

## 16a. Rules and Bylaws Old

### Business

1. 2026 Rule proposals for 2027 Rule book

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



## 2027 RULE BOOK CLARIFICATIONS To be voted on by NBOD in July 2026 -- Changes are in RED

### #1: CLARIFICATION

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

##### B. Classes

~~1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a permanent basis.~~

1. Adult: riders age 18 or over who do not meet the Junior criteria defined in Section 4B3. There are no weight requirements.
2. Riders 18 or older ...
3. Junior ...
4. ~~Adult: (Leisure Division only) riders age 18 or over who do not meet the Junior criteria as defined in Section 4 B. There are no weight requirements.~~ Helmets
  - a. Juniors (age 17 and under) must wear an ASTM/SEI, Snell, or approved equal equestrian riding helmet at all times while mounted in camp or on the trail. This rule applies to a junior competing in any class or a junior visiting the NATRC camp.
  - b. It is strongly recommended that adults also wear a similarly approved helmet as stated in Section 4 ~~5B4a~~ .

**Rationale:** *The rule for no weight classes was used on a temporary basis, voted on year to year for 3 years. It was approved to be a "permanent" change for 2026. Defining the adult class the same for all divisions would be simpler and more consistent than defining it twice, once for Open, CP and Novice and once for the Leisure Division (current Section 4B4). None of the rules in the Rule Book are permanent as they can be changed by a vote of the NBOD.*

### #2 - CLARIFICATION

##### 3. Regional Awards

###### a. Team Awards

- (1) These regional awards are given for combined horse and horsemanship.
- (2) All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed, will be added together and the placings determined by the most points.
- (3) ~~Leisure Division does not qualify for nationally sponsored team awards.~~

###### b. Regional Championships

- (1) These awards are given for horse and for horsemanship in all divisions and classes (See Section 4), first through sixth place.
- (2) Will be awarded annually on the basis of points awarded *within the designated region* of the horse and rider (See Section 1 B5).
- (3) ~~Leisure Division is only eligible for regional combination awards.~~

# #1 Proposal

## SECTION 9-AWARDS

### B. Annual Awards

#### 2. National Awards

#### #1a Proposal

t. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE EXPERIENCED TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Experienced team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.

- (1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out.
- (2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.
- (3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.
- (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
- (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
- (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.

The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.

u. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE ADULT TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Adult team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.

- (1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out.
- (2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.
- (3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.
- (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
- (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
- (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.

The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.

v. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE JUNIOR TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Junior team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.

- (1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of six rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
- (2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.
- (3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.
- (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
- (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
- (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.

The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the "percentage scores" from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.

#### #1b PROPOSAL

- w. HIGH POINT LEISURE DIVISION RIDER: Points shall be credited to Leisure riders regardless of class for the purpose of determining the annual high point Leisure rider. Riders competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year and may ride more than one horse. The rider shall be considered officially started when timed out and must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.

- x. HIGH POINT LEISURE DIVISION HORSE: Points shall be credited to Leisure horses regardless of class for the purpose of determining the annual high point Leisure horse. Horses competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year and may be ridden by more than one rider permitted the riders have a current competing membership prior to the start of a ride for a ride to be credited. The horse shall be considered officially started when timed out.

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for High Point Leisure Division Horse award must be at least 48 months of age.
  - (a) Registered horses are considered 48 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 a licensed veterinarian.

## #1c PROPOSAL

- y. LEISURE DIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: In the Leisure Division, (Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes), a team shall be declared a National Champion when all the following requirements are met within the same ride year.

- (1) Awarded at least one first place or two second placing.
- (2) Completed a minimum of eight rides (six for Juniors).
- (3) At least one of the rides must be out of state or out of region.
- (4) Accumulated 35 points (15 points for Juniors). Teams must remain in the same competitive class (Leisure Experienced, Leisure Adult or Leisure Junior) for the duration of the season to qualify.

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for Leisure Division National Championship award must be at least 48 months of age.
  - (a) Registered horses are considered 48 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 a licensed veterinarian.