

## 2023 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES – November 13, 2021 – Changes in Bold

In several proposals having to do with juniors and LeD, changes to the same paragraphs appear in more than one proposal and may be slightly different. What actually changes in the rulebook will depend upon which proposals the board approves. So do not be alarmed to see the same paragraph more than once.

### #1: CHANGE END OF RIDE YEAR TO LAST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER

#### SECTION 2 - SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

##### A. Rides

1. Sanctioning
  - d. Ride year ~~will end the second Sunday in November~~ ends the last Sunday in November.

#### SECTION 9 – AWARDS

##### B. Annual Awards

1. General
  - e. Ride year ~~will end the second Sunday in November~~ ends the last Sunday in November.

**Rationale:** Currently, the ride year ends the second Sunday in November. The NBOD meeting is held the second full weekend in November. Most of the time, the end of the ride year and the NBOD meeting are on the same weekend. But if the month starts on Sunday, the ride year would end November 8, and the NBOD meeting would be November 14 (as happened in 2020). Using the last Sunday in November would avoid that conflict and confusion. Currently, only one ride is being held between mid-November and December 1, so there would minimal impact as far as getting ride results in for year-end audits.

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

#### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

##### A. Divisions

1. Open
  - d. Classes
    - (1) This division will offer ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~ and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.
2. Novice
  - d. Classes
    - (1) This division will offer ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~ and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.
3. Competitive Pleasure
  - d. Classes
    - (1) This division will offer ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~ and Junior Classes in horse as defined in Section 4 B.

##### B. Classes

1. ~~Heavyweight: Rider and tack (everything the horse carries) weighing 190 pounds or more. The Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are being combined into the an Adult class on a temporary basis for the 2023 ride year and will revert to 2022 rules unless extended by the National Board of Directors.~~
2. ~~Lightweight: Rider and tack (everything the horse carries) weighing a minimum of 100 pounds and less than 190 pounds. Riders 18 or older at the beginning of the ride year must compete in the Adult class.~~
3. Junior
  - b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division ~~Heavyweight or Lightweight Adult Classes if weight requirements are met.~~
  - d. ~~No weight requirements apply if competing in Junior Class.~~
5. ~~Weigh In~~
  - a. ~~Lightweight and heavyweight competitors must be weighed in with their own tack prior to the start of the ride.~~
  - b. ~~Individual regions may issue rider weight cards. At subsequent rides in the same year, a copy of this weight card may be sent with the ride entry or be shown to the ride secretary when picking up their rider packet.~~
  - c. ~~Rider weight classification must be maintained throughout the ride. Management may re-weigh any rider at any time during the ride to verify weight class. A deviation of +/- 5 pounds is allowed for reweigh only.~~
  - d. ~~Failure to maintain weight classification will result in completion points only for both horse and rider.~~
  - e. ~~The minimum weight must be made up with dead weight, pound for pound, if the rider and tack weigh less than 100 pounds (lightweight) or less than 190 pounds (heavyweight).~~
  - f. ~~No disposable items will be used to make weight. This includes, but is not limited to, food (horse and rider), water, fly spray, etc.~~

#### SECTION 9 – AWARDS

##### A. Divisions

1. A sanctioned ride having an Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Division will offer ~~Lightweight, Heavyweight, Adult~~ and Junior Classes in horse and horsemanship
2. National Awards
  - i. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In ~~the~~ Open Division ~~in the Heavyweight and Lightweight Adult Classes~~, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the first 16 rides officially started in the same year.
  - k. COMPETITIVE PLEASURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In the Competitive Pleasure Division ~~in the Heavyweight, Lightweight, Adult and~~

Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the first 12 rides officially started in the same year.

- l. HIGH POINT OPEN HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Open Class, (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place.
- m. HIGH POINT OPEN HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Class, (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place.
- n. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Competitive Pleasure Class (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
- o. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Competitive Pleasure Class (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place.
- q. HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place.
- r. HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~, Junior), first through sixth place.

## SECTION 10 – REGION 1A AWARDS

### B. Annual/Year-end Awards

#### 2. National Awards

- a. National Championship: In Open Division in ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~ and Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when both of the following requirements are met within any consecutive three-year period in which rides are held.
  - (2) Accumulated 36 points.
    - ~~b) When classes are combined for the purpose of establishing points, the points earned by the same horse and rider must be from the same class (Heavyweight or Lightweight) in which the horse was entered at the ride. Points from one weight class cannot be combined with those earned in a different weight class during any given 3-year period. If the rider is no longer age-eligible, points earned as a Junior during the applicable 3-year period can be applied to the new adult weight class.~~
- b. National Championship: In the Competitive Pleasure Division in ~~Heavyweight, Lightweight Adult~~ and Junior Classes, a horse shall be declared a National Champion when both of the following requirements are met within any consecutive three-year period in which rides are held.
  - (2) Accumulated 36 points.
    - ~~b) When classes are combined for the purpose of establishing points, the points earned by the same horse and rider must be from the same class (Heavyweight or Lightweight) in which the horse was entered at the ride. Points from one class cannot be combined with those earned in a different 10-2 Revised 10/2020 class during any given 3-year period. If the rider is no longer age-eligible, points acquired as a Junior during the applicable 3-year period can be applied to the new adult class.~~

**Rationale:** In light of decreased ridership caused by external forces such as significantly increased costs to get to rides, reduction in riders' disposable incomes and free time, sluggish economy and, most recently, the pandemic, our weight classes are most often nearly empty and sometimes non-existent. The temporary change to combine division weight classes into adult classes will make the divisions more competitive and ride management simpler.

## #3: NOVICE AND LEISURE ADULT ELIGIBILITY CONSISTENCY

### SECTION 4 - DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Divisions

##### 2. Novice

##### e. Limitations

- (1) Any horse and adult rider combination having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, ~~and Novice~~) ~~or in Leisure Team~~, shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division.
- (2) Any horse and junior rider combination having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, ~~and Novice~~) ~~or in Leisure Team~~, and rider having reached age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division.
- (3) Any adult rider having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure ~~and Novice~~) ~~or in Leisure Team~~, shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division.
- (4) Any junior rider having earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure ~~and Novice~~) ~~or in Leisure Team~~, and having reached the age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division.
- (5) Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in Open or Competitive Pleasure in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice Division ~~except by participating Distance Only~~.
- (6) No accredited ~~past or present~~ NATRC horsemanship, ~~or~~ veterinary or ~~leisure~~ judge shall compete for horse or horsemanship awards in the Novice Division.

##### 4. Leisure

##### e. Classes

- (1) This division will offer Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes as defined in Section 4 B, with the exception that Experienced teams are defined as:
  - (a) Any ~~past or present~~ NATRC judge (Veterinary, Horsemanship, Leisure).

- (c) ~~Any NATRC rider who has won a national award in a Competitive Pleasure or Open Division.~~ Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3<sup>rd</sup> or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in Open or Competitive Pleasure in any previous year.
- (d) Any NATRC rider having attained 1,500 miles in competition or having won one or more National Championships, President's Cup, Jim Menefee Combined Horse and Horsemanship, Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion High Average Horse, or Polly Bridges High Average Horsemanship in any class in any previous year. ~~is ineligible to compete in Leisure Adult.~~

**Rationale:** Currently Novice and LeD Adult have different eligibility requirements. For example, LeD Adult has no mileage limitation; a rider could have 5,000 miles and be eligible to compete as LeD Adult (vs Experienced). LeD lifetime points includes Leisure points; Novice does not, so we have two point structures. Should past judges be eligible to compete in Novice or Leisure Adult? This proposal would make the limitations for Novice and Leisure Adult consistent.

#### #4: LOWER AGE OF LEISURE JUNIOR COMPETITORS

##### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

###### B. Classes

###### 3. Junior

- a. Age ~~10~~ 8 through 17. The rider must be ~~10~~ 8 years old to enter competition **in the Leisure Division, and 10 years old for all other divisions**; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year.
- b. Juniors **age 10-17** may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Heavyweight or Lightweight Classes if weight requirements are met. **Juniors aged 8-17 may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced Classes.**

###### D. Eligibility of Riders

- 1. All persons ~~8~~ 40 years **of age of minimum competitive age** or older are eligible to compete in **the Leisure Division in NATRC, and all persons 10 years of age minimum competitive age or older are eligible to compete in the Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice Divisions in NATRC** except:

**Rationale:** We have received consistent requests to lower our eligible age. NATRC could be the best introduction of junior riders to distance riding, and by restricting those age 8-9 to the Leisure Division will allow them to participate while keeping them to a shorter, slower paced event and one that does not judge the stabling of the horse thereby allowing for more assistance from the adult sponsor without altering the level playing field. Children of this age are developmentally able to ride and care for horses. Often an adult competitor requires minimal assistance due to limited range of motion or recovery from a recent injury or surgery, so there are similar expectations for young riders.

#### #5: JUNIOR LEISURE CLASS ELIGIBILITY

##### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

###### B. Classes

###### 3. Junior

- b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Heavyweight or Lightweight Classes if weight requirements are met. **Juniors may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced Classes.**

###### D. Eligibility of Riders

- 1. All persons ~~10~~ years **of age of minimum competitive age** or older are eligible to compete in NATRC except:

**Rationale:** This fixes and oversight in the Leisure division. Juniors traditionally have been allowed to compete in any division or class.

#### #6: JUNIOR COMPETITORS SUPERVISION

##### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

###### B. Classes

###### 3. Junior

- a. Age 10 through 17. The rider must be 10 years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. **Riders must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance. Riders 12 and under must ride with an adult sponsor or a junior sponsor with more than 250 NATRC miles, with a limit of two per sponsor. The sponsor must also be a registered participant in an appropriate division. If the sponsor cannot continue, a sponsor on trail can be substituted with another appropriate competitor, DO rider, or safety rider.**

**Rationale:** Large groups of young riders can be a challenge to manage. Having adequate supervision is important for the safety of the junior riders. The sponsor must also be a competitor as ride management and safety must monitor and support these riders as well.

#### #7: TITLE OF TRAIL ABILITY/MANNERS TO MANEUVERING TRAIL AND BEHAVIOR

##### SECTION 6 – JUDGING

###### A. Procedures: ...

###### 2. Start of Competition

- a. For the purposes of scoring ~~trail ability/manners~~ **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.

- 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 ~~trail ability/manners maneuvering trail/behavior~~. Leisure Division does not have to adhere to these scoring categories.
3. ~~Trail Ability/Manners Maneuvering Trail/Behavior~~ 15%: The evaluation of ~~trail ability/manners 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.

**Rationale:** *Review of the scorecards has indicated that judging on the horse scorecard has become heavily weighted on trail ability and manners. Changing the title of that section of the scorecard will direct the focus of the evaluation more towards behavior as it pertains to specific observations as well as the entirety of the ride. This change will accompany a more standardized scoring chart on the back of the scorecard that will encourage consistency amongst judges as well as a balanced approach to veterinary judging.*