

# High Desert Cutters Bylaws

## Revised April 2009

**Mission and Purpose:** The High Desert Cutters (HDC) is dedicated to promoting cutting horse and reined cow horse events, and to develop good fellowship among participants. HDC especially recognizes the importance of enhancing opportunities for youth and modeling concepts of fairness, good horsemanship and community participation.

**1.** There shall be an executive committee elected by the paid-up members of the club each January. Each officer shall hold his/her term for one year with the exception of the treasurer, who shall hold his/her term for a minimum of two years. An incumbent officer may be re-elected to serve the same post.

**2. OFFICERS:** The executive committee shall consist of the following:

**PRESIDENT:** Shall head meetings, enforce the bylaws and keep peace.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Shall assist with the above, take the president's place in his/her absence and arrange for judges for all cuttings.

**TREASURER:** Shall collect fees, write checks for expenses and balance the checking and savings accounts.

**SECRETARY:** Shall keep minutes and records of points, handle sign-ups for cuttings, and arrange for timers and announcer (s) at cuttings, to make sure the final schedule of cuttings and judges are complete. Provide a copy of the bylaws to judges at each cutting and to members as requested.

**DIRECTORS:** Ideally, one member for each geographical area of the club to be responsible for the following:

A) Communicate with the cattle supplier, help where needed be in charge of cattle the day of the cutting.

B) See that the pen is free of rocks, reasonably level, has soft footing and is recommended to be 70' to 100' in width. Arrange for goosenecks or pickups to be parked as fence if panels are not available if the pen is too wide.

C) Arrange for extra riders to arrive early enough to get cattle in if the supplier desires assistance with gathering cattle.

D) Make sure pickup and two chairs are available for the judge.

E) Make arrangements to remove cattle from the arena and bring in fresh cattle. Check with the secretary to determine the number of head needed for each class.

F) Provide lunch and cold/hot drinks for the judge.

G) Arrange for riders to take cattle to pasture following the cutting.

**3. MEETINGS:** General HDC business meetings shall be scheduled for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Thursday of the months of January, February, and March. Any changes that need to be made to the bylaws shall be made at these meetings, NOT during the show season. Any business conducted at the rider's meetings held prior to each cutting should be limited to emergency needs only.

**4. DUES:** Annual ADULT membership dues are \$25.00 each. Annual YOUTH (18 and UNDER) membership dues are \$12.50. Annual FAMILY membership dues are \$50.00 each. Family members may include parents, children or step-children 18 years and under. Paid members shall have voting privileges, receive newsletters and be eligible for year end awards. Daily memberships are available for a \$5.00 charge with a \$5.00 surcharge to cover insurance per day. Daily members will pay the usual fees but will not earn points nor count as a "ride" in a class towards year end points.

**5. AWARDS:** Year-end awards are to be presented at an annual banquet with entertainment affordable and acceptable to the club. Special awards to present are Most Improved Horse, Most Determined, Best Sportsman and Hard Luck. A buckle will be awarded to the horse/rider combination in each class. To qualify for year-end awards a member must attend at least ½ of the cuttings or three cuttings total for the season which ever is greater.

In the event of a tie, two buckles (awards) will be given.

An awards committee, open to any member, shall be set up to pick out buckles and other awards, to obtain sponsors, and to arrange the awards banquet. The committee shall submit a written budget for the year-end awards to be approved by the general membership. The committee shall decide what awards are given, but shall not have the authority to order them without approval of the general membership. The committee shall notify the general membership of each of its meetings so that each member shall have the opportunity to participate in the awards selection process.

**6. CLASSIFYING:** The club shall elect at least three members to classify horses (and riders for the Novice/Novice class). Three classifiers must be present at each classification with two identical scores of the three being the final score. If there are not three of these persons present at a show, the responsibility falls to the officers. Time shall be allotted before each cutting to classify new horses. The minimum length of time for classification shall be 1.5 minutes per horse, with longer working time at the classifiers discretion. Members have the right to request reclassification within 24 hours of the initial classification (per horse). This request must be made to the club President or Vice President. Reclassification shall take place at the next scheduled cutting with the executive committee and classifiers present. The decision of this committee shall be final. The classification fee shall be \$10.00 and will be applied to stock costs. Those members who feel their horses should be re-classified because they have moved up to a higher class may re-classify at the first cutting of the season for an additional \$10.00 fee.

The purpose of classifying shall be to maintain consistency and have horses compete against those of like ability. All horses not showing in the Open or the Ranch classes will be classified into an appropriate class.

If a classified horse has not shown for one year (the entire show season) or more he shall be reclassified or may be shown in the Open or the Ranch class.

If a horse is classified as or has graduated to an Open Horse, it may NOT show in the Ranch Horse Class. If a horse has had professional cutting horse training, or has been shown in an NCHA approved show it cannot be shown in the Ranch Horse Class.

**7. CLASSES:** All cutting classes shall be judged by NCHA rules and scoring system, with the exceptions listed below. All horses shall be classified and placed in the appropriate class with horses of like ability, EXCEPT the Open, Ranch Horse and Reining classes. **A horse graduates to the next class when it wins champion or reserve champion or earns 20 or more cumulative points from year to year to year in that class, with the exception of the Novice Class. Novice riders who win reserve champion can remain in the novice class for one more year. Novice riders are allowed to show in the Novice class for 2 years. A novice rider would only have to be re-classified if that person won champion for that year.**

Class starting order shall be rotated by two classes at each cutting throughout the season. At the first cutting of the season the class order shall be Open, 200, 150, 125, 100, Novice/Novice, Sr. Youth, Jr. Youth and Ranch Horse. The second cutting shall begin with the 150 and so on.

All entries shall draw for position, regardless of how many entries each person is showing.

Each show shall begin on time. The draw for class order will be at 8:30am and **classifying will begin at 9:00am.**

**Attire: The rider showing in each class should be in western attire (hats or helmet). All other riders or help can be dressed comfortably at the judges and officers discretion. All other NCHA rules apply. Herd Help may use training aids in a humane fashion at the officers and memberships discretion.**

**Note:** NCHA rule #5C shall be enforced. Judges shall stop any work because of unnecessary roughness or disturbance of cattle.

**Note:** As in NCHA youth division rules, Stallions will be barred from showing in any youth class.

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:**

**OPEN: One-handed class, WILL be penalized for reining, all NCHA rules shall apply.** Horses need not be classified to show in this class. (As of January 17, 2002 the 250 class was combined with this class).

**200:** Horses shall be shown one-handed, **will NOT** be penalized for reining, however all other NCHA rules to apply.

**150:** Two-handed or one handed ride optional. Contestant has the option to ride with one hand and will not be penalized if they go to two hands. Contestant will receive more credit if they remain one handed. All other NCHA rules apply.

**125:** Two handed horse that is starting to watch cows and turn with the cow. All other NCHA rules apply.

**100:** Green horse, two handed. Horses that have NOT started to read, stop, turn and move with a cow. Snaffle bit or hackamore acceptable, no training devices; no reining penalties. All other NCHA rules to apply.

**NOVICE:** A novice rider showing a novice horse. See definition in rule #8.

**SENIOR YOUTH:** A youth, 14 thru 18 years of age. Horse to be shown as classified in adult classes. All other NCHA rules to apply.

**JUNIOR YOUTH:** A youth, 13 years of age or younger. Horse to be shown as classified in adult classes. All other NCHA rules to apply.

**RANCH HORSE:** A horse that has not been classified as, or graduated to a one handed class or about at any time. Any horse having had any professional cutting horse training or have been shown in an NCHA approved show cannot show in the Ranch Horse Class. A horse can be shown in any headgear (no gimmicks as defined by NCHA rule #16). Horses shown in a snaffle bit, shanked snaffle bit or hackamore may show two-handed. Horses shown in a stiff bit must be shown one handed.

**REINING:** All reining classes will have the same pattern for that day and will be scored and judged based on NRCHA rules. All reining classes will start after each cutting is over and if work areas permit. The club must also agree at the winter meetings to do the reining classes before the show season starts. An agreement must also be made to determine which shows the reining classes will be held.

**NOVICE REINING CLASS:** To qualify to show in the Novice Reining a Horse/Rider cannot have won any awards, points or money in reining or working cow horse competitions. This class is for beginners, horse and rider combinations, which can only participate in the this class for two consecutive years. After that they will need to go to the Junior Reining, or Senior Reining. No training devices will be allowed all NRCHA rules apply.

**JUNIOR REINING CLASS:** This is for horses five years and under. Each horse must be shown in the snaffle, hackamore or two rein. No training devices will be allowed. All NRCHA rules apply.

**SENIOR REINING CLASS:** This is for horses six years older and up. No training devices will be allowed. All NRCHA rules will apply.

**JUNIOR YOUTH REINING CLASS:** Any youth 13 years or younger and all NRCHA rules apply. No training devices will be allowed.

**SENIOR YOUTH REINING CLASS:** Any youth 14 thru 18 years of age. No training devices will be allowed. All NRCHA rules apply.

**8. NOVICE CLASS:** This class has been added to give beginners a place to learn, gain experience and compete for year-end awards against those of like ability. Entrants shall be placed by classifiers. If the rider is a Novice Rider but would like to show up in a higher class, then the horse will need to be classified to determine which class best fits the horse. If a novice entrant shows in a higher class and places first or second in that class twice, he/she is no longer eligible to compete in the novice class. Once classified, a novice cutter may remain in that class for two years unless he/she has won the champion year-end award. All horses graduating from the Novice class will be reclassified to determine what class best fits the horse.

**Novice Rider:** Defined as one that classifiers deem fit for this class. This person should not have won any points or money in any cow horse related events.

**Novice Horse:** A horse that would normally be classified in the 100 class and shown under the same guidelines as the 100 class.

All horses coming out of the Novice/Novice class will be reclassified to determine where they belong.

**9. SHOW UP NOT DOWN:** HDC classified horses may show in more advanced classes, but not in lower classes. A 150 horse may show in the 200 or Open but cannot show in the 125 or lower classes. If a horse earns points in a higher class, the points stay in that class, they are not transferable. The horse will have separate points in each class and could possibly win awards in the higher class as well as his own.

**10. NUMBER OF HORSES SHOWN:** A rider may show many different horses in each class. Points are awarded to, and stay with the horse and rider combination throughout the season. If the same horse is ridden by a different

rider, that new combination will need to be classified into the appropriate class. The combination of horse/rider may only show once in each class.

**11. LIABILITY:** Every adult on horseback attending a cutting, whether showing, helping, practicing or watching shall sign a waiver for each member of his/her family, which releases High Desert Cutters, the cattle supplier and/or landowner from liability. Every minor attending a cutting shall have an adult or legal guardian sign the release for him/her. A policy shall be presented to the cattle supplier before each cutting stating that if the club injures an animal, the supplier shall receive \$900.00 and the salvage. This \$900.00 shall be kept in a visible, interest accruing savings account.

**12. ENTRY FEES:** Adult on horseback classes shall be \$25.00 with \$10.00 going to cattle charges and \$15.00 to HDC for insurance, office supplies and awards. All youth classes shall be \$15.00 with \$10.00 going to cattle charges and \$5.00 going to HDC. Adult reining shall be \$15.00. Since reining classes are jackpotted, \$10 goes to the pot to pay out to 3<sup>rd</sup> place if there are enough entries. The remaining \$5.00 will go to the club to help pay for any extra expenses. All youth entries will be \$10.00. All the money for the youth classes will pay out to 3<sup>rd</sup> place if there are enough entries. All checks from each show will be mailed to the winners.

**13. JACKPOT:** Any entrant may opt to Jackpot his class and pay additional \$5.00 to the entry fees. Only those who jackpot prior to the start of the class will be eligible for the pot. The highest scoring person entering the jackpot shall win it.

**14. PRACTICE:** Practice cattle shall be provided after each cutting if the supplier agrees to allow practices; the entry fee is paid directly to the supplier. Each cutter is responsible for paying the supplier the providing a timekeeper. It is recommended that practice not exceed three (3) minutes. The cutter may use any training devices during a practice.

**15. RIBBONS:** Every youth class shall receive ribbon awards. First through fourth place at each cutting. Ribbons shall be picked up during the cutting at which they are won and can be written on by the winners who choose to keep them.

**16. POINT SYSTEM:** Multiply the number of horses entered in class x2 and points will be divided by 40% to first 30% to second, 20% to third and 10% to fourth. No points are given for a 60 score.

Number of Horses in Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place
1	.8			
2	1.6	1.2		
3	2.4	1.8	1.2	
4	3.2	2.4	1.6	.8
5	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0
6	4.8	3.6	2.4	1.2
7	5.6	4.2	2.8	1.4
8	6.4	4.8	3.2	1.6
9	7.2	5.4	3.6	1.8
10	8.0	6.0	4.0	2.0

**Note:** In case of a tie, points for each place tied are added together and split evenly among the horses tied. Example: if there are 7 horses entered, 3 are tied for 1, 2, 3 places...add 5.6, 4.2 and 2.8 and divide by 3. Each horse would receive 4.2 points.

**17.** The last judged cutting of each season shall be determined by cattle availability.

**18.** No cutting date additions or changing of the dates shall be made after July 1. The exception is to substitute a cattle supplier for a same cutting date already scheduled.

**19.** Judges shall be paid \$300.00 per cutting if they travel from outside the county and \$200.00 if they travel within the county.

