**2021 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS – March 3, 2020 – Changes in Bold**

**CHANGE LIMITS FROM PLACINGS TO POINTS FOR COMPETING IN NOVICE**

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

A. Divisions

2. Novice

   e. Limitations

   (1) Any horse and adult rider combination having **won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation**, in horse (regardless of division or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. A horse and rider combination that attains **five firsts 250 points** in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.

   (2) Any horse and junior rider combination having **won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points**, lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of division or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) and rider having reached age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. An age eligible horse and rider combination that attains **five firsts and 225 250 points** in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.

   (3) Any adult rider having **won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation**, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, division, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A **rider that who** attains **five firsts 250 points** in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.

   (4) Any junior rider having **won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points**, lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, division, or class in Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice) and having reached the age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A **rider that who** reaches age 14, attains **five firsts and 225 250 points** in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.

   (5) A **rider or horse and-rider combination with five firsts may compete for awards in the Competitive Pleasure Division.**

   (6) **(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 any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice Division except by participating Distance Only.**

Rationale:
With low ridership, it’s possible for first-time competitors to place 1st in horsemanship when they are the only competitor in their class. Thus riders are ribboning out of Novice too soon. Limitations based on point accumulation would be a better solution.

**ADD EXPERIENCED CLASS TO LEISURE DIVISION**

A. Divisions

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 NATRC judge (Veterinary, Horsemanship, Leisure).

      (b) Any NATRC rider with more than 250 points of any combination of Leisure Division Team and Open, Competitive Pleasure, Novice Horsemanship at the beginning of the ride year.

      (c) Any NATRC rider who has won a national award in a Competitive Pleasure or Open Division.

      (2) Horse and rider will compete as a team, with their combined scores used to determine placing recognition.

      (3) A Junior may compete in the Adult or Experienced Class.

      (4) Any adult may compete in the Experienced Class.

Rationale:
Leisure is meant to be a home for riders new to NATRC and experienced NATRC riders who for whatever reason do not want to compete in a Novice, CP, or Open Division ride. The skill levels here are generally very different. We want to welcome both groups, but they shouldn’t be competing against each other.

**CHANGE TWO MILE POINT TO FORWARD MOTION POINT**

**SECTION 5 – THE RIDE**

I. Trail Conduct

5. **Two Mile Forward Motion** Point

   a. From a properly identified **forward motion point** (posted sign) **approximately 2 miles from the finish each day**, riders must maintain forward motion and not stop or dismount from this point to the finish line except in extenuating circumstances dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship. Forward motion must be via the most direct route, without stopping, following the marked trail. Any deviation may result in penalty assessment or disqualification unless dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship.

   b. No one shall interfere with the rider’s forward progress and/or pacing except when necessary for the safety of the horse/ rider.

   c. **For Novice, Competitive Pleasure, and Open Divisions, the forward motion point should be approximately two (2) miles from the finish each day.**

   d. For the **Leisure Division, the forward motion point should be approximately one (1) mile from the finish.**

Rationale:
Because the Leisure Division can be as short as 8 miles, requiring that one quarter of the ride be forward motion does not seem reasonable. This limits judging opportunities, trail access, and P&R location to a very limited portion of the trail. Shortening the Leisure Division point of forward motion keeps the ratio to total ride distance similar to other divisions.

ALLOW LENIENCE IN LEISURE DIVISION TIME PENALTIES AT COMPLETION OF RIDE

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

J. Timing and Time Penalty Points

3. Early Arrivals
   a. A horse completing the day's ride in less than the minimum time and within 30 minutes prior to the minimum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute before the minimum time. Rider or Leisure Division team will also be faulted. The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.
   b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes early shall be disqualified.

4. Late Arrivals
   a. A horse completing the day's ride exceeding the maximum time and within 30 minutes subsequent to the maximum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute exceeding the maximum time. Rider or Leisure Division team will also be faulted. The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.
   b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will receive completion points and mileage only.

Rationale:
To allow some judgement is assigning time penalties to the Leisure Division.

LEISURE DIVISION - SOURCING JUDGES and EVALUATION OF OVERNIGHT STABLING

SECTION 6 – JUDGING

D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on trail ability and manners. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.

3. Judges may must be sourced from the approved Leisure Division Judges List or the standard list. An NATRC-approved veterinary judge may serve as the full judge for this division.

4. This division is exempt from stabling evaluation. Overnight stabling will be evaluated for safety and must comply with NATRC stabling rules. This will not be scored.

Rationale:
Our standard judges must go through additional training before judging the Leisure Division, so management must refer to the separate Leisure Division Judges List for all who have completed the appropriate requirements. Plus Equisure requires overnight stabling evaluation. Portion of Section 5 was removed since the difference in Leisure Division is better described in Section 6.

REVISE LEISURE DIVISION PLACEMENTS AND POINTS DISTRIBUTION

SECTION 9 – AWARDS

A. Ride Awards

3. Horse and horsemanship scores for Leisure Division will be added together to determine placing of teams for Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes. First through tenth place teams in both classes will be recognized. Leisure Division will include first through sixth place in each class offered.

C. Point Distribution

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<tr>
<th>TYPE B RIDE – Leisure Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of starters</td>
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<td>PLACE</td>
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Rationale:
Awarding six placings is consistent with the other divisions. Some feel it is demeaning to not make the top ten, so it is easier to only announce the top six and not draw attention to those placing well below.

ADD OUT-OF-REGION REQUIREMENT TO PRESIDENT’S CUP CRITERIA

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards
2. National Awards
   a. PRESIDENT'S CUP (National Sweepstakes Champion): This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse in the Open Division. The horse must be officially started in at least four rides of any ride type made up of any combination of one out-of-region and or three out-of-state rides of any ride type.

   Rationale:
The President's Cup is truly a national award. It should be expected that the winner competes against horses other than those in its own region to win this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT NOVICE ON NATIONAL LEVEL

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY
A. Divisions
   2. Novice
      a. Age of Horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)

   3. Competitive Pleasure
      a. Age of horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)

SECTION 9 - AWARDS
B. Annual Awards
   2. National Awards
      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, 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.
      Age of Horses
      (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Horse awards must be at least 60 months of age.
         (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
         (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a “full mouth” (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

      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, 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.
      Age of Horses
      (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
         (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
         (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a “full mouth” (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

      s. HIGH POINT NOVICE TEAM: This award is presented to the Novice Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. 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.
      Age of Horses
      (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
         (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
         (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a “full mouth” (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

Rationale:
We want to encourage Novice Division riders to compete and to attend the national conventions. Particularly on this last point, we need to give them some reason to come. Items “q” and “r” are 1st – 6th national placings. Item “s” would be the single best combined Novice Division horse and rider. Costs: For “q” and “r”, 3 classes (junior, lightweight, heavyweight) per horse and rider x 6 ribbons (36 ribbons). For “s”, one award per year.

RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM

SECTION 9 - AWARDS
B. Annual Awards
   2. National Awards
      p. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM: This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. 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.
      Age of Horses
      (1) Horses competing for High Point Competitive Pleasure Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
         (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
         (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a “full mouth” (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

Rationale:
We already have an overall high point Open team with the Jim Menefee Memorial award. If we add a High Point Novice Team, Competitive Pleasure would be the only standard division without this award. For consistency and fairness, if the Novice passes, we should also include Competitive Pleasure. We are encouraging the team aspect and should do so across the board.