

## Overview of Rule Book Changes from 2026 AGM

- a. Membership Fee:
  - First Year is Free for Riders participating in NERCHA or NRCHA Classes
  - All owners of any horses entering into NRCHA sanctioned classes must have a valid NRCHA & NERCHA membership
  - All owners of any horses entering into NERCHA classes are not required to have NRCHA & NERCHA membership
- b. Substitution Policy:
  - is only applicable for NERCHA Club classes. if horse/rider have entered the show and can not compete a different horse/rider combination can be substituted into the same class.
- c. Veterinary Scratch Policy
  - If a valid Veterinary note is provided, that horse is unfit to compete or has passed away NERCHA will scratch all fees regardless of the timeline
- d. Beginner Classes LTE Policy :
  - Earning will be tabulated as of the 2026 show season by NERCHA
  - Riders can continue to **compete** in the **Beginner 1 boxing** until they have won **\$250 of cumulative lifetime boxing earnings** as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.
  - Riders can continue to **compete** in the **Beginner 2 boxing** until they have won **\$500 of cumulative boxing lifetime earnings** as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.
  - Riders can continue to compete in the **Beginner Ranch Riding + Boxing** until they have **won \$500 of cumulative RR+BOX lifetime earnings** as of Nov 15 of the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.
  - Riders can continue to compete in the **Beginner Ranch Cutting** until they have won **\$500 of cumulative lifetime cutting earnings** as of Nov 15 of

the current year. If a rider surpasses this amount throughout the show year, they will be eligible to continue to compete. Earnings will be recorded and a “PER RIDER” basis not horse/rider combo.

- e. Amending Beginner Ranch Riding + Boxing Class Description
  - Rider will complete full ranch riding pattern, with the modification they can perform a simple lead change instead of flying lead change if pattern requests. Once Ranch riding pattern is completed, entrant will box the cow for 50 seconds (following NRCHA Rules)
  - Poles/Obstacles which may injury cattle will be omitted from patterns
  
- f. Merge the beginner 1 & 2 Cutting class, making a “Beginner Cutting” Class:
  - riders must be Non-Pro riders as per the NERCHA rule book and cannot have earned more than \$100 or 2.0 points in any sanctioned organization’s class (i.e., NRCHA, NCHA) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - Riders can ride 1 handed or 2 Handed, Time is 2 minutes and 30 seconds, Riders can score below 60
  - see 2.2.1.4 for full rules
  
- g. Trial a “Making the Cut Class” for 2026
  - riders must be Non-Pro riders as per the NERCHA rule book and cannot have earned more than \$100 or 2.0 points in any sanctioned organization’s class (i.e., NRCHA, NCHA) prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - Riders will compete under AQHA bit rules, with the modification that riders can ride one handed or two handed, regardless of the bit.
  - The class will consist of the rider demonstrating the ability of to correctly cut 3 cows from the herd, during the 2 minutes and 30 seconds.
  - Riders will be judged on entry into the herd, making the cut, eye appeal, time management and ability to make a deep cut on the standard NERCHA Herd work score card & is not expected to “hold” a cow after the initial cut.
  
- h. Novice Horse Class:
  - Now a fresh cattle class.

- i. Eliminating the Open Cowhorse & Open Ranch Hand Boxing:
  
- j. Year End Award Qualification:
  - o Non Pro & Youth classes: must have the same Rider/horse combination must attend sixty percent (60%) the total number of NERCHA shows in a calendar year. **A show counts as individual days.**
    - **ie. Cutting class offered 4 times, need to attend 3 classes to qualify**
    - **ie. Horse Show classes offered 8 times, need to attend 5 classes to qualify**
  - o Open classes: will be based on the horse, however the rider must be eligible for the appropriate level of class entered (ie. Level 1 or Ltd) and must attend **sixty percent (60%)** of the total number of NERCHA shows in a calendar year. **A show counts as individual days.**