

2025 Rule Proposals to be moved forward to membership and voted on by NBOD in July 2024.

2025 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES – November 18, 2023 – *Changes are in RED*

#1a: COMBINE DIVISION WEIGHT CLASSES INTO ADULT CLASS (A TEMPORARY ONE-YEAR ACTION)

4.B.1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a temporary basis for the 2025 ride year and will revert to 2022 rules unless extended by the National Board of Directors.

Rationale: Continue current year-to-year approval process. In the 2023 ride season, merging the Heavyweight and Lightweight classes into a single ADULT class yielded the desired results. There were many fewer tiny classes (<3 competitors) and while there were some large classes (>10 competitors), the number wasn't large and was still much less than experienced with NATRC historically. Heavyweights may be at a disadvantage competing with lightweights, but without the merge many classes essentially would have no real competition. By making the change temporary, it is slightly easier to reverse this change if ridership improves.

#1b: COMBINE DIVISION WEIGHT CLASSES INTO ADULT CLASS (MAKE PERMANENT)

4.B.1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class.

Rationale: Continue current year-to-year approval process. In the 2023 ride season, merging the Heavyweight and Lightweight classes into a single ADULT class yielded the desired results. There were many fewer tiny classes (<3 competitors) and while there were some large classes (>10 competitors), the number wasn't large and was still much less than experienced when NATRC historically. Heavyweights may be at a disadvantage competing with lightweights, but without the merger many classes essentially would have no real competition. By making the change permanent, competitors know this is what to expect going forward for some time.

#2: VETERINARY JUDGING

SECTION 6 - JUDGING

- A. Procedures: The judges may act together and discuss individual entrants throughout the course of the ride.
 - 2. Start of Competition
 - a. For the purposes of scoring **maneuvering trail/behavior**, soundness and horsemanship, the horse and rider shall be considered in competition from the moment that the horse is presented to the judges for preliminary examination.
 - 5. Final Examination: There must be a final examination (including condition, soundness, and **maneuvering trail/behavior**) of all horses by the veterinary and horsemanship judges after the completion of the final day's ride.
- B. Veterinary Judging: Judges shall not discriminate against any animal due to conformation or type as long as the animal performs satisfactorily. Horses are to be evaluated on the following three criteria: condition, soundness and **maneuvering trail/behavior**. Leisure Division does not have to adhere to these scoring categories.
- 3. **Maneuvering Trail/Behavior** 15%: The evaluation of **maneuvering trail/behavior** shall include, but not be limited to, the following: disposition, response to rider, kicking, head tossing, prancing, standing for examination and mounting, buddying up, trail wise, etc.
- D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on **maneuvering trail/behavior**. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.

Rationale: Riders have expressed concerns for many years about the heavy scoring in the trail ability/manners section of the horse scorecard. Our veterinarians should focus on what they are expertly and professionally trained to do and that is to judge metabolic conditioning, soundness and behavior. A task force made recommendations for a pilot program which was accepted by the National Board in 2022 to change the name to "Maneuvering Trail / Behavior" and to revise the scoring criteria. The pilot project has been successful. The name of the bottom section of the horse scorecard now needs to be changed in the Rule Book. The scorecard itself will be consistent with the Rule Book.

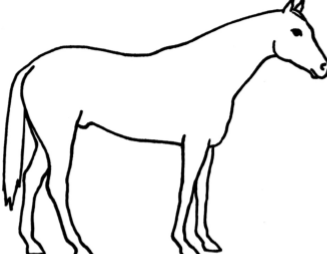
APPENDIX B (Included here for reference only)

Horse Scorecard – Front

HORSE SCORECARD										NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE										2016 Revision		10/15/20	
Condition 40 Points		Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	Out	Score	CRI	CRI	Condition 40 Points			
Check In P & R	P																	1)	1)				
	R																	2)	2)				
Mucous Membranes MM		Check In		MM				MM				MM				MM		Final Check					
Capillary Refill Time CRT		CRT		CRT				CRT				CRT				CRT							
Jugular Refill JR		JR		JR				JR				JR				JR							
Skin Tenting ST		ST		ST				ST				ST				ST							
Gut Sounds GS		GS		GS				GS				GS				GS							
Muscle Tone MT		MT		MT				MT				MT				MT							
Movement, Attitude, Willingness MAW		MAW		MAW				MAW				MAW				MAW							
Soundness 45 Points		Check In																Final Check		Soundness 45 Points			
Lameness L		L		L				L				L				L							
Way of Going WoG		WoG		WoG				WoG				WoG				WoG							
Withers Back Loins Girth WBLG		WBLG		WBLG				WBLG				WBLG				WBLG							
Sores Plaques Rubs SPR		SPR		SPR				SPR				SPR				SPR							
Legs Left Front LF		LF		LF				LF				LF				LF							
Interference Right Front RF		RF		RF				RF				RF				RF							
Wounds Left Hind LH		LH		LH				LH				LH				LH							
Scoring Right Hind RH		RH		RH				RH				RH				RH							
Tendon Ligaments																							
Maneuvering Trail / Behavior 15 Points		Check In																Final Check					
Includes, but not limited to: disposition, response to rider, kicking, head tossing, prancing, standing for examination and mount, bucking, trail wise, etc.																							
Rider #	Horse Name	Breed		Age		Ride Name		Date		Region		Penalty Point Explanation		SCORE									
	Rider Name					Vet Judge(s)								PLACE									
DO-1 DO-2	TYPE: AA A B1 B2 DIV: Open CP Nov CLASS: Hwt Lwt Jr					Hap Judge(s)																	

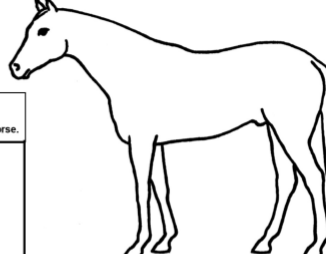
Judges: VERIFY the accuracy of DO-1, DO-2, and appropriate TYPE, DIV and CLASS | Competitors: REVIEW ADDITION AND REPORT ERRORS TO MANAGEMENT SWEEPSTAKES

Horse Scorecard – Back



Scoring Guidelines

2023 MANEUVERING TRAIL/BEHAVIOR PILOT PROGRAM to 2016 Revision



CONDITION 40 Points

GS (Gut Sounds) Normal 0
Prolonged -1 to -2
Silence -4 or Pull
(Pull horse only if other criteria corroborate)

MT (Muscle Tone) Normal 0
Cool / Clammy -2
Cold / Trembling -4
Rigid / Spastic -4
During Ride: Pull
End of Ride: -5

CRT (Cap. Refill) (Seconds)
0 to 1 Normal
2 Mild
3 Severe
4 & up Pull

JR (Jug. Refill) (Seconds)
0 to 1 Normal
2 to 3 Mild
4 to 6 Severe
7 & up Pull

ST (Skin Tenting) (Seconds)
0 to 1 Normal
2 to 3 Mild
4 to 6 Severe
7 & up Pull

Scoring CRT, JR, & ST
Slight Change (1 degree) 0 to -1
Moderate Change (2 degrees) -1 to -2
Severe Change (3 degrees) -2 to -3

MM (Oral Mucous Membranes) Normal / Moist 0
Injected / Tacky -1
Pale / Dry -2
Dark / Toxic Pull

MAW (Movement, Attitude, Willingness) 5 Bold, animated, attentive
4 Attentive, good mover, no animation
3 Slow mover, but willing & attentive
2 Showing a great deal of fatigue, not very willing to trot out on own
1 Refuses to trot out on own
MAW: -1 per degree the horse deteriorates

Pulse: Base = 12 (48 bpm)
Point deduction: -1 per each beat over base
14 -2 Holds: Score the first recovery P&R
15 -3 For each 10-minute hold, score a -5 in addition to the first recovery P&R score. Pull if not recovered in 2 holds.
16 -4
17 -5

Respiration: Base = 9 (36 bpm)
Point deduction: 1 to 9 0
10, 11, 12, 13 -1
14, 15, 16, 17 -2
18, 19, 20, 21 -3
22, 23, 24, 25 -4
25+ -5

Hold criteria is at the discretion of the veterinary judge.

CRI: Refer to current protocol and scoring
Colic, Tie-Up, Thumps: Pull - Recommend Immediate Medical Attention

SOUNDNESS 45 Points

Lameness Grades
Questionable Soundness: (Not recommended) -1 to -2
Grade 1: Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent regardless of circumstance (e.g. under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surfaces, etc.) -3 to -5
Grade 2: Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line, but consistently apparent under certain circumstances (e.g. weight carrying, circling, inclines, hard surfaces, etc.) -6 to -10
Grade 3: Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances. Do not allow to start the day! A horse observed during ride should be pulled. If observed at final check, Completion Only may be granted at the discretion of the judge with card scored. PULL or COMPLETION ONLY & -11 to -15
Grade 4: Lameness is obvious at a walk. PULL
Grade 5: Lameness produces minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest, or a complete inability to move. PULL

Legs Heat - each leg Slight -1 Moderate -2 Severe -4 or pull
Pain - each leg Slight -1 Moderate -2 Severe -4 or pull

Fill Slight 0 to -1 "Fill" refers to edema of the distal limb that may occur post-exercise.
Moderate -1 to -2
Severe -2 to -3

WBLG Withers, Back, Loins, Girth Discomfort or pain to palpation. Score each side of horse separately; i.e., R loin, L loin, R back, L back etc.
Slight -1
Moderate -2
Severe -3 or pull

SPR Sores, Plaques, Rubs at girth, cinch, mouth, etc. Interference marks are also scored using this scale.
Slight -1
Moderate -2
Severe -4 or more

WoG Way of Going - Gait, length of stride, choppy, stumbling, forging, interfering, coordination, winging, etc.

Windpuffs (synovial swelling of joints or tendon sheaths that do not cause heat, pain, or lameness) are not penalized.

MANEUVERING TRAIL/BEHAVIOR 15 Points

Exams, Mounts: (Max. 3 pts / observation)
Excellent (perfect standing) + Good
Good standing -
Balancing step / slight shift or movement -
Mild Movement (1-2 intentional steps) -1/2
Moderate Movement (3-4 steps away, turns) -1
Profound Movement (multiple steps / walks off) -2

Maneuvering Trail/Behavior: (Max. 3 pts / observation). Additional points may be taken for safety concerns.
Excellent behavior + Good
Good behavior -
Misbehavior: Slight -1/2 Mild -1 Moderate -2 Profound -3
Anxious, rushing, bucking, head tossing, shying, crow hopping, reluctant, resistant, joggling, inattentive, distracted
Bucking, rearing, kicking, biting, charging, bolting
DNC / Pass: -3 or less Did not complete or pass

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR VET JUDGING

- Two on-trail metabolic evaluations per day
- One on-trail soundness evaluation per day
- One evaluation of surface factors per day
- Second and subsequent day soundness check prior to start
- Obstacles: Safe? Appropriate? Affect flow of ride?

Considerations:
1. Use CRI as defined, scored & administered by CRI guidelines
2. End of day soundness exam at trailer if appropriate

PULL CODES

Strike a diagonal line across the face of the card. Write the words "PULL" and one of the following pull codes:
Lameness: Any degree of lameness.
Metabolic: Non-recovery, colic, thumps, tie-up, etc.
Surface Factors: Wounds, sore backs, rubs, etc.
Rider Option: Rider illness, injury, fatigue; weather, etc.
Disqualification: Rule violations, dangerous horse, etc.

#3: MAKE RIDE SWEEPSTAKES AWARD A COMBINATION AWARD AND AWARD POINTS TO HORSE

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

A. Ride Awards

4. The **horse and rider team** with the highest **combined (horse and horsemanship)** score from the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Divisions shall be the recipients of the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes Awards.

C. Point Distribution

4. The Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes winners will receive the highest points possible **for their horses' placings** based on the number of starters in the largest class of their respective division.
5. The Sweepstakes winner will receive points to the horse, in addition to other points won for horse, as follows: 3 points for a Type AA ride, 2 points for a Type A, 1 point for a Type B.

Rationale: Making Sweepstakes a combination award of both horse and horsemanship allows the best team to take high honors. Allowing all extra points to go to the horse follows NATRC tradition. This also enables more points to go to the horse for a National Championship which is a horse award.

Example: There is a full class (6) of ADULT competitors and three (3) competitors in the JUNIOR class in a Type-A ride. A JUNIOR who took 1st in horse and 3rd in horsemanship has the highest combined score and wins Sweepstakes. Without the Sweepstakes award, the JUNIOR horse would earn 10 points and horsemanship would earn 6 points. Sweepstakes awards the JUNIOR more points in two ways:

1. The ADULT class was larger, and the JUNIOR beat all the ADULT horses. As the top ADULT horse earned 16 points, so did the JUNIOR horse. The JUNIOR horsemanship points are left unchanged at 6.
2. Because this is a Type-A ride, the JUNIOR's horse score is increased by an additional 2 points; that is, the final JUNIOR points are 18 (16+2) for horse (1st place) and 6 for horsemanship.

#4: NATRC'S HIGHEST AWARD

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

1. National Awards

- a. **NATIONAL "JIM MENEFFEE" AWARD (Combined Horse & Horsemanship):** This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse and rider team in the Open Division.
- b. **PRESIDENT'S CUP:** This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse in the Open Division.

Rationale: This changes which award gets top honors and speaks at national convention. This makes the primary focus of the top award to emphasize the partnership achieved by the horse and rider team. Our highest award would reflect the team that has demonstrated a fit, sound, well behaved equine, which with its rider, can successfully perform all the expected trail tasks better than any other team. The top horse would still receive an important award, but our top award will identify our top horse and top rider. Historically the winner of the President's Cup is usually, but not always, the winner of the Jim Menefee Memorial Award high combo). This change has our top honor recognizing the best of everything we do in our sport.

#5: STABLING

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

B. Stabling

4. Stabling option **not allowed** during competition **as primary containment**.
 - a. Hobbling of any kind
 - b. Portable panels that are not securely anchored to a trailer or a tree
 - c. Electric fencing
 - d. Staking out in any manner
 - e. Stallions in portable panels
5. Stallions: Stallions must be double tied...

Rationale: NATRC strives to offer the safest means of care to our horses and this rule requires some clarification.