

# General Horseback Rules

- All NCA Code of Conduct, and NCA General Rules apply to the horseback classes.
- The Horseback Open and Horseback Intermediate class will be offered to qualified dogs/handlers at the NCA National Finals.
- The Horseback Open and/or Horseback Intermediate class may be offered at NCA Regional Finals if the Regional host chooses to do so.
- Horses may be limited to a walk or trot at the trial host's discretion.

## Open Horseback

- Any dog of any age may compete in the NCA Open Horseback class.
- Any handler may compete in the NCA Open Horseback class.
- A handler who has competed in any Open cattle class is no longer eligible to compete in the NCA Intermediate Horseback Class.

## Intermediate Horseback

- Dogs of any age may compete in the NCA Intermediate Horseback class.
- An Intermediate Horseback handler/dog team may compete in any class, except Open, for which the dog is eligible.
- NCA Intermediate Horseback class points are awarded to the handler/dog team.
- A NCA Intermediate Horseback handler may acquire a dog of any level at any time during the qualifying year and make that dog part of his/her Intermediate Horseback team.
- Because any NCA Intermediate Horseback points earned are assigned only to that handler/dog team, any NCA Intermediate Horseback points earned by a dog in the NCA Intermediate Horseback class are not transferable to another Intermediate Horseback handler.

- A dog that is part of an Intermediate Horseback team may not be run in any class by an Open handler or by another Intermediate handler. However, that dog may be run in a Novice class by any Novice handler without penalty to the Intermediate team.
- If an NCA Intermediate Horseback handler allows an Open handler or another Intermediate Horseback handler to run a dog in their team in ANY class during the qualifying year, then the following will apply:
  - The team will forfeit any NCA Intermediate Horseback points earned up to that date.
  - The Intermediate Horseback team is disqualified from earnings points for the remainder of the qualifying year.
  - The Intermediate Horseback team is no longer eligible to compete in the Intermediate Horseback class at that year's NCA Regional Finals or NCA National Finals.
- Intermediate Horseback handlers may move up from Intermediate Horseback to Open at any time during the qualifying year. If they elect to do so, the following will apply:
  - Once they have run in an Open cattle class, they may not move back down to earn NCA Intermediate Horseback points.
  - Any NCA Intermediate Horseback points earned up to that date will be forfeited and that handler may not earn any further NCA Intermediate Horseback points.
  - They are no longer eligible to compete in the Intermediate Horseback class at that year's NCA Regional Finals or NCA National Finals.
- At the end of a qualifying year, the top two NCA Intermediate Horseback point earning handlers are no longer eligible for the NCA Intermediate Horseback class.
- At the conclusion of the NCA National Finals, that year's Champion and Reserve Champion Intermediate Horseback handlers are no longer eligible for the NCA Intermediate Horseback class.
- If an Intermediate handler is moved out of Intermediate by rule in a local association, the NCA will honor that move-up beginning in the next qualifying year. At that time, that handler will no longer be eligible for the NCA Intermediate Horseback class.

- If it is determined that a handler has run in an NCA Intermediate Horseback class who is not eligible for that class, that handler will be removed from the class results and not counted in the points calculation for that Intermediate Horseback class.