NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION, a Texas Nonprofit Corporation

ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

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OF THE

NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION

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NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this association shall be the NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION, a Texas nonprofit corporation, (the "NIRSHA").

ARTICLE II

MISSION AND PURPOSE

2.01 Mission. The NIRSHA is to enrich the collegiate experience by providing participating students in ranch and stock horse events with opportunities to develop expertise in ranching, stock handling, and horsemanship. Through competitive events, educational opportunities, and community engagement, we aim to promote a culture of excellence, sportsmanship, and camaraderie among students across the participating universities and colleges. Our goal is to foster a community that promotes leadership, teamwork, and ethical stewardship among students, preparing them to excel as future professionals. In addition, the mission of the Association includes performing any and all activities and supporting such causes that a nonprofit corporation is empowered to do under Texas law, which may be necessary, convenient, or desirable in the administration of its affairs.

2.02 Purpose. The purpose of the NIRSHA shall be to:

A. promote and encourage education through the participation of students in ranch and stock horse events;

B. maintain a national organization to act as an advisory and or faciliatory organization on such matters as eligibility requirements, national competitions, and all other matters of concern to students, coaches, and supporting organizations;

C. establish a common meeting place for the exchange of ideas between coaches;

D. promote ethical stewardship among students and coaches;

E. promote ranch and stock horse competition on a national level as an organized, standard collegiate sport, with teams representing universities and colleges ("Member Institutions") on individual campuses through the nation; and

F. support education through scholarship development and scholarly activities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the NIRSHA is organized as an association of persons having a common interest, the purpose of which is to promote such common interests without engaging in a regular for-profit business, within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY RULES

3.01 Individual Competitors.

A. Competitive Year. The Competitive Year shall follow the academic year beginning August 1 and ending July 31. Eligibility can be affected by any titles won outside of the academic year.

B. Academic Eligibility.

1. Undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) hours of classes and graduate students in a minimum of nine (9) hours. Graduating students may enroll in fewer hours during the semester of graduation.

2. Students must be in good academic standing with their school, defined as at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

3. Students will be limited to five (5) years or eight (8) semesters (whichever comes first) of eligibility to compete, including both graduate and undergraduate years.

4. Proof of eligibility requirements should be presented as an unofficial transcript or other document from the registrar's office confirming full time student status, including minimum 2.0 GPA at the first NIRSHA show of each semester that the student participates.

5. NIRSHA collegiate members must designate eligibility for divisions. Any student who can furnish proof of meeting the eligibility requirements may compete in a NIRSHA collegiate show as an individual competitor, even if their school does not have a team. **If a school has an official or recognized ranch or stock horse team and/or club, only the designated coach(es) and/or club representative(es) may approve and sign the Collegiate Team and Collegiate Individual entry forms**.

C. Division Eligibility. An applicant for collegiate membership should accurately mark the divisions – Open/Non-Pro, Limited/Intermediate Non-Pro, and Novice for which they are eligible to compete. Coaches and Representatives must abide by these eligibility requirements when placing collegiate members on a team **whether competing as a Collegiate Team member or Collegiate Individual**. All collegiate members must purchase a $15 individual collegiate membership in order to be eligible to show. Collegiate memberships will expire August 31st of each academic year. Collegiate members must verify their division

eligibility through the yearly membership form. If a collegiate member wishes to be reviewed for novice eligibility, a membership application must be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to entry deadline for the competition.

1. Open Division Eligibility. The Open Division is open to any professional or nonprofessional collegiate member in good standing with any horse regardless of past winnings.

2. Non-Pro Division Eligibility. The Non-Pro Division is open to any nonprofessional collegiate member in good standing with any horse regardless of past winnings and subject to the following:

i. The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for riding, training, assisting in training, or showing horses at any time during the past five (5) years. **Students while enrolled in an equine program as part of an educational curriculum are eligible to be a Non-Pro provided the horses they train or accept remuneration for are part of the educational program. Individuals may accept remuneration as part of participation in a collegiate internship program provided they comply with all the requirements of the program. They can retain their Non-Pro status provided they comply with all other Non-Pro Division eligibility requirements.**

ii. The rider has not received payment directly or indirectly for instructing another person or conducting a seminar in riding, training, driving or showing a horse any time during the past five (5) years.

iii. The rider has not had any expenses (including lodging, transportation, mileage, etc.) paid by someone other than family members.

iv. Premium money won is not considered remuneration.

v. A Non-Pro rider may show in the Open Division without losing Non-Pro Division eligibility as long as requirements for Non-Pro Division are still met.

3. Exceptions.

i. A Non-Pro rider who otherwise qualifies under these rules may conduct clinics provided the only remuneration they receive is for reasonable expenses. If questions are raised about Non-Pro Division eligibility, the rider must be able to document any remuneration.

ii. Collegiate members who are enrolled in an equine program or as part of an educational curriculum are exempt from subparagraph C.2(ii) and (iii) above.

iii. Certification as an instructor in equine therapy by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) or

similar organizations recognized by national equine associations are exempt from subparagraph C.2(ii) and (iii) above, provided the instructor ONLY teaches students enrolled with the recognized organization or rehabilitation prescribed by a medical doctor.

4. **Limited Non-Pro Division Eligibility**: Students who qualify as Non-Pro riders may choose to show in this division because of class routine or other personal choice. Riders may also show in the Open Division or Non-Pro Division without losing their eligibility in the Limited Non-Pro Division. Riders in this division will work a modified version of the working cow horse class that will not involve turns down the fence, or circling, or roping. (See LTD Non-Pro class rules for specifics on rules for this division.)

5. **Intermediate Division Eligibility.** The Intermediate Division is reserved for individuals with moderate riding and showing experience.

i. The rider must meet all Non-Pro Division eligibility requirements listed above. Additionally, **if riders accept remuneration for horse training as part of participation in a collegiate program or accept remuneration for interning/working for an equine professional loping horses or assisting with other aspects of training while primarily horseback as part of participation in a collegiate program, the rider is not eligible for Intermediate Division. They can retain their Non-Pro and Limited Non-Pro status provided they comply with all other Non-Pro Division eligibility requirements listed above.**

ii. The rider has not won any combination of two (2) champion or reserve champion titles in Intermediate Division, Limited Non-Pro Division, Non-Pro Division, Open Division, Youth Division, or Junior Horse Division at any show; or two (2) cumulative year-end awards in SHTX, ASHA, State 4-H All Around titles or other NIRSHA recognized associations; more than ten (10) points in any breed association (AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around, etc.); or $500 in a national organization (NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, etc.) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.)

iii. If a rider loses Intermediate Division eligibility through competition, he or she may finish that year as an Intermediate rider. Thereafter, the rider is eligible only for Limited Non-Pro Division, Non-Pro Division, or Open Division.

iv. Riders in this division will work Limited Non-Pro Division reining patterns and cow horse patterns. (See Limited Non-Pro Reining and Working Cow Horse class rules for specifics on rules for this division.)

v. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

6. **Novice Division Eligibility**. The Novice Division is reserved for students with limited riding and showing experience.

i. The rider must meet all Non-Pro Division eligibility requirements listed above. **Additionally, if riders accept remuneration for horse training as part of participation in a collegiate program or accept remuneration for interning/working for an equine professional loping horses or assisting with other aspects of training while primarily horseback as part of participation in a collegiate program, the rider is not eligible for Novice Division. They can retain their Non-Pro and Limited Non-Pro status provided they comply with all other Non-Pro Division eligibility requirements listed above.**

ii. The rider has not won more than two (2) champion or reserve champion all-around titles at any show or cumulative year-end award in a division with more than fifteen (15) entries or three (3) champion or reserve champion titles with less than fifteen (15) entries within SHTX, ASHA, **State 4-H All Around titles** or other NIRSHA recognized associations; more than five (5) points in any breed association (AQHA, APHA, AQHA VRH All Around, etc.); or $250 in a national organization (NCHA, NRCHA, NRHA, RHAA, etc.) in any western performance discipline (western pleasure, working cow horse, reining, cutting, trail, etc.) Novice/Level 1 class points are NOT included.

iii. A rider has not won two collegiate champion or reserve champion all-around titles at any show with more than fifteen (15) entries or three (3) collegiate champion reserve champion titles with less than fifteen (15) entries the division at SHTX, ASHA, NRCHA or other similar NIRSHA recognized collegiate competition. A rider has also not won any collegiate year-end or cumulative collegiate SHTX, ASHA, NRCHA or other similar NIRSHA recognized collegiate competition World Show champion or reserve champion all-around titles.

iv. If a rider loses Novice eligibility through competition, he or she may finish that year as a Novice rider. Thereafter, the rider is eligible only for Limited Non-Pro Division, Non-Pro Division, or Open Division.

v. Riders in this division will work a Novice Working Cow Horse Pattern (boxing only). The cow horse pattern is a shortened version of cow work that will not involve turns down the fence, circling or roping. (See Novice Working Cow Horse class rules for specifics on rules for this division.)

vi. Stallions are prohibited in this division.

3.02 Teams.

A. **Division I.** NIRSHA Collegiate Ranch/Stock Horse Team shall consist of six (6) members and shall consist of two (2) designated representatives in each of the divisions of Open/Non-Pro, Limited Non-Pro/Intermediate and Novice; two (2) from Open/Non-Pro; two (2)

from Limited Non-Pro/Intermediate; and two (2) from Novice. A school may enter a team with less than six (6) members as its representative, but not less than four (4) members or they must compete as individuals. Each team member must ride a different horse.

B. Division II. NIRSHA Collegiate Ranch/Stock Horse Team shall consist of four (4) members from the divisions of Limited Non-Pro/Intermediate and Novice. Any combination of members from these divisions may be used. It is not required that a team have two (2) members in each division. A Member Institution may enter a team with less than four (4) members as its representative, but not less than three (3) members or they must compete as individuals. Each team member must ride a different horse.

C. Calculation of Points for Collegiate Team Riders and Team.

1. Points in each class in each division are calculated on the total number of collegiate teams represented, not on the number of collegiate individual entries. ***Example:*** With six (6) teams represented, there may be twelve-point riders in each class in each division. The highest points a team rider can earn in each class is twelve (12). The points would be 1-12. When teams have less than six (6) and four (4) or more members, there will still be twelve (12) points to be earned in each class in each division. If one team has only one (1) Non-Pro Division point rider leaving only 11-point riders in the class, the highest placing rider in the division will still receive twelve (12) points. Incomplete teams with at least four (4) members shall be eligible for team awards if their team totals exceed those of teams having complete teams.

2. Team entry forms must be completed and submitted to show office prior to start of show

D. Alternate Team Point Rider.

1. Each coach of a Division I and II team will designate, on the Team Point Rider Form provided by the show secretary, an Alternate Team Point Rider (Alternate) for each division.

2. In the case of an illness (e.g., colic), injury or lameness of a Team Point Rider's horse before the show is complete, the original Team Point Rider and Horse combination can be scratched from the show and would NOT be allowed to return to competition at that show. The illness, injury or lameness of the horse will be verified by one of the following: (i) a licensed veterinarian, or (ii) an objective third-party designated by the show secretary or NIRSHA Board of Directors such as a licensed AQHA/APHA/NRCHA judge on the grounds (similar to a Show Representative at an NRCHA show). Lameness may be verified by the third-party with a live lameness exam or with a video of horse. Third party may be asked to evaluate the soundness of the horse using the accepted AAEP lameness scale used in AQHA and other shows (1-5; horse dismissed from class with a 3 or above score).

3. In case of a Team Point Rider becoming ill, injured, etc., that rider may be scratched (with documentation from a Medical Doctor, Emergency Clinic, etc.) and would NOT be allowed to return to competition at that show.

4. When a Team Point Rider or Horse is scratched, any scores and placings they have received up until that point will be deleted for the purposes of Team Point totals (but any scores already recorded may be considered for Individual or Individual Go-Round awards for that particular class), and the scores and placings for the Alternate will be included in the calculations for that Team's Point totals.

5. Only one Alternate will be designated per division.

ARTICLE IV

COMPETITION AWARDS

4.01 Collegiate Team High Point and Reserve High Point Team Award.

A. Will be awarded if at least three teams from different Member Institutions are entered.

B. For Collegiate Team awards, each team will be allowed to utilize points from two (2) riders per division (Open/Non-Pro, Limited Non-Pro, and Novice) and these point riders will be determined at the time of entry by their coaches. Only the points that these two (2) riders earned against other point riders in their division will be counted towards naming a champion and reserve champion collegiate stock horse team of the competition.

4.02 Collegiate Individual All-Around Awards.

A. Collegiate Individual All-Around and Class Awards may be awarded in approved Collegiate-Only Shows or Collegiate Team Challenges at the option of show management.

B. To be eligible for Collegiate Individual All-Around Awards, a collegiate rider must compete in all four (4) classes within the division. Awards are based on points from all four (4) classes within the division.

CERTIFICATE BY SECRETARY

The undersigned, being the secretary of the NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RANCH AND STOCK HORSE ASSOCIATION, a Texas nonprofit corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing code of Eligibility Rules and Regulations was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said Organization effective on July 10, 2024.

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ANDREA REGO, Secretary