membership is open to all persons who apply and who embrace CCCHA goals and objectives.

The CCCHA is an affiliate of the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), and participates in its Regional Circuit Program for shows with less than \$200 added money. Show results are submitted to the NCHA for inclusion in Regional Circuit standings and awards which are tracked by the NCHA separately from CCCHA points. Earnings obtained in NCHA qualifying classes at this level are tracked and applied to Lifetime Earnings only.

### Mission Statement

Cave Creek Cutting Horse Association's primary mission and purpose is to promote the showing and training of cutting horses in Arizona with emphasis on providing a quality show experience at an affordable cost to all cutters, young or old, experienced or novice, trainers or amateurs. We offer classes at all levels with a supportive environment to help everyone advance to the next level while offering an affordable and welcoming place for the beginner cutter to gain show experience. Our other purpose is to provide the professional trainer and experienced non-pro cutter a venue in which they can season young horses and prepare finished horses for major shows. CCCHA aspires to give its members a quality show experience at an affordable cost with the best cattle and ground available. No substantial part of the activities of this Association shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. This Association shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### Association Information and Other Resources

CCCHA website and Facebook page are the most up to date ways to receive or review club information. Show dates, show results and standings, board of directors, club sponsors and other club details can be found on our website. [www.cavecreekcutting.com](http://www.cavecreekcutting.com).

The Association's Board of Directors is dedicated to the promotion of the cutting horse industry in Arizona. They are available to help you get the most out of your cutting experience with CCCHA and you can find their contact information readily available on our website.

Here are websites to other cutting organizations in Arizona.

[www.azcha.com](http://www.azcha.com)

[www.northernazcutting.com](http://www.northernazcutting.com)

[www.sachacutting.com](http://www.sachacutting.com)

### *Membership Dues and Qualification*

The Association shall charge and receive membership dues and such other fees or assessments as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the Association. A list of members who have paid their membership dues and are in good standing is kept on file with the Association's secretary. Membership is not transferrable.

Annual Association dues shall be set by the Board of Directors prior to the start of each show season. Association dues may be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled meeting. Persons shall be considered as elected to active membership in the Association upon payment of Association dues. Members whose Association dues are in arrears shall be declared delinquent and shall be dropped from the Association membership. It is the Rider/Owner's responsibility to make sure they have paid their membership dues and are in good standing. CCCHA points will not be given to persons/horses that do not have a paid membership at the time of showing.

A person shall be eligible for membership that is of good character and reputation and who has an interest in or are engaged in the sport of cutting. Both the owner of a horse and the rider must be members of this Association. The CCCHA Board of Directors has the right to refuse membership to any individual, however, no restriction may be placed on membership because of race, color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation. The Association further requires all turn back/herd holder help to be members of the Association.

Owner and/or rider participation in a CCCHA show shall stand as proof of their intent to abide by the club's Bylaws and Guidelines, including membership requirements, and as implied consent releasing the CCCHA from any and all liability.

Any member who shall become a nuisance by constant complaints, fault-finding, harassment, or by unsportsmanlike conduct may, by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, be dropped from membership. If such action is taken, prorated membership fees shall be returned (subject

to any damages caused to the Association by a member's unreasonable or unlawful behavior), and all privileges of this Association shall be terminated. Any member under suspension or expulsion from the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) may also be suspended or expelled from the CCCHA. The Board of Directors may, upon majority vote, place a CCCHA member on probation to be decided upon by the Board.

Membership year starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership dues are not prorated if application is made later in the year. Application for membership may be made at any time.

### Member Conduct and Demeanor

The following provisions regarding members conduct shall apply at all CCCHA shows. The responsibility for reporting violations of this policy rests with, but is not limited to, show management, CCCHA Directors, officers, officials, and the judges.

**Zero Tolerance Policy Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner is strictly prohibited. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse. Any act of inhumane treatment, abuse, or intent to abuse a horse will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner as provided for in this policy.**

This Zero Tolerance Policy covers 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. The “Zero Tolerance” policy encompasses all of the following acts:

1. Horse Abuse: Horse Abuse includes: excessive jerking; cueing; whipping; use of lip wire or similar device; slapping or hitting a horse on the head, or any other part of the body, 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 to hit a horse; or any other act which may cause trauma or injury to a horse.
2. Inhumane treatment: 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 CCCHA Board or judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If CCCHA or a judge determines, in the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, CCCHA board or a judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance policy.

3. If any CCCHA Board members or a judge at CCCHA show or sponsored event discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, they may immediately bar the responsible party and contestant's horse from further competition in the event and the judge will give a score of zero.

4. CCCHA will follow the hosting site's alcohol and drug policy. However, in any case, excessive drinking in public, in any arenas or cutting pen before, during, or after the competition will not be tolerated. A person believed to be intoxicated at a CCCHA show may be asked to leave. Excessive profanity will not be allowed in or around the cutting pen or warm up arenas. Alcohol or drugs are not permitted in the warm-up area or the arena.

5. Any member or non-member who threatens, or actually inflicts bodily harm or injury to another person based upon that person's actions, conduct or decisions while acting in any official capacity for the CCCHA can be fined up to \$2500.00 and/or suspended from membership in the CCCHA for a period of not less than one year.

6. Any check that is returned for insufficient funds will be subject to a \$50.00 office charge and that member will not be allowed to show until the check and office charge are redeemed.

#### Association Show Rules

1. The CCCHA Board reserves the right to make changes to these Guidelines after the beginning of the show season, if it is deemed in the best interest of this Association.

2. CCCHA shall operate its competitions by the same rules as recorded in the current NCHA official handbook. Any exceptions are noted in this set of rules and will apply to specialty classes.

3. CCCHA shows will be judged by the rules of the National Cutting Horse Association and the rules of the CCCHA.

4. All CCCHA shows will be judged by one judge (if 150 contestants or less). The decision of the judge is final and there will be no appeals.

5. Trainers are considered professionals and may not ride in any non-pro or amateur class. Contestants in the Non-pro or Amateur classes must meet the same eligibility requirements as defined by the NCHA.

6. There are no horse ownership requirements except in the Non-pro and Amateur Classes.
  
7. Registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their breed association. A copy of any horse that has not already been shown at a CCCHA show, will need to have a copy of said horse's papers turned into the show secretary when signing up for a class. All unregistered horses must be shown under one name only and said name may not conflict with a registered horse's name at a CCCHA show. Failure to show under the horse's correct name shall result in disqualification from the class and any point standing from the class.
  
8. Rule infractions will be addressed by the Board of Directors on an individual basis.
  
9. A contestant shall not enter the cutting pen, loping pen, or warm up arena at any time at a CCCHA show with any kind of abusive training device or gimmick of any nature. Any humane equipment will be permitted on turn back and herd holding horses.
  
10. Horses are to be judged on performance only, regardless of conformation, age, sex, color, appearance, previous performance, or breed.
  
11. The Board of Directors, without exception, have the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for any action of misconduct, including harassment of the judge.
  
12. The draw for classes will be made after the close of entries – by the judge or by random computer draw. The working order for all classes will be posted at the show arena as soon as possible after the draw.
  
13. Anyone in the cutting pen, loping pen or warm-up arena on horseback is required to wear appropriate western apparel – i.e., western hat and/or helmets, western boots, long sleeved shirt with buttons or snaps down the front. Pull-over sweaters or jackets, T-shirts, pull-over knits are not permissible, this includes tank tops

and all types of sweatshirts (per NCHA rules). After one (1) verbal warning a \$35.00 fine will be assessed.

14. The CCCHA Board of Directors may assess an office charge and reserves the right to adjust entry fees during the show year.

15. Entries for "Fresh Cattle" classes must be made prior to the close of entries which is 8:00 P.M. on the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled show date. Cancellations may be made until the close of entries. Entries not cancelled in time are still subject to cattle fees. If you are in the draw(s) and do not ride, you will be charged cattle fees unless the reserved cattle can be used by another contestant. Post entry(s) will be accepted until the start of the class preceding the one to be post entered. The post entry(s) will be placed at the end of the draw and no additional cattle will be added.

16. A minimum of three entries are required to hold an NCHA approved class. Non NCHA approved classes may hold classes with less than two entries, at their discretion. Youth classes with less than 3 entries are held as "club specialty classes" and not NCHA classes. Classes with 3 or more classes may be held as NCHA approved classes. A Youth classes with less than three entries will be combined with another class, with points and payouts calculated separately. Classes running in consecutive order may be combined into one herd depending on number of entries and discretion of the Board of Directors. When classes are combined, points are calculated separately for each individual class.

17. A person mounted on a horse at a CCCHA show must sign a waiver of liability which is part of the official membership form. It is the member's responsibility to make sure you have a membership form for the current year on file.

18. Horses must be ridden in a bridle, with a bit, or a hackamore according to NCHA criteria. 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/her if he/she is suspicious of any equipment.

19. Rider eligibility for classes will be based on NCHA Eligibility, with the exception of Youth classes, which are based on age. CCCHA operates on the honor system. Lifetime earnings are effective January 1 of the current show year. Failure to ride in the proper

class will cause forfeiture of points and yearend awards. Horse and/or riders may stay in classes for which they are eligible for the entire year regardless of the money earned during the current show year.

20. At each show a contestant may enter more than one horse in any class except Non-Pro, Amateur, and Rider classes.

#### Classes and Point System

NACHA Standing Rule 18 is in effect for all NCHA approved classes.

#### Open

1. Any rider
2. Any horse.
3. Rider may enter more than one horse.
4. Fresh cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the horse.

#### Non-Pro

1. Any horse.
2. Rider or an immediate family member must own the horse and be a nonprofessional.
3. Fresh cattle.
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

#### \$50,000 Amateur

1. Any rider with amateur status with NCHA Weekend lifetime earnings less than \$15,000.
2. Rider or an immediate family member must own the horse.
3. Fresh cattle
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

#### \$35,000 Non Pro

1. Any horse.

2. Rider or an immediate family member must own the horse and be a nonprofessional.
3. Rerun cattle.
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

**\$25,000 Novice Horse**

1. Any horse having NCHA weekend eligibility earnings of \$25,000 or less.
2. Any rider.
3. Riders may enter more than one horse.
4. Fresh cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the horse.

**\$15,000 Amateur**

1. Any rider with amateur status with NCHA Weekend lifetime earnings less than \$15,000.
2. Rider or an immediate family member must own the horse.
3. Fresh or Rerun at to be determined by Board of Director
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

**\$5,000 Novice Horse**

1. Any horse having NCHA weekend eligibility earnings less than \$5,000.
2. Any rider.
3. Riders may enter more than one horse.
4. Fresh cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the horse.

**\$5,000 Novice Non-Pro**

1. Any horse having NCHA weekend lifetime earnings of \$5,000 or less.
2. Rider or an immediate family member must own the horse and be a nonprofessional.

3. Fresh cattle.
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

### **Youth**

1. Any rider under 18 year of age.
2. May ride any horse.
3. Rerun cattle.
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

### **\$2,000 Limited Rider**

1. Any rider with NCHA Weekend lifetime earnings less than \$2,000.
2. Any horse.
3. Rerun cattle.
4. Year end points are applied to the rider.

### **Ranch Cutting - Open**

1. Any Rider.
2. Any horse.
3. Riders may enter more than one horse.
4. Rerun cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the horse.

(see our website for the rules for this class.)

### **Ranch Cutting – Non-Pro**

1. Any Non Pro or Amateur Rider.
2. Any horse.
3. Riders may enter more than one horse.
4. Rerun cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the rider

(see our website for the rules for this class.)

### **Beginner Cutter**

1. Any rider with lifetime earnings less than \$500.
2. Once a rider wins the year end buckle for this class, they are no longer eligible to compete in this class.
3. Any horse.
4. Rerun cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the rider.

(see our website for complete rules for this class.)

### **Boxing**

1. Any rider.
2. Any horse.
3. Riders may enter more than one horse.
4. 1 cow, 50 seconds. Rerun cattle.
5. Year end points are applied to the horse.

(see our website for complete rules for this class.)

Jackpot payouts are calculated in accordance with NCHA rules. In the event of a tie, the payout for the tied places will be combined and then divided evenly.

### **Points and Year-End Awards**

The following awards will be given out each year by CCCHA. The number of places that will receive year end awards will be determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season. Year End Awards shall be given in each class based on the number of qualifying horse and/or riders in each class. To qualify for any year end award, you must show in the class or attend 50% of our completed shows (i.e. if we have 7 completed shows, you must show at 4 of them. If we have 6 completed shows, you must show at 3 of them ).

CCCHA Year End awards consist of awards for all of our classes as well as Rookie of the Year, High Point Rider and High Point Horse. The Board of Directors reserves the right to add other year end awards as deemed beneficial to CCCHA and its members.

CCCHA uses the following point system for all year-end awards: Points will be awarded equal to the number of entries in a class, with the first place entry receiving that number of points, the second place entry receiving one less, etc. (i.e. in a class with 10 entries, the first place entry

receives 10 points, second place entry receives 9 points, 3rd place 8 points, etc. and 10th will receive 1 point). Contestants receiving a score of 60 receive only 1 point. If a contestant is disqualified 0 points will be received.

1. In the event of a class tie, points are shared equally between horses involved. For example, in a class of 10 horses with a tie at 3rd place; 1<sup>st</sup> place receives 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place receives 9 points, the two horses in 3<sup>rd</sup> place then shares the 8 points and 7 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> place, resulting in 7.5 points each, then the next horse receives 6 points and so on down.
2. In case of a tie for year-end awards: 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.
3. Points toward year-end awards and high point awards will be assigned and recorded as follows:
  - a. Points to the horse: (rider may be different at each show) Open, \$25,000 Novice Horse, \$5,000 Novice Horse, Open Ranch Cutting, and Boxing.
  - b. Points to the rider: Non-Pro, \$50,000 Amateur, \$15,000 Amateur, \$35,000 Non Pro, \$5,000 Novice Non Pro, \$2000 Limit Rider, Youth, and Beginner Cutter.
  - c. Only active CCCHA members in good standing may compete for year-end awards. Points will not be awarded if membership dues were not paid before showing in a class.
  - d. High Point Awards: High Point Awards will be given in two categories: High Point Horse and High Point Non Pro/Amateur Rider. Cumulative points to be used in each category to determine award winners and shall include all classes shown in except for Boxing.
  - e. Rookie of the Year Award: This award is for a Youth, Non-Pro, or Amateur rider in their first or second year of showing a horse in a judged cutting competition. A rider, who meets the above criteria and has \$500.00 or less in lifetime earnings as of January 1 of the current show year, is eligible for this award. Rookie of the Year riders will be nominated and then voted upon by the Board of Directors. The winner of this award is no longer eligible for this award.
4. Graduation from classes:
  - a. No graduation required from the Open or Non-Pro classes.
  - b. Graduation of horse and/or rider required from all other classes if horse and/or rider exceed the class money limits in NCHA Eligibility.

- c. Youth shall graduate from the Youth class based on their age on January 1 of the point year.
- d. Beginner Cutter graduates when a year end buckle has been awarded.