



JUDGES ADVISORY and TEACHING PANEL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Embassy Suites, Denton, Texas
Ft. Worth/Dallas Room
January 30 & 31, 2026 at 8:00 A.M. (CST)

Approved March 10th, 2026

Members Present: Doug Allen – Committee Chair, Mike McEntire – Vice Chair, Maik Bartmann, Van Luse, Pat Wickenheiser, Ollie Griffith, Ed “Hoot” Bricker, Mark Turner, Margaret Fuchs, Reid Fady, Sebastian Petroll, Steve Ross, Joe Schmidt, Pete Kyle

Members Present Virtually: Manu Maiocchi, Eugenio Latorre, Sandy Jirkovsky

Staff Present: Sr. Director of Education & Officials – Patti Carter; Education & Officials Coordinator – Jenna Fiscus

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Doug Allen, at 8:24 A.M. (CST).

Consent Agenda: December JAC & Teaching Pool Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion made by Van Luse and seconded by Steve Ross to approve December JAC & Teaching Pool meeting minutes; Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: December JAC & Teaching Pool Executive Session Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion made by Van Luse and seconded by Steve Ross to approve December JAC & Teaching Pool Executive Session meeting minutes; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Review Charter, Strategic Plan and Judges Advisory Committee Goals

Motion made and seconded to approve the Charter, Strategic Plan and 2026 Judges Advisory Committee goals. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Greg Darnell Workshop and Review of Equipment Rules

Motion made and seconded that we do not adjust the rules and continue teaching the current curriculum. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Clarifying Untangling Mane When a Horse is in Motion – Score of 0 or 5-point penalty

Motion made and seconded to approve removing the following rule from the zero-score section and adding the following clarification: “If a rider untangles a horse’s mane or straightens the latigo while the horse is in motion, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.”; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: 30 minute Post Show Judge Requirement

Motion made and seconded to insert the following verbiage into the existing 2026 NRHA Handbook: For events utilizing multiple competition arenas, the thirty (30) minute review window and judge availability requirement shall apply to the conclusion of the last run in

the arena to which the judge is assigned.

Once thirty (30) minutes have elapsed following the final run in a judge's assigned arena, and upon approval by Show Management, the judge may be excused from the competition grounds. In such cases, that judge shall no longer be considered available for review requests related to classes previously judged; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Utilizing Slow Motion During Reviews

Motion made and seconded to permit NRHA Judges to utilize official event video and video technologies as a supplemental tool to enhance the accuracy and consistency of penalty determinations; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Review Judge Monitor Program

Motion made and seconded to form a task force comprised of Doug Allen, Maik Bartmann, Mark Turner, Ollie Griffith and Ed Bricker to review current monitor content and suggest other improvements; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Judge Rating Adjustment Due to Inactivity

Motion made and seconded to approve a policy starting in 2027 whereby an NRHA Judge who is inactive for two (2) consecutive years is automatically reduced by one rating level; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Review back up examples – future education

Motion made and seconded to continue discussion on future education on backups; Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting paused for the day; resumed at 8:05 a.m. 1/31/26.

Action: Review Runs from 2026/2027 testing

Discussed results of runs for 2026/2027 testing.

Action: Review Rules for Judging Content

Discussed and clarified rules for judging examples for future teaching.

Action: Distinction Between Pawing vs. Striking

Motion made and seconded to approve clarifying language and educational guidance stating that striking involves a deliberate action toward a specific target, while pawing is typically associated with nervousness or stress and should be evaluated within the context of the maneuver rather than automatically penalized; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Selecting Dates for 2026 Judges Advisory Committee Meetings

Motion made and seconded to approve Tuesday, March 10 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) and Tuesday, May 19 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (CST) for future Judge Advisory Committee meetings; Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Entered and Exited Executive Session

Informational: Review 2025 Futurity Statistics

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 P.M. (CST) on January 31, 2026.