



To be voted on by NBOD in July 2025 -- Changes are in **RED**

#1: CHANGE THE END OF THE RIDE YEAR

SECTION 2. SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

- A. Ride
 - 1. Sanctioning
 - d. Ride year ends the **last second** Sunday in November

SECTION 9. AWARDS

- B. Annual Awards
 - 1. General
 - e. Ride year ends the **last second**-Sunday in November.

Rationale: To allow sufficient time to wrap up year-end standings.

#2: COMBINE DIVISION WEIGHT CLASSES INTO ADULT CLASS

a: TEMPORARY ONE-YEAR ACTION

SECTION 4 - DIVISION, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

- B. Classes
 - 1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes will combine into an Adult class on a temporary basis for the **2026** 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 historically in NATRC. Heavyweights may be at a disadvantage competing with lightweights, but without the merger, many classes would have no real competition. By making the change temporary, it is slightly easier to reverse this change if ridership improves.

b: MAKE PERMANENT

SECTION 4 - DIVISION, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

- B. Classes
 - 1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes will combine into an Adult class on a **permanent** basis. ~~for the 2025 year and will revert to 2022 rules unless extended by the National Board of Directors.~~

Rationale: 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 historically in NATRC. Heavyweights may be at a disadvantage competing with lightweights, but without the merge many classes would have no real competition. By making the change permanent, competitors know this is what to expect going forward and the NBOD would be freed up from annual discussions on this rule. Weight class can be reconsidered when ridership increases to offer realistic competition in the weight classes.

#3: RETURN SWEEPSTAKES AWARD TO ITS ORIGINAL INTENT

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

- A. Ride Awards
 - ~~4. The horses with the highest scores from the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Divisions shall be the recipients of the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes Awards.~~

- A. Ride Awards
 - 4. Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the equine competitor that receives a FIRST place in the Open, Competitive Pleasure and Novice divisions and only if there are entries in more than one class in a division.

Rationale: The first place requirement further ensures that the equine is truly the top competitor of that division and not a recipient by default. There have been instances when an equine with the "highest score" has been lame on check out and had a second place but still received Sweepstakes. More than one class in a division highlights the original intent of sweepstakes and brings back the element of suspense.



2026 RULE BOOK CLARIFICATIONS

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#1: SCHEDULING AND FEES FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

SECTION 2. SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

A. Ride

5. Scheduling

- b. Rides scheduled for the same weekend shall be at least 250 miles apart in order to be sanctioned. A Leisure Division-only ride may be excepted.
- ~~c. Priority on ride dates shall be given to rides sanctioned the previous ride year.~~
- ~~d. Rides sanctioned but cancelled will hold their priority date for one year only.~~
- ~~e. Sanction written commitment for established ride is due by the 31st of January. After the 31st of January, the priority date will be forfeited.~~

Rationale: *c, d and e are more appropriate in the P&P in the Ride Sanction section.*

B. Clinics

2. Fees - See Clinic Sanction Application

- ~~a. There is no sanction fee.~~
- ~~b. Clinic fees for participants will be identified in the application.~~
- ~~c. Upon request, each NATRC region will be granted funds for insurance at sanctioned NATRC clinics, as determined by the NATRC Board of Directors.~~

4. Scheduling - See Clinic Sanction Application

- ~~a. Sanction application must be received in the NATRC office at least sixty (60) days prior to the clinic date.~~
- ~~b. In addition to NATRC literature, suggested clinic outlines and format will be furnished upon submission of sanction application.~~

Rationale: *Not necessary. 2.a-c. and 4.a are covered in the Clinic Sanction Application; 4.b does not apply any more.*

#2: ANNOUNCING TIME PENALTY POINTS

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

J. Timing and Time Penalty Points

7. Announcement of Time Penalty Points

- a. Timers must inform ride chair, who must in turn inform riders **who were early/late of the number of minutes early/late. any early/late arrivals.** Barring unforeseen circumstances, **ideally** this shall be accomplished within 2 hours of completion of each day's event, ~~but~~ **and** no later than prior to awards presentation.

SECTION 6 – JUDGING

E. Penalty Points

- 3. Ride chair must inform riders and all judges of any penalty points. Barring unforeseen circumstances, **ideally** this shall be accomplished on the same day, ~~but must be done and~~ prior to ride awards presentation.

Rationale: *Sometimes errors in calculating or recording time or other penalties are not found until after the ride. These errors can result in score and placing changes and must be consistent with 5.J.3. (early arrivals), 5.J.4 (late arrivals), 5.J.6 (additional time penalties), 6.E.4 (scoring penalty points) and 6.E.5 (faulting horsemanship).*

#3: PULL IS FINAL

SECTION 6 – JUDGING

G. Pull Criteria

- 5. A pulled equine or rider may not re-enter the same competition for any reason.

Rationale: *This would clarify that a pull is final.*