



Hawai'i Island Cutting Horse Association

Competition Rules of Show Season 2023

I. General Rules

1. **PARTICIPANTS:** All participants in HICHA sponsored events are required to be current members of the HICHA, and not have any outstanding financial obligations to the club. Any horse and rider combination that is not in good standing will not be eligible to show. Participants must submit payments prior to entering the arena on the show day (with exception to the last show – where payment is due ahead of the show date).
2. **JUDGING HORSES:** Horses are to be judged on Performance only – regardless of conformation, sex, age, color, appearance, previous performance or breed.
3. **HICHA RULES:** A show approved by Hawai'i Island Cutting Horse Association (HICHA) will be judged utilizing the “basic” NCHA Cutting rules, the NRHA Reining rules, the NRCHA Cow Horse rules, and the NBRA Barrel rules. A link to each respective rule book can be found on page four of this document.
4. **RULE EXCEPTIONS:** The board retains the right to make exceptions to any rule insofar as that rule or exceptions to rules is adequately communicated to participants prior to the scheduled show in which the rule or rules will be in effect. The Board of Directors who are serving an active term on the board will retain the decision-making power in regards to show rules that are considered to be “in effect”.
5. **HORSE HANDLING -CARE:** Excessive physical abuse of horses is prohibited. The President of HICHA, or any person he deems responsible in his absence, will retain the right to disqualify any violator(s) and have the violator(s) leave the arena grounds. The horse owner will be considered the responsible party for any actions considered to be “excessive abuse” toward their horse regardless of whether or not they are the person inflicting the abuse.
6. **APPROPRIATE RIDING/ ARENA ATTIRE:** Any persons entering the arena on horseback will be required to wear appropriate riding attire: Long pants, cowboy hat, western boots, long sleeve button down shirts or the HICHA club collared shirt (not the HICHA T-shirt). The HICHA year-end show will require traditional cow horse attire to include, cowboy hats and long sleeve button down shirts. Horses must be ridden with a bit in their mouth or with a hackamore. All bridles on Cutting Class horses must have split reins, except for the Ranch Horse Cutting and Ranch Challenge Cutting Classes, where romal reins shall be acceptable. Refer to the NCHA Rule Book, rule 16, page 132. Any competitor who is not properly attired or whose horse does not have the proper equipment, will not be allowed to compete.
7. **DISPUTES:** A representative of the Board of Directors will be assigned to each show to serve as liaison for disputes between contestants, judges and the show management. Any such disputes will be discussed by the judge and the board liaison and settled to the best of their ability. If the dispute is unable to be resolved in that manner, then the Board of Directors will address the dispute at their earliest convenience. A written explanation regarding the final decision made by the board will be provided to the person who initiated the dispute within fifteen (15) days.
8. **JUDGES:** The Board of Directors will be responsible for the selection of a judge/judges for all shows. HICHA will provide the judge/judges with this copy of the HICHA rules for their review prior to the show. To every extent possible, a NCHA or NRCHA judge shall be secured for each show.

9. JUDGE GRIEVANCES: Judge /judges shall present in writing any grievance concerning a contestant or show management to any Board Member at the time of the grievance. The Board of Directors, at their earliest convenience, will review the complaint. The Board may enforce a penalty as they see fit for the infraction.

10. SPORTSMANSHIP BEHAVIOR: The show manager/management and current acting HICHA president will retain the right to disqualify, refuse entry, or eject from the show premises any contestant who is exhibiting the following behaviors: verbal or physical misconduct, threats or harassment of the judge, show management, employees, contestants, or spectators. Should the person, in violation of this rule not comply with the show manager's request to exit show grounds, proper authorities, to include the police department, will be called upon to assist with the enforcement of this rule.

11. CLASS ENTRANTS: A contestant that has been called three (3) times to the gate, for his/her turn to perform, without acknowledgment shall lose his/her ride.

12. SHOW MANAGEMENT COMPLAINTS: Any formal complaint regarding show management must be in writing and addressed to the HICHA President within seven (7) days of the show in question. All concerns will be shared with the Board of Directors. After receiving the written complaint, the President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors within fifteen (15) days, or at their earliest convenience, to review the complaint. The President shall also inform the party or parties involved of the Board meeting at least seven (7) days prior to such a meeting. At the meeting of the Board, both sides shall be able to present their position. After hearing both sides, the Board will then make a decision on what action, if any, should be taken. The decision reached by the Board of Directors shall be final. All complaints may be shared with the general membership.

13. HORSE OWNERSHIP: Horse ownership will be required for entry into the Non-Pro classes. This shall be documented by the AQHA Registration Certificate or bill of sale.

14. ENTRY FEES: Once a horse is entered into a class the entry fee will be charged in full. Fees are due in full before the start of the class or the contestants will be unable to participate. There are no refunds unless the HICHA class is canceled.

15. SCORING DISPUTES: Contestants may not question the Judges' scoring. Run content may be discussed with the judge at the end of the day. The Judge should not be approached during the course of the show. Any discussions should be held until the end of the show.

16. CLASS ELIGIBILITY: No horse or rider shall be permitted to compete in a class for which they are not eligible.

17. DOGS / PETS: No dogs are allowed in the working arena and all dogs must be on a leash.

18. MINORS: Parents and/or guardians are responsible for the supervision of all children during an event.

19. ALCOHOL: No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Show arena.

20. **BAD CHECKS:** A \$25 fee will be charged on return checks. The member is not considered to be in good standing until this charge is paid. Upon second returned check, the member is put on a cash basis for the remainder of the year.

21. **LIABILITY WAIVER:** Each member is required to have a signed and Dated Release of Waiver form on file with the office before their membership is current. All persons entering into the show arena shall complete the current show waiver and any additional requested venue waiver requirements.

22. **ARENA OCCUPANTS:** It is a requirement that anyone in the show arena must be a member of HICHA, appropriately dressed.

23. **LIFE TIME EARNINGS (LTE):** Riders will be ranked based on LTE. A rider may ride up into any class they choose, but not below their earning rank. If a rider exceeds the earning rank during the course of the year, they may finish out that year in the class they began in. If a rider has earned a buckle or saddle in a higher class in years previous to our monetary records, that rider is encouraged to enter a higher class. Life time earnings shall be reported on a yearly basis and will be reported on the application for membership form.

24. **AQHA REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE:** A copy of each horses AQHA Registration Certificate shall be submitted with their first entry of the year to document the horse's ownership and the horses age. Payouts shall be made payable to the horses' owner.

25. **FORM W-9—REQUEST FOR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND CERTIFICATION—**Prior to the first show, each member shall complete a Form W-9. HICHA shall only use the information to prepare 1099-MISC forms at the end of the year - accurately reporting the payments made to each horse owner. If the rider is designated to receive the payouts, and he/she is not the horses' owner, the rider will be required to complete Form W-9.

26. **MINIMUM ENTRIES:** A minimum of three (3) entries shall be required to hold a class. Additionally, the minimum entries listed on the entry form, shall determine whether added money is added to the pot.

27. **CATTLE:** To every extent possible, fresh cattle will be secured for the Open, Non-Pro, and Amateur Cutting classes. The number of fresh cattle will be determined by the number of entries received by the entry deadline (3 cows per entrant).

28. **PANIOLO CHALLENGE:** To qualify for the Challenge, the rider shall; 1) Pay their HICHA membership dues for the current year; and 2) be in good standing with HICHA. The Horse / rider combination must enter all four classes in their division HERD WORK/ BOXING/ BARRELS/ BREAKAWAY. The horse/rider team with the highest scored points from all four classes is the winner in that division.

29. **HICHA HAWAI'I HOLD EM:** Teams of 3 have 90 seconds to get the cow in a designated box and "hold 'em" in the box for 10 seconds. Timer starts when the cow enters the arena. The "Hold 'Em" timer starts when all four hooves are in the box. Team that holds 'em for 10 seconds the fastest wins the jackpot.

30. BREAKAWAY ROPING: A contestant is allowed one (1) loop in the round. Time limit set in breakaway roping of twenty-five (25) seconds with catch pen gate closed. Ropes are to be tied to saddle horn with nylon string. A knot must be at the end of the rope with the string tied at the knot. A flag that is visible to the flagman or judge must be attached at the knot at end of the rope. The animal must break the rope away from the horn. The contestant will receive a no time should they break the rope from the saddle horn themselves. NO horned animals will be used in breakaway roping. Animals must be run and/or followed on horseback. Catch as catch can. The loop must first pass over the animal's head. Riders wait for their turn outside of the arena entry gate. Three (3) volunteer hazers must stand in the same spot for all breakaway runs.

Additional notes:

*Animals are number drawn. Rider ropes the number they draw.

*NO option for a pusher in the chute.

31. BARREL RACING: Barrel Racing is a Timed Event. The start and finish line and the position for the barrels must be marked permanently for the entire event. The contestant is allowed a running start. Time shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line. Contestants will be assessed a five (5) second penalty for knocking over a barrel. Contestants will be disqualified for not following the pattern, or not being ready to contest when name is called. Touching the barrel is permitted. Should barrel be knocked over and it sets up on the opposite end, a five (5) second penalty will be assessed. Barrel must be set back on mark. There is to be only one (1) contestant horse in the arena at a time during the barrel race, without exception. The starting gate or gates will remain the same throughout the event. No circling horse in arena. One spin or pivot in either direction is acceptable if centrally located gate is not used. When contestants are not required to run in and out, they must keep forward motion toward first barrel, prior to crossing scoreline.

32. OFFICIAL RULES. Unless otherwise stated, the following rules shall be followed for corresponding classes.

a. National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA)

2020 NHCA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations

https://nchacutting.com/docs/default-source/miscellaneous-forms/rule_book.pdf?sfvrsn=9c21660b_40

b. National Reining Horse Association (NRHA)

NRHA 2020 Handbook

<https://nrha.com/media/pdf/handbook/2020/handbook.pdf>

c. National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA)

2020 Rule Book: Official Handbook of the NRCHA

<http://nrchadata.com/pdf/news/2020/2020RuleBookWebFile.pdf>

d. National High School Rodeo Association Reined Cow Horse Rules 2019-2020

http://nrchadata.com/pdf/news/2019/2019_NHSRA_Reined_Cow_Horse_Rules.pdf

II. Rider Rankings by Earnings:

Effective February 24, 2018, HICHA will keep records from data beginning in 2011 forward on earnings for all members to identify and track class eligibility as follows:

1. Cutting Classes:

- a. Novice Rider: This class is available to all riders with cutting earnings of \$500 or less.
 - b. \$3,500 Amateur: This class is available to all riders with cutting earnings between \$501 and \$3,500.
 - c. \$500 Amateur: This class is available to all riders with cutting earnings of \$500 or less.
2. Reining /Boxing Classes:
- a. Novice Rider: This class is available to all riders with reining/boxing earnings of \$150 or less.
 - b. Amateur: This class is available to all riders with reining/boxing earnings of \$1000 or less.

III. Class Descriptions:

- OPEN:** Open to any rider and any horse combination.
- NON-PRO:** Cannot be a paid professional of any equestrian activities.
- Any person who has not in the last 5 years received any remuneration directly or indirectly, for the training of horses or horse riders in any discipline.
 - This includes assisting and training horses, giving lessons, judging, and giving clinics.
 - Spouses and immediate family members of trainers who do not train, give lessons or show non-family member horses are eligible for Non-Pro status.
 - The rider must own the horse.
- AMATEUR:** Riders that have cutting, reining or reined cow horse earnings less than the amounts listed below.
- The rider does not have to own their own horse.
 - In the \$3,500 Amateur class, the rider shall have cutting earnings between \$501 and \$3,500.
 - In the \$500 Amateur class, the rider shall have cutting earnings of \$500 or less.
 - In the Reining and Boxing classes, the rider shall have HICHA earnings of \$1,000 or less.
- NOVICE RIDER:** Open to any rider who does not receive any remuneration for training horses and/or riders in Cutting, Reining or Working Cow Horse (Boxing). Also, to qualify for this Novice Rider Division, the rider may not have won more than \$500 in Cutting classes or more than \$150 in Reining or Working Cow Horse (Boxing) classes.
- GREEN AS GRASS RIDER (GAG):** Open to any Novice rider who does not receive any remuneration for training horses and/or riders in Cutting, Reining or Working Cow Horse (Boxing). Riders can only compete in the Green As Grass classes for a maximum of two years.

IV. Class Clarifications:

1. RANCH HORSE CUTTING – Open to all horse / rider combinations where the horse has not competed in any dropped Cutting class. The horse / rider combination may remain in Ranch Horse Cutting for as long as they like or until the horse is entered in a dropped cutting class. DURING YOUR RUN: Visible cues will not be penalized, no penalties for reining and no restrictions on bits as long as they are NCHA and /or NRCHA approved. Riders may use one or two hands but will be penalized for switching between the two. Split reins or romal reins are acceptable.

2. **YOUTH CLASSES** – Open to any horse/ rider combination. The rider must be 18 years old or younger. Age is calculated as actual age on January 1st of the current year, and honored the entire show year (January – December).
3. **KEIKI CLASSES** – Open to any horse/ rider combination. The rider must be 12 years old or younger. Age is calculated as actual age on January 1st of the current year, and honored the entire show year (January – December). Riders may use one or two hands. A variety of legal NCHA or NRCHA bits may be used. If the pattern calls for a flying lead change, a simple lead change may be substituted with no penalty.
4. **NOVICE RIDER-** – Open to any Novice rider, who does not receive any remuneration for training horses and/or riders in Cutting, Reining or Reined Cow Horse (boxing or fence work) events. Also, to qualify for this class, the rider may not have won more than \$500 in any cutting class or more than \$150 in any reining or cow horse (i.e. boxing, working cow horse, etc.) class. Riders may use one or two hands. A variety of legal NCHA or NRCHA bits may be used. If the pattern calls for a flying lead change, a simple lead change may be substituted with no penalty.
5. **GREEN AS GRASS CLASSES** - Open to any Novice rider, who does not receive any remuneration for training horses and/or riders in Cutting, Reining or Reined Cow Horse (boxing or fence work) events. Rider may compete in the Green A Grass classes for a maximum of two years. Riders may use one or two hands. A variety of legal NCHA or NRCHA bits may be used. If the pattern calls for a flying lead change, a simple lead change may be substituted with no penalty.

Class / Status Definition Chart				
Status	Cutting	Reining/Boxing	Age	Training Limitation
Novice	Up to \$500	Up to \$150	None	Yes
\$3,500 Amateur	\$501 to \$3,500	Up to \$1,000	None	Yes
\$500 Amateur	Up to \$500	Up to \$1,000	None	Yes
Non-Pro	None	None	None	Yes
Green As Grass	2 yr limit	2 yr limit	None	Yes
Open	None	None	None	No
Youth	None	None	18 & Younger	No
Keiki	None	None	12 & Younger	No

UPDATED: 10.21.23 - HICHA BOARD reserves the right to update the rules as needed.