STANDING RULE 35. The following provisions regarding mem- bers' 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

judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show man- agement 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 Toler- ance rule.