



**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 16, 2023 – Weatherford, TX 76086**

**Roll call:** Charles Cannizzaro, Michael Tidwell, Phil Harris, Kevin Dukes, Janet Gunn, Cody Parrish, Denton DeBuhr, Mike Hachtel, Maggie Bellville, Carla Wennberg, Kelly McDowall, Laina Banks, Lori Bucholz, Stacey Roberson, Clay MacLeod, Chris Jones. Past Presidents: Patti Campbell, Ken Banks. Staff: Stephanie Lynn (Executive Director), Nicole Barnes, Morgan Kauffman, Elise Sheard, Chris Hernandez, Sue Ellen Kaven, Bill Kaven

**Regular Business**

President's Message – presented by Cannizzaro

*\*\*Minutes January meeting – approved as presented*

Report of the Association – presented by Lynn

*\*\*Financial report Association – presented by Tidwell – reminder of added money to WS in 2022 – approved as presented*

Financial report Foundation – no action

Financial report NOHSA – no action

**Reports**

International Report - presented by Kaven, specialized European NSBA judges card applied for by 10+ judges approved with AQHA/APHA, increases seen in memberships, registration and international show applications

Financial Advisory Group – presented by Harris

Foundation – presented by Beth Hartman (Foundation chair)

Judges Committee – presented by B. Kaven/MacLeod, review perceived decline of participation in rail classes, looking to improve exhibitor feedback in rail class, recommendation from committee to make no changes to the current judging procedure of rail classes, recommended development of guidelines for scored rail class as an optional class for show managers

**2024 Proposed Rule Changes**

21. d) Two Year Olds shown in Longe Line or In Hand Trail may not show in any class under saddle at the same show.

**86. GREEN**

The purpose of the Green classes is to allow a horse to compete on an entry-level field with horses of the same level of experience. The Green class is a stepping-stone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.

a) Any two year old or older horse may participate. Per Rule #54: Two year olds may not be shown prior to July 1st in any class shown astride, except where Dual Approved allows entry.

b) In Western classes, horses regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by NSBA or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under NSBA Western Equipment rules (Rule #134). ~~Horses six years of age and older MUST be shown in a standard western curb bit.~~ In English classes, horses must be ridden with approved equipment per NSBA English Equipment

Add to 134. Western Equipment

Any horse of any age shown in any Novice Youth, Novice Amateur or Green class may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore.

134. d) Snaffle or Hackamore entries may be shown with both hands on the reins or with one hand on the reins, as long as that hand is not be changed. When showing with both hands on the reins, the rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and no further than 4" out on either side of the saddle horn. Rider's hands must be steady and should be visible to the judge(s) at all times. Reins must be bridged with the tails of the reins on the opposite side of the neck. Exception: in ranch classes, only one rein may be crossed over the neck and held with two hands. When showing with one hand on the reins, the hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Closed reins (example: Mecate) may not be used with any snaffle bit, except in ranch classes, where a mecate is permitted. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

134. h) Prohibited Equipment

4) Splint boots or leg wraps except in Horsemanship and Ranch Riding Performance classes.

136

e) Any Two year old horse having been shown with a NSBA English approved bit is also eligible to show in the Two year old NSBA Western Events in a NSBA Western approved bit.

f) Optional Equipment

1) English Spurs that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber/stainless-steel ball or disc and no longer than 1".

Acceptable and Not Acceptable Hand Positions When Riding Two Handed

145. Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore with both hands on the reins or with one hand on the reins, as long as that hand is not be changed. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck and bridged when riding with two hands on split reins. Exception: in ranch classes, only one rein may be crossed over the neck and held with two hands. Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in ranch classes, where a mecate is permitted. Rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than four (4) inches (10.16cm) out on either side of the saddle horn with very limited movement.

Western Pleasure

150. DISQUALIFICATIONS

a) Changing hands or two hands on reins, except when showing with a hackamore or snaffle bit

b) More than one finger between the reins

c) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently, except in Novice Non Pro or Novice Youth/Amateur which are faults, scored according to severity.

d) Fall to the ground by horse and/or rider. Refer to Rule #128 j)

e) Failure to back more than 2 strides or 4 steps with the front legs.

f) Excessive schooling or training.

Hunter Under Saddle

219. FAULTS

~~c) Faults which shall be cause for disqualification, except in Novice Non Pro or Novice Youth which are faults, scored according to severity:~~

220. DISQUALIFICATIONS

a) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently, except in Novice Non Pro or Novice Youth/Amateur which are faults, scored according to severity.

b) Fall to the ground by horse and/or rider. Refer to Rule #128 j).

c) Failure to back more than 2 strides or 4 steps with the front legs.

d) Excessive schooling or training

Rule 227 d)

221. FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLD WORKING HUNTER

a) Horses are to jump fences 2'6" 2'9"-3'0" in height.

222. SIX YEAR OLD AND OVER WORKING HUNTER

a) Horses are to jump fences 2'9" 3'0"-3'3" in height.

223. PROGRESSIVE WORKING HUNTER

a) Horses of all ages that have not earned 10 points in any NSBA recognized equine association or The Jockey Club, approved Working Hunter classes excluding Green Working Hunter points as of January 1 of the current show year. Points from all divisions, cumulative – Youth, Amateur, and Open will count. Novice points will not count. Eligibility of the horse is on the honor system and can be subject to verification through NSBA records, Equistat, and/or NSBA recognized equine associations. A horse is eligible to compete only one time in the Progressive Working Hunter class at the NSBA World Show.

b) To jump fences 2'9" in height.

224. GREEN WORKING HUNTER

a) To jump fences 2'6"-3'0" in height.

225. ALL AGED WORKING HUNTER

a) Horses are to jump fences ~~2'6"-3'0"~~ 2'9"-3'3" in height.

226. NON PRO WORKING HUNTER

a) Horses are to jump fences 2'9"-3'0" in height.

227. d. Minimum height for Junior horses, Non Pro, Youth and Amateur classes must be two feet nine inches (~~90~~ 84 cm), with a maximum of three feet (~~90cm~~ ~~three inches (1 meter)~~); heights for Senior Horses must be a minimum of ~~three feet (90 cm)~~ with a maximum of ~~three feet three inches (1 meter)~~ ~~two feet nine inches (90 cm)~~, with a maximum of ~~three feet six inches (1.07 meters)~~, and all-ages must be a minimum of three feet (90 cm) with a maximum of three feet three inches (1 meter) (~~110 cm~~).

Scoring

228. c) General

5) In cases of broken equipment, that does not potentially endanger any exhibitor, the rider may either continue without penalty, or stop and correct the difficulty and be penalized the same as any loss of forward impulsion.

361. GENERAL RULES FOR TACK AND EQUIPMENT

g) EWD Acceptable adaptive equipment includes but not limited to:

4) WHIPS

a. One or two whips no longer than 3 feet 3 1/2 inches (1 meter), including the lash.

Whips that are weighted at the end are prohibited.

*\*\*Motion to approve – approved as presented*

**Unfinished Business**

Portal Project – presented by Hernandez, NSBA coordinating with 4D, testing in June with board invited to participate in beta testing, project intended to go live in August in conjunction with the World Show

Bylaw Review – first notification of bylaw amendment, to be discussed in full in September

**BYLAWS OF THE  
NATIONAL SNAFFLE BIT  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ARTICLE I  
Name and Statement of Purpose**

**Section 1.** This corporation shall be known as the National Snaffle Bit Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the association or NSBA)

**Section 2.** The purpose of the National Snaffle Bit Association, Inc., is to define, promote and improve the quality of the show horse; to promote exhibits, events, contests expositions and shows; to promote the training of show horses; to promote interest in showing horses. ~~among the younger horsemen~~, to use and to encourage the use of the standard rules for holding and judging contests of the show horse so as to encourage the development and betterment of this type of horse through a system of awards, using income from membership, programs etc. of the association ~~from entry fees, gate receipts, and donations~~ to meet the necessary expenses of this Association.

**ARTICLE II  
Members**

**Section 1.** There will be one class of LIFETIME membership and each lifetime member will have one vote. The vote of lifetime

members will not be transferable by proxies or otherwise. There will be one class of REGULAR membership and each regular member will have one vote. The vote of regular members will not be transferable by proxies or otherwise. There will be one class of YOUTH membership. Youth members shall be for those persons eighteen (18) years of age and under on January 1 of the current year. YOUTH members will have all rights and privileges of LIFETIME and REGULAR members, except the right to vote. A non-voting HONORARY membership may be bestowed on any person or business at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All persons, firms, partnerships, ranches, farms and organizations interested in the philosophy and ideals of the Association may become members.

**Section 2.** Each LIFETIME member, REGULAR member and YOUTH member shall pay ~~these dues as that from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Said Annual~~ dues shall become due and payable on January 1 of each year and shall be delinquent ~~by that date in February 1.~~ Members failing to pay the annual dues ~~by such date in February 1,~~ shall be considered delinquent and will forfeit all rights and privileges of participation in any activities of the Association. Each member shall receive an annual membership card upon payment of his/her dues and such membership card shall be non-transferable. The membership card shall be in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors and each member, by accepting the membership card, shall be deemed to have agreed to comply with all provisions of the Bylaws and other rules and regulations of the Association.

### ARTICLE III Membership Meetings

**Section 1.** The annual meeting of the membership of the Association shall be held at a place and date determined by the Board of Directors. This shall be published in the National Snaffle Bit Association newsletter or other such generally circulated publications. No less than a 30 day notice must be given for annual membership meeting.

**Section 2.** Special meetings of the membership may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors or by the President and shall be called by the Board of Directors if the Executive Director receives written, dated and signed demands for a special meeting, describing the purpose for which it is to be held, from no less than ten (10) percent of the voting members of the Association. Notice of the time and place of the holding of any such special meeting of the membership shall be sent by regular mail or email to all members at the address indicated in the Association records at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.

**Section 3.** The members present shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the members providing there are no less than 13 members present. The number of voting members of the Association required to constitute a quorum to conduct business in any meeting shall be as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

### ARTICLE IV Officers

**Section 1.** The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, President-Elect, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers, except the President, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association and shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly elected or until they are replaced for cause by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the Association and at the meeting of the Board of Directors. He/She shall appoint all committees and committee chairmen. The President, during his/her term of office, may create certain positions, including but not limited to Parliamentarian and Historian, that he/she may deem necessary to advise the office of President or the Board of Directors. Said appointments will run concurrently with his/her term as President. She/he shall perform such duties and exercise such other powers as are usually incident to such office. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees.

**Section 3.** The **President Elect** shall perform the duties of the President whenever the President is absent from any meeting.

**Section 4.** First Vice President and Second Vice President shall have such duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President or Board of Directors

**Section 5.** The **Secretary** shall keep and safeguard a complete and accurate record of all proceedings of the Association, its Board of Directors and standing committee. ~~He/She shall have possession of their records, attend to the proper publication of all reports, conduct official correspondence, attest documents, and perform such other duties as are usual to such office or as may be required by this Association. The secretary shall also issue notice on call to the Board of Directors and members, keep the membership roll, issue membership cards, and conduct, supervise, count and record the balloting of all elections. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and maintain the official minutes.~~

**Section 6.** ~~The **Treasurer** shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and maintain the official records of the association, shall have custody of all monies of the Association and shall keep regular books of accounts. He/She shall oversee the disbursement of the funds of the Association in Payment of just demands against the Association, taking proper vouchers for such disbursement. He/She shall render to the annual meeting of the Association, the Executive Committee, and Board of Directors, Finance Committee, from time to time as may be required of him/her, an accounting of all his/her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the association. A surety bond will be provided for the Treasurer, the premium of which will be paid out of Association's funds. Written financial statements for the calendar year shall be presented to the membership at each annual meeting. The Treasurer shall Chair the Finance and Audit Committees and consults with the Executive Director and President to ensure that all financial reports to the Board, filings, and the annual audit are completed in a timely fashion.~~

**Section 7.** **Executive Committee** shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, First and Second Vice Presidents of the Association. This committee will serve as the base for the hearing committee for all disciplinary actions and would also serve as a planning committee to allow for a smoother flow of business and goals between incoming and outgoing Presidents.

Recommendations from the Executive Committee will be brought before the Board of Directors for final review and approval.

**Section 8. Executive Director.** The Executive Director is the chief operating officer of NSBA, and pursuant to the direction of the Board of Directors, shall implement the actions, decisions and directions of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; shall manage NSBA's physical facilities and personnel. The Executive Director shall be the custodian for the safekeeping of all documents and records of NSBA and authority of such. She/He shall collect all monies due the NSBA and report to the Treasurer and Board of Directors. ~~turn the records over to the Treasurer.~~ She/He shall be the ex-officio secretary of all standing committees appointed by the President. She/He shall make a report of his/her office to the Board of Directors when demanded and to the annual membership meeting, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

## **ARTICLE V Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The management of the affairs, property, business and control of policy is vested in the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors of this Association shall consist of the current officers, all Past Presidents, and twelve (12) additional members appointed by the President and confirmed by a majority of the current officers. The twelve (12) additional members will have revolving terms rotating in 3 sets of 3 year cycles.

**Section 3.** The Board of Directors will meet annually prior to the annual membership meeting to conduct business deemed necessary for the Association. Other meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or five (5) members of said Board of Directors on at least one (1) month prior to written notice delivered by regular mail or electronic means facsimile.

**Section 4.** ~~Thirteen (13)~~ ~~Four (4)~~ members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. A majority of such quorum may decide any business that comes before this meeting. The Board of Directors reserves the right to move to a closed executive session at any Board meeting excusing all non-voting members from the meeting.

**Section 5.** Each member of the Board of Directors including all Past Presidents shall accept the responsibility of attending all meetings. In the event that a member fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings, such member shall be removed from the Board of Directors.

**Section 6.** Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the President and confirmed by a majority of the current officers.

**Section 7.** "Vote by mail ~~or facsimile~~ or electronic mail" procedure may be used by the Board of Directors when requested by a member. A copy of the statement or motion from the Association shall be sent to each member and with "approval" or "disapproval" written and signed by the member. It must be returned to the Association office within five business (5) days. The results of the voting will be tabulated and reported to the members within five business (5) days.

a) The results of voting, when properly conducted, shall have the same force and as effect though resulting from a Board of Directors meeting.

**Section 8.** The President shall vote only in the event of a tie vote of those members voting.

**Section 9.** Indemnification: NSBA shall indemnify and hold harmless any officer, director, director at large, employee, their personal representatives and heirs, against reasonable legal expenses, judgment, and expenses of settlement which NSBA previously approves, actually and reasonably incurred in connection with an actual or threatened legal proceeding. If such person acted legally, in good faith and was duly authorized to act on behalf of NSBA in the transaction from which legal liability arose which was official NSBA business (except in relation to matters as to which she/he shall have been guilty of negligence or misconduct in respect to the matter in which indemnity is sought). To preserve this right of indemnity, such litigation, whereupon NSBA shall have the right to direct defense thereof, including, but not limited to, selection of counsel, and direction of settlement negotiations.

## **ARTICLE VI Rules and Regulations**

**Section 1.** From time to time the Board of Directors shall establish rules and regulations for the presentation and judging of the National Snaffle Bit Association events. The rules and regulations so adopted shall be changed, modified or repealed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Any changes in rules or regulations adopted during any year will be effective on January 1 of the following year, or at an earlier date should it appear imperative for the well being of the Association. Membership will be notified of any rule or regulation changes prior to their implementation.

**Section 3.** Any proposed changes in rules or regulations proposed from the floor of any annual meeting must be considered and voted upon by the ~~newly elected~~ Board of Directors at the next convened Board of Directors meeting. ~~within fifteen (15) business days after said annual meeting and~~ If adopted by the Board, the rule will be effective on January 1 of the following year, or at an earlier date should it appear imperative to the wellbeing of the Association. Membership will be notified of any rule or regulation changes prior to their implementation.

**Section 4.** Any charges of infraction of the rules and regulations of this Association shall be registered in writing, signed, and filed with the Association's Executive Director of the National Snaffle Bit Association who will investigate said charge and make subsequent recommendation for the handling of such matter to the Executive Committee for review and/or hearing.

**Section 5.** Each NSBA approved judge shall receive a current, complete set of Bylaws and Rules and Regulations each year. The current official handbook is available online at [www.nsba.com](http://www.nsba.com).

**Section 6.** Show management will receive one (1) current, complete set of Bylaws and Rules and Regulations provided to them by the National Snaffle Bit Association.

## **ARTICLE VII**

## Elections

**Section 1.** Prior to the annual membership meeting each year, the Nominating Committee, made up of the current President, President Elect, and Past Presidents, shall recommend a person for each office to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall report its findings to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations shall also be received from the floor at the annual membership meeting. Nominees must have served for no less than two years on the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Any lifetime or regular member in good standing of the Association may vote at the annual meeting of the officers to be elected.

## ARTICLE VIII Amendments

**Section 1.** Suggestions for repeal, modification or amendment of the Bylaws may be made by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all lifetime and regular members in good standing present and voting. Such changes may be adopted by two-third (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special called meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Bylaws may also be changed or amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at two (2) consecutive meetings provided that such proposed changes be published ~~in~~ by the National Snaffle Bit Association on the NSBA website newsletter thirty (30) days prior to the second of the two (2) consecutive meeting whereafter lifetime and regular members in good standing of the Association may express written opinion of the proposed changes to Secretary of the Association who shall inform the Committee of such objections. The Board of Directors shall consider these objections in its decision to ratify or further modify or amend such Bylaw changes as voted upon at the second of such two (2) consecutive meetings. Such changes and amendments to the Bylaws so voted by the Board of Directors shall become effective on January 1 of the following year.

## ARTICLE IX Recognized Equine Associations

The Association hereby recognizes the following equine associations:

1. American Paint Horse Association
2. American Quarter Horse Association
3. Appaloosa Horse Club
4. Palomino Horse Breeders of America
5. International Buckskin Horse Association
6. Pinto Horse Association
7. Pony of America Club
8. American Buckskin Registry Association
9. Jockey Club

Additional equine associations may be recognized if they request same and provide proof of their efforts to promote better show horses.

## ARTICLE X Distribution of Assets Upon Dissolution of the Association

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association to the "NSBA Foundation." Any such assets not so disposed shall be disposed by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principle office of the Association is then located.

NOHSA Status – presented by Lynn, NSBA to maintain NOHSA owned subsidiary – bylaw changes to be presented to NOHSA board

EWD Halter – presented by Sheard, taskforce recommendation for rule change in 2024:

### **NEW RULE: EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES HALTER**

#### **# CLASS FORMAT**

Refer to Rule 164 for description with the following additional conditions:

In EWD Halter the Handler should be positioned immediately to the left of the exhibitor for the entirety of the class unless actively tracking the horse. If an EWD exhibitor is unable to safely track the horse, their designated handler may track the horse in their stead. The request for tracking assistance must be declared on the entry prior to participation.

#### **# ELIGIBLE HORSES**

Refer to Rule 53 & 54 with the exception that stallions are not eligible to be shown.

#### **# HALTER EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE**

Class can be shown English or western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor/handler. (Refer to Rule 133 for equipment)

## **# SEX DIVISIONS**

The EWD Halter classes will be offered based on sex divisions (mare & gelding only). The classes may be combined at show management discretion if there are less than three entries in either division.

## **# JUDGING**

Refer to Rule 168 for description and judging with the following exceptions: Contestants that do not get their horse set up for inspection long enough to allow for proper inspection of all 4 sides are not to be placed over any contestant that completes the set up and inspection but will not be disqualified. Handlers may not set-up the horse for inspection. Any horse set-up by the handler is not to be placed over any other contestant that did not have set-up assistance but will not be disqualified.

Entries who fail to complete the prescribed trot off for soundness pattern in three attempts are not to be placed over any entry that completes the trot off for soundness pattern but will not be disqualified.

All rules referencing handlers including rule 362, apply once the handler has completed tracking.

If applicable this class will be eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion selection unless the class was combined.

Recommendation to place in front of Showmanship.

*\*\*Motion to approve – approved as presented*

## **New Business**

Brand Update – presented by Barnes, new logo presented to directors, review trademark with Willow, SEO optimization/google search

## **Announcements**

2023 Board Meeting Dates:

- *September 19, 2023 – Denver SPUR Center, The Source Hotel 3330 Brighton Blvd, Denver, CO 80216*  
<https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.ashx?propertyCode=DENTS&group=CORNSB>  
A
- *December 8, 2023 – Las Vegas in conjunction with Tomorrows Horsemen Class II graduation, MGM Grand Hotel & Casino, 3799 S Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109*  
<https://book.passkey.com/go/NSB1223>

*Motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned 9:22 pm.*