

STANDING RULE 35. The following provisions regarding members' conduct shall apply at all NCHA approved or sponsored shows. The responsibility for reporting violations of this Standing Rule rests with, but is not limited to, show management, NCHA Directors, officers, officials, and the judges.

A. Zero Tolerance Policy

Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner is strictly prohibited. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse. Any act of inhumane treatment, abuse or intent to abuse a horse will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner as provided for in this Standing Rule. This Zero Tolerance Policy covers acts occurring not only in the show arena, but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds—the warm-up area, practice pen or any other location.

The “Zero Tolerance” policy encompasses all of the following acts:

1. **Horse Abuse:** Horse Abuse includes: excessive jerking; cueing; whipping; use of lip wire or similar device; slapping or hitting a horse on the head, or any other part of the body, one time or more than one time, in any manner, either with the rider's hands, reins or any other object; using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face; using any object held in the rider's hand to hit a horse; or any other act which may cause trauma or injury to a horse.
2. **Inhumane treatment:** Inhumane Treatment is the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress. The decision of show management or

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judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management or a judge determines, in the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, show management or a judge may immediately implement any action allowed by this Zero Tolerance rule.

3. **Administration of injectable or oral medications or possession of any drug paraphernalia** while in the show arena, practice arenas, alleys leading into the arenas or any other public areas of the show grounds is strictly prohibited unless administered in a life-saving situation which should only be done based on consultation with a veterinarian. Any member observing activity that violates this rule should immediately report such conduct to the NCHA Executive Director and/ or Show Management. If Show Management receives such a complaint, it is required to immediately forward the complaint in its original form to the NCHA Executive Director. The NCHA office will provide complaint forms to all show management for reporting a possible violation of this rule. Use of such form is encouraged,

but is not required.

4. If show management or a judge at any NCHA approved or sponsored event discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, they may immediately bar the responsible party and contestant's horse from further competition in the event and the judge will give a score of zero. The Executive Director must be notified within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show involved, and the complaint will be referred to the appropriate NCHA Committee for investigation and consideration.
5. All NCHA approved or sponsored shows are required to post signs concerning the NCHA Zero Tolerance Policy at the entrance to all official practice areas. The signs shall be no smaller than 24 inches square and shall contain wording as provided by the NCHA.
6. Any reported violation under this Zero Tolerance Policy will be treated as a complaint under NCHA Rule 37 and be considered in accordance with the procedures contained in NCHA Rules 37 and 38. No filing fee is required for reporting any violation under this rule. Each person found to be involved in a violation of this rule (including but not limited to trainers and their assistants or employees, owners and contestants) may each be subject to receiving the following discipline:
 - 1st Offense: \$1,000 fine and 6 months' probation or some period of suspension
 - 2nd Offense: \$5,000 fine and 12 months' probation or some period of suspension
 - 3rd Offense: \$10,000 fine and 6 months' suspensionThe foregoing are only guidelines for discipline that may be

assessed. The disciplinary measures in the guidelines can be increased or decreased as appropriate by the Grievance Committee

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or Appeals Committee depending upon the circumstances and the nature of the violation.

Notwithstanding the guidelines listed above, any violation involving use of any device in a horse's mouth including without limitation, lip wire or other similar device, other than a bit authorized by the Rules, will be punished by an automatic \$1,000 fine and six (6) months suspension.