



NZCHA  
JUDGES  
CASEBOOK  
*2019*

The purpose of this Casebook is to provide for a more uniform interpretation and application of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests as found in the NZCHA Rule Book. It expresses the official interpretation of the New Zealand Cutting Horse Association Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Contests.

This Casebook is provided to the membership of the NZCHA as a tool in judging, showing and preparing horses for showing.

## Definitions

### **CUTTER:**

For the purpose of this casebook, the term CUTTER refers to the contestant and his/her horse as a working unit. From time to time the unit will be divided. In these instances the text will describe the activities of the contestant and his/her horse separately.

### **RULING:**

For the purpose of this casebook, the term RULING refers to the action that shall be taken by the Judge.

### **NOTE:**

For the purpose of this casebook, the term NOTE signifies further explanation of a RULING

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## **JUDGING RULE 1**

**Each horse is required to enter the herd sufficiently deep enough to show its ability to make a cut. One such deep cut will satisfy this rule. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in a three (3) point penalty.**

**a) A horse will be given credit for its ability to enter the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the one brought out.**

### **EXAMPLE 1.**

As the Cutter approaches the herd, one cow voluntarily walks out of the herd. The Cutter turns and cuts that cow and works it. When he/she begins to cut his/her second cow, another volunteer steps out and the Cutter cuts it. He/ she works that cow. The Cutter then rides deep into the herd for his/her third cow, but before the third cow is separated from the other cattle the buzzer sounds.

#### **RULING:**

Assess a three (3) point penalty for failing to make a deep cut sometime during the work.

### **EXAMPLE 2.**

In a herd of 45 cattle, a Cutter cuts two cows cleanly and is working the second cow when the buzzer sounds. Each time the Cutter cuts, he/she allows three cows to come around and cuts the third cow.

#### **RULING:**

Three (3) cows may or may not be enough cattle to satisfy the requirements of Rule One. If the cutter rode to the edge of the herd and peeled the three cows, the Judge shall rule that no deep cut was made and assess a three (3) point penalty. If the Cutter actually rode deep into the herd and drove the cows out, or started more than three (3) cows out and eventually cut from the three (3), the Judge shall rule that the requirements of Rule One are satisfied.

### **EXAMPLE 3.**

A Cutter rides deep into the herd and starts a significant portion of the cattle out on his/her right side. When the cattle are in front of the Cutter, he/she steps to make his/her cut, the flow of cattle stops and the cattle reverse the flow and begin to return to the herd on the Cutter's right side. The Cutter cuts the last available cow so that no cows actually come around on the Cutter's left side.

\*

**RULING:**

The Cutter has satisfied the requirements of Rule One.

NOTE: In ruling on Rule One, it is more important for a judge to consider the depth and route taken by the Cutter than it is to count the number of cows that move around his/her horse. It is necessary, however, for the Cutter to actually get behind some cattle before Rule 1 is satisfied.

**EXAMPLE 4.**

Cutters A's horse walks quietly into the herd and remains quiet while Cutter A makes his/her cut.

Cutter B's horse walks quietly into the herd but is obviously nervous and moves excessively while Cutter B is making his/her cut.

**RULING:**

Cutter A shall receive more credit for his/her cut than Cutter B.

**EXAMPLE 5.**

While making a cut, Cutter A makes several moves with a cow before he/she is able to separate it from the others. These moves excite both the cow being cut and the cattle around it. While making a cut, Cutter B is able to bring a similar type cow out with very little disturbance to the cow or the herd.

**RULING:**

Cutter B shall receive more credit for his/her cut than Cutter A. In this case the Judge is not penalizing Cutter A; he/she is, however, giving more credit for the job done by Cutter B.

NOTE: While making a cut, no credit shall be given to the horse which is reluctant to take an indicated cow or which obviously resists its rider's choice.

## **JUDGING RULE 2**

**When an animal is cut from the herd, it is more desirable that it be taken toward the centre of the arena, and credit will be given for same.**

**Additional credit will be given to the horse which drives his stock sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by his work, thereby showing his ability to drive a cow.**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

Cutter A and Cutter B have in the Judge's opinion identical works. Cutter A drove his/her stock away from the herd and was never in any danger of disturbing the herd. Cutter B did not disturb the herd either, but Cutter B made no effort to drive away from the herd.

RULING:

Cutter A shall be given more credit for his/her work than Cutter B. In this case, the Judge is not penalizing Cutter B; he/she is, however, giving more credit for the job done by Cutter A.

EXAMPLE 2.

Cutter A and Cutter B have similar works. Both Cutters make first cow and drive it near the centre of the arena. Cutter A then cuts his/her second cow very near the back fence and begins working there. Cutter B cuts his/her second cow very near the centre of the arena. The buzzer sounds while both Cutters are working their second cow.

RULING:

Cutter B shall receive more credit than Cutter A.

EXAMPLE 3.

After the Cutter has made his / her cut and traffic has cleared, Cutter A begins his/her work. Cutter B begins his/her work and continues to drive his/her stock additional distance from the herd.

RULING:

Cutter A is given credit for a good clean cut. Cutter B will receive more credit for driving his/her stock additional distance from the herd, showing his/her ability to drive a cow. This credit(s) can occur at any time in the work.

### **JUDGING RULE 3**

**Riding with a loose rein throughout a performance is a requirement and will be recognised.**

EXAMPLE:

Cutter A and Cutter B have similar works. Neither move their hands after putting their horse on a cow. Cutter A's reins are adjusted so that it is obvious that his/her horse is turned loose. Cutter B's reins are noticeably shorter. The Judge never actually sees Cutter B's reins tighten against the bit.

RULING:

If both are sufficiently loose so that the horse is not influenced then Cutter A and Cutter B have satisfied their requirement of riding with a loose rein. If Cutter B's reins were tight enough to attract the judge's attention even though the bits were not bumped, run content will be lowered.

## **JUDGING RULE 4**

**Credit will be given for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the centre of the arena as possible.**

### **EXAMPLE 1**

Cutter A cuts cleanly and works three cows. He works his second cow entirely on the left one third of the arena. Cutter B has a similar work, except he holds his cows much nearer the centre of the arena.

#### **RULING:**

Cutter B shall receive more credit for his/her work than Cutter A. The Judge shall be careful not to penalize Cutter A: however, Cutter B must receive more credit.

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

Cutter A cuts cleanly and works two cows. He holds both cows very near the centre of the arena.

Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. He holds his first cow very near the centre of the arena. He cuts his second cow and is unable to contain it near the centre of the arena; in fact, the cow runs from fence to fence despite the horse remaining in excellent position. Both Cutter A and Cutter B had penalty free runs that, in the Judge's opinion, had a similar degree of difficulty.

#### **RULING:**

Cutter A shall receive more credit for his/her work than Cutter B. Cutter B has committed no rule infractions; however, the point value of his/her run is less than that of Cutter A.

### **EXAMPLE 3.**

Cutter A and Cutter B each work two cows that create very similar challenges for each Cutter.

Cutter A holds his first cow near the centre of the arena. He works his second cow on the left one-half of the arena. In the Judge's opinion, Cutter A holds a working position on his second cow, but his horse is not going far enough ahead of the cow to prevent it from running near the left fence. Cutter A is stopping the cow on the right side. Cutter B holds both of his cows very near the centre of the arena. Cutter A and Cutter B have penalty free runs.

#### **RULING:**

Cutter B shall receive more credit.

### **EXAMPLE 4.**

During a work the Cutter trails his stock just enough that the cow runs from wall to wall and is never set up and held near the centre of the arena.

\*  
**RULING:**

The horse which ALLOWS its stock to run from wall to wall, because he is trailing, or which rolls out on its turns and lacks control shall not be credited under this rule.

NOTE: The degree of difficulty presented by the stock cut out shall weigh heavily on the judge's decision. Credit must be given to the horse which meets the challenge of a hard charging, fast moving animal without loss of working position and control. Where other considerations are equal, the horse which works a longer time should receive greater credit.

## **JUDGING RULE 5**

**If the cutting horse or his/her rider creates disturbance at any time throughout his/her working period (2.5 minutes) will be penalised.**

- a) Any noise directed by the contestant toward the cattle will be penalized one (1) point.**
- b) Each time a horse runs into the herd, scatters the herd while working or picks up cattle through fault of the horse, he/she will be penalized three (3) points. The entire cow must enter the working area of horse.**
- c) The Judge shall stop any work because of training or abuse of the horse by the contestant or disturbance of the cattle. Any contestant failing to stop immediately will be penalized**

### **EXAMPLE 1:**

While attempting to make a cut in sticky cattle, the Cutter makes noise to cause the cattle to separate. This noise is clearly audible to the Judge.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

While attempting to make a cut, the Cutter's helpers make noise that is audible to the Judge.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 3:**

During a work, three (3) cows run out of the herd and on past the turn-back horses. In the Judge's opinion the Cutter did not cause the cattle to leave the herd.

RULING:

No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

The Cutter works three (3) cows. He/she is forced to legally quit his/her first (2) cows because his/her horse runs into the herd to cause one or more cows to enter the working area of the horse.

RULING:

Assess a three (3) point penalty each time the horse runs into the herd. Total penalty of six (6) points.

NOTE: Working area of the horse is defined as an imaginary line paralleling a straight line connecting the outer limits of the back fence and being in front of the horse's head.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

The Cutter is working his/her third cow when the buzzer sounds. The quits in his/her run are legal; however, each time he/she quits working, his/her horse was very close to the cattle in the herd, and the cattle actually moved away from the Cutter's horse. The Cutter's herd holders were able to contain the cattle so that no cattle actually escaped from the herd.

RULING:

No penalty.

NOTE: Running into the herd shall not be called unless the Cutter creates enough disturbances to cause one (1) or more cattle to actually enter the working area of the horse.

**EXAMPLE 6A:**

The Cutter's horse is very near the herd while holding a tough cow. Before the Cutter can find a legal opportunity to quit the cow, three (3) cows run out of the herd and join the cow being worked. The Judge is certain that the Cutter caused the cattle to enter the working area of the horse.

RULING:

Assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**EXAMPLE 6B:**

The cutter is driving three cattle away from the herd: a red cow, a black cow and a white cow. He drives the red cow forward causing the white cow and black cow to step to his right, behind the horse's buttocks. As he starts to work the red cow, the black cow and white cow join the red cow. He quits as the red cow turns away.

RULING

No penalty

NOTE: Picking up cattle will not be charged in this instance because the white cow and black cow had never become

part of the body of the herd. The white cow and black cow in this instance would have been considered “traffic”.

**EXAMPLE 7:**

The Cutter quits legally and four cows leave the herd almost simultaneously.

RULING:

The Judge must decide if the Cutter was at fault. If the Judge rules that the Cutter ran into the herd and caused the cattle to leave, assess a three (3) point penalty. If the Judge cannot decide, the benefit goes to the Cutter and no penalty is charged.

NOTE: Even though the Cutter quits before another cow actually enters the working area of the horse, a three (3) point penalty will be charged if the Judge is certain the disturbance was caused by the Cutter.

**EXAMPLE 8:**

While the Cutter is working, the cattle behind him are moving. The Cutter’s helpers are able to contain the cattle so that no cattle actually escape from the herd.

RULING:

No penalty.

NOTE: Cattle shall not be considered “Scattered” unless they actually enter the working area of the horse.

**EXAMPLE 9:**

The Cutter is making an honest effort to show his horse, but his horse is not working properly. The Cutter runs through the cattle more than once, severely disturbing the herd.

RULING:

The Cutter shall be called out of the herd by the Judge and his work terminated.

NOTE: Even though the Cutter was not training or abusing his horse, he was creating a disturbance of the cattle. Show management should provide each Judge with a whistle so that he may quickly stop a work.

**EXAMPLE 10:**

a) After losing a cow, the Cutter cuts another cow and stops his horse each time the cow stops; he/she does not jerk or excessively spur his horse.

b) The Cutter’s horse is not working properly. The Cutter spurs his horse in the shoulder aggressively and then jerks it to a stop.

RULING:

In (a) assess a five (5) point penalty for losing a cow and a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter stops his/her horse. In (b) the judge shall stop the work.

**EXAMPLE 11:**

While working, at no fault of the Cutter, additional cattle leave the herd and join the cow being worked.

- a) The Cutter quits the cow being worked while that cow is turning into him.
- b) The Cutter picks up his horse and reins until additional cattle have returned to the herd. He then drops his hand and continues to work the cow.
- c) The Cutter reins his horse in an attempt to separate his original cow from the additional cattle. He then decides not to separate the cow and quits legally.
- d) The Cutter quits the cow while it is turned away.
- e) The Cutter continues to work his original cow until the additional cattle have returned to the herd. During this time, the Cutter does not cue his horse in any manner.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13).

In (b) and (c) assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins his horse.

In (d) no penalty.

In (e) give credit for the horse staying with the original cow.

**EXAMPLE 12:**

While working, at no fault of the Cutter, additional cattle leave the herd and join the cow being worked. The Cutter reins his horse in an attempt to separate his original cow from the additional cattle. The original cow, however escapes to the herd leaving only the additional cattle in front of the Cutter.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins his horse (Rule 8) and a five (5) point penalty for losing the cow (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 13:**

While working, the Cutter is forced near the herd causing additional cattle to be picked up.

- a) The Cutter legally quits his original cow.
- b) The Cutter quits while his original cow is moving straight across the pen, or turning in toward him.
- c) The Cutter loses his original cow at approximately the same time. d) The Cutter reins his horse twice while the additional cattle are clearing and then continues to work.
- e) The Cutter reins his horse one (1) time and then quits his original cow legally.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**NOTE:** It is not necessary for the Cutter to separate his original cow before quitting.

In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (c) the Judge will consider the two penalties to have occurred simultaneously unless there is a definite time lapse after the cow is picked up. Under normal circumstances only the larger penalty of five (5) points will be assessed. An additional three (3) point penalty must be assessed when the time lapse occurs.

In (d) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins his horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of five (5) points.

In (e) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle and a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter reins his horse. Total penalty of four (4) points.

**EXAMPLE 14:**

While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cattle separated from the herd. In an attempt to cut the desired cow, he comes close enough to the herd to cause one (1) or more cattle to leave the herd and enter the working area of the horse.

***RULING:***

Assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle.

**EXAMPLE 15:**

While the Cutter is working a cow at a reasonable distance from the herd, another cow voluntarily leaves the herd and stops in such a position that the working horse's normal pattern causes the cow to enter the working area of the horse.

***RULING:***

No penalty, as no disturbance of the herd occurs.

## JUDGING RULE 6

**A horse will be penalized three (3) points each time the back fence actually stops or turns the animal being worked within one step (three (3) feet) of the fence; the back fence to be agreed on and designated by the Judge or Judges before the contest starts; meaning the actual fence only, no imaginary line from point to point to be considered. If any of the contestants voice an objection before the contest starts, the Judge or Judges shall take a vote of the contestants, and a “back fence” acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.**

### **Example 1**

While working, it is obvious that the cutting horse does not turn a cow that is moving toward the back fence, the cow does turn, however, at a spot approximately ten (10) feet from the back fence.

#### **RULING:**

No penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

While working, a cow out ran the Cutter to a place on the back fence. The cow turns within three feet of the back fence and goes back to the centre of the arena. The Cutter quits the cow legally and completes his work.

#### **RULING:**

Assess a three (3) point penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 3:**

The cow being worked bangs into the back fence and:

a) is moving away from the back fence when the Cutter quits.

b) is moving toward the Cutter when he/she quits.

c) the impact stops the cow's motion; the Cutter quits while the cow is stopped.

d) returns to the herd.

#### **RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty.

In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation and a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule13). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (c) assess a three (3) point penalty.

In (d) the Judge will consider the two penalties to have occurred simultaneously unless the cow first moves away from the horse and then returns to the herd.

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When the penalties occur simultaneously, only the large penalty (if five (5) points) should be assessed.

NOTE: The outer limits of the designated back fence shall include any boards or their markers used to define this outer limit.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

While in the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cattle separated from the herd.

As the Cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the cattle move to the back fence inside the back fence markers, then move back to the working area.

RULING:

Assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

A Cutter is working a cow that stops against the arena fence outside the back fence marker. The cow moves toward the horse until it is inside the marker where it is turned away from the back fence by the Cutter's horse.

## **JUDGING RULE 7**

**If a horse turns the wrong way with tail toward animal being worked, an automatic score of 60 points will be given.**

**EXAMPLES 1:**

While in the process of Cutting, the Cutter has two or more cattle separated from the herd. As the cutter attempts to cut the desired cow, the horse turns away from the cow being worked so severely that the horse's tail points toward the cow.

RULING:

The Cutter automatically receives a score of sixty (60) points.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

The Cutter is working and his horse attempts to turn tail toward the cow. The Cutter stops the horse before he is able to completely turn away from the cow. The cow being worked returns to the herd.

RULING:

This is not a case of turning tail. Rule 14 shall be applied. The Cutter is assessed a five (5) point penalty for his/her horse quitting a cow.

## **JUDGING RULE 8**

**While working, a horse will be penalized one (1) point each time the reins are used to control or direct (to rein) the horse, regardless of whether the reins are held high or low. A one (1) point penalty shall also be charged whenever a horse is visibly cued in any manner. If the reins are tight enough that the bits are bumped at any time, he shall be penalized one (1) point each time even though the hand of the rider does not move.**

**a) A horse must be released as soon as the desired animal is clear of the other cattle.**

**Additional reining, cuing or positioning will result in a one (1) point penalty for each occurrence.**

**b) The rider shall hold the bridle reins in one hand. A three (3) point penalty shall be charged if the second hand touches the reins for any purpose except to straighten them.**

**c) Spurring behind the shoulder shall not be considered a visible cue. A three (3) point penalty shall be assessed each time a horse is spurred in the shoulder.**

**d) A toe, foot, or stirrup on the horse's shoulder is considered a visible cue. A one (1) point penalty shall be charged for each occurrence.**

### **EXAMPLES:**

The Cutter has ample slack in his reins. After cutting cleanly, he begins to work, holding his rein hand above the saddle horn. He does not move his hand from side to side or forward and back during his work. He repeats this procedure on his second cow and the buzzer sounds before he can cut a third cow.

### **RULING:**

No penalty.

**NOTE:** A Cutter may hold his hand above the saddle horn so long as he keeps his hand still, provided that his bridle reins are long enough to prevent his bit from being bumped during his run.

•  
**EXAMPLE 2:**

While making his cut, the Cutter moves his hand up and down, side to side while selecting a cow to work. He then places his hand:

- a) Near his horse's neck and leaves it there while working;
- b) above the saddle horn and leaves it there while working;
- c) near his horse's neck in the beginning of the run, and then raises it above the saddle horn while working.
- d) up the horse's neck (too far forward)

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b) no penalty. In (c) if the hand movement results in reining, a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each occurrence. In (d) a one point penalty for each occurrence.

NOTE: The Cutter may rein his/her horse as much as necessary to make a cut. Clean, pretty cuts shall receive credit. NOTE: Releasing the cutting horse indicates that the Cutter is ready to begin working. Additional reining shall be penalized.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

The Cutter makes a cut and while waiting for the cow to begin movement:

- a) shakes his/her rein hand causing movement of the bridle reins;
- b) feeds out additional slack to the bridle reins.

**RULING:**

In (a) penalize the Cutter one (1) point for each time there are repeats of this activity. If he/she cuts three (3) cows and shakes his/her reins each time, the total penalty shall be three (3) points. In (b) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

The Cutter is working with his/her hand held low. His/her reins are adjusted short enough so that the bit is bumped two (2) different times during his run.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the bit is bumped. A total penalty of two (2) points.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

The Cutter is working and:

- a) During his/her run the rider moves his/her hand very slightly in a turn;
- b) during his/her run the rider's hand moves sufficiently for the Judge to believe that he/she is reining his/her horse in the turn;

- c) while going across the arena he/she moves his/her hand toward the cow being worked to hold his/her horse out from the herd;
- d) during his/her run the rider pushes his/her hand forward to encourage the horse to move along with a cow;
- e) as his/her horse is stopping, the Cutter leans backward in the saddle causing his rein hand to also move back.

**RULING:**

In (a) no penalty.

In (b), (c), (d) and (e) a one (1) point penalty shall be assessed.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and begins driving it out of the herd. The Cutter reins his horse until the cow is clear of the other cattle and then releases his horse.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

NOTE: The intent of Rule 8A is to prevent the Cutter from helping his horse after a cow is clear of the herd. Judges shall be careful to allow the Cutter to handle his horse enough to clear the cow that he has selected to cut. In the application of this rule, the term "clear" means far enough out from the body of the herd that the Cutter has a reasonable opportunity to begin working and that all other cattle are at least behind his horse's buttocks.

**EXAMPLE 7:**

While making a cut, the Cutter selects a cow and reins his horse while driving the cow out of the herd. After the cow is clear, the Cutter continues to rein until the cow has made its first move. He then releases his horse and works the cow.

**RULING:**

A one (1) point penalty shall be assessed for each time the horse is reined after the cow is clear.

**EXAMPLE 8:**

After a cow is clear of the herd, the Cutter reins his horse to initiate the first move with the cow.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 9:**

A Cutter cuts a cow from a group of cattle that are coming around him. He reins his horse until the other cattle are cleared away by his herd holders and immediately thereafter releases him.

*RULING:*  
No Penalty.

**EXAMPLE 10:**

The Cutter cuts a cow that is walking away from the herd.

- a) The Cutter reins his horse until he has stepped out of the herd and then releases him.
- b) The Cutter reins his horse until he has stepped out of the herd. Several seconds elapse before the cow is turned by the turn-back horses. The Cutter continues to hold contact with his horse by having his hand up and some tension on his reins. He does not move his horse around; he is holding his horse's attention on the cow until the cow moves.
- c) The Cutter reins his/her horse until he/she has stepped out of the herd. Almost simultaneously the Cutter releases his/her horse and the cow is moved by the turn-back horses.

*RULING:*

In (a) and (c) no penalty.

In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 11:**

The Cutter selects a cow from a group of cattle that are moving around him. He steps to that cow and reins his horse until his herd holders have the other cattle behind his horse's buttocks (cleared away). He then continues to hold tension on his reins while the cow that he has cut trots several feet across the arena. When the cow stops and turns around, the Cutter stops his horse and reins him back to the cow before releasing him.

*RULING:*

Assess a one (1) point penalty for each time the Cutter cues his horse. In this case, one (1) for holding the horse going across the arena, one (1) for stopping the horse, and one (1) for reining him back to the cow. Total penalty of three (3) points.

**EXAMPLE 12:**

While working a cow, the Cutter:

- a) uses two hands on the bridle reins to turn his horse around with a cow.
- b) uses two hands on the bridle reins to stop his horse and then allows him to turn on his own.
- c) uses two hands on the bridle reins while stopping the horse for a legal quit.

\*

**RULING:**

In (a), (b) and (d) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 13:**

After quitting a cow legally, the Cutter uses two hands on the bridle reins to turn his/her horse around.

**RULING:**

Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 14:**

The Cutter drops one bridle rein and:

- a) uses his free hand to retrieve it while cutting a cow;
- b) uses his free hand to retrieve it while working a cow;
- c) uses his free hand to retrieve it after he has obviously legally quit the cow and stopped his horse.

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b) assess a three (3) point penalty for using both hands on the bridle reins.

In (c) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 15:**

The Cutter's reins have become entangled.

- a) The rider quits a cow legally and before entering the body of the herd uses the second hand to straighten out the reins.
- b) While riding through the herd, the rider places a second hand on the reins to straighten them.
- c) The rider turns to make a cut, then stops his/her horse within the body of the herd and uses the second hand to straighten his/her reins.

**RULING:**

In (a), (b) and (c) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 16:**

The Cutter places a second hand on the reins to:

- a) Stop or back his horse after legally quitting a cow.
- b) Pull his horse around after legally quitting a cow.
- c) To pull his horse around while moving through the herd.

**RULING:**

In (a), (b) and (c) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 17:**

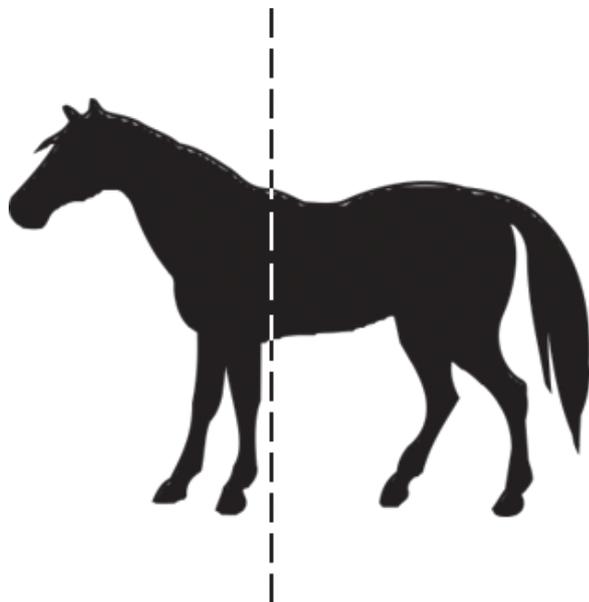
During the course of a run as the horse makes a turn, the Cutter:

- a) spurs the horse in the shoulder.
- b) attempts to spur the horse in the shoulder but does not make contact with the horse.

**RULING:**

In (a), assess a three (3) point penalty; (b), no penalty.

NOTE: Spurring behind the shoulder is legal.



The Point of the Shoulder

## JUDGING RULE 9

**If a horse lets an animal that he is working get back in the herd, he will be penalised five (5) points.**

### EXAMPLE 1

The Cutter is working a cow that out-manoeuvres his horse and returns to the herd.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty.

### EXAMPLE 2:

The Cutter is working a cow that jumps out of the arena:

- a) between the back fence markers;
- b) outside of the back fence markers.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty. In (b) no penalty.

### EXAMPLE 3:

The cow being worked is making a strong attempt to return to the herd.

- a) The Cutter quits the cow while his/her horse has the working advantage, but the cow is turning toward the horse.
- b) The Cutter quits the cow after he/she has lost his working advantage. The cow leaves the working area and returns to the herd.

\*

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13).

In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty for loss of working advantage and a five (5) point penalty for a lost cow. Total penalty of six (6) points.

NOTE: In judging a situation concerning simultaneous major penalties, only one penalty will be called with the larger penalty taking precedence over the small penalty. The exception to this rule is Rule 8b, that concerns a Cutter using two hands on the reins.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

During the process of cutting, the Cutter starts a large number of cattle around him. As these cattle come around, the Cutter does not step out of the herd and makes no attempt to cut any of them. He allows the cattle to go by and:

- a) turns and starts more cattle around, he cuts from these cattle;
- b) then turns and rides to these same cattle; starts them back around and makes his cut.

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

While working a cow, the cow out-manoeuvres the horse and it is obvious that the horse is unable to stop the cow from entering the herd. The buzzer sounds before the cow physically enters the herd.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty.

NOTE: At the buzzer, loss of cow occurs at the moment the horse can no longer regain its working advantage and the cow leaves the working area of the horse. For a loss to occur during the work, the cow must return to the herd.

## **JUDGING RULE 10**

**If a rider changes cattle after visibly committing to a specific cow, a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter drives a group of cattle away from the herd. Before the Cutter makes an attempt to cut one of these cows, three (3) other cows leave the herd and walk to a position nearby but do not join the first group of cattle.

- a) The Cutter steps to the first group of cattle and cuts one of them.
- b) The Cutter reins away from the first group toward the second group and cuts one of them.
- c) The Cutter reins away from the first group toward the second group. The second group trots back to the herd leaving the Cutter without any cattle to cut from.

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b) no penalty, in (c) assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate a cow (Rule 15).

NOTE: A Cutter commits to a single animal, not to a group of cattle.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

The Cutter is making a cut. He has a group of five (5) cattle in front of him. He:

- a) looks at a brown cow, but does not attempt to move his horse toward the brown cow. He then cuts a red cow.
- b) moves his horse toward a brown cow and reins once to move his horse in the direction it starts. He then cuts a red cow.
- c) decides not to cut any of the five and cuts another cow that has walked out from the other side of the herd.
- d) fails to decide quickly enough and three (3) cows pass by on his left side, two (2) cows pass by on his right side, leaving no cows for the Cutter to cut.
- e) waits until the cows begin to come around him in single file. The Cutter then steps, applying a slight pressure to the cattle as they come by. He cuts the cow that is most willing to remain in front of him.

**RULING:**

In (a), (c) and (e) no penalty.

In (b) assess a five (5) point penalty for changing cows.

In (d) assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate a cow (Rule 15).

NOTE: A Cutter shall be committed whenever he makes two moves to a specific animal. One move may also result in commitment to a specific animal when that single move clearly and obviously indicates a specific animal has been selected.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

The Cutter enters the herd near the centre and turns to his right. He drives one (1) cow out and as that cow moves around him, a group of cattle come out of the herd from the left side.

The cow that the Cutter is driving is joined by the group of cattle. The Cutter releases his original cow and cuts one of the group.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter steps toward a cow to stop the flow of cattle. That cow stops and other cattle also stop thereby forming a group of cattle. The Cutter then cuts any cow from that group.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

NOTE: A Judge must allow a Cutter to stop a group of cattle and then cut from that group. In order to stop a group of cattle, the Cutter must stop a cow in the flow of cattle. A Judge shall not consider the Cutter visibly committed to that lead cow unless the Cutter actually attempts to cut that cow.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter steps toward a cow to stop a flow of cattle. That cow stops, thereby forming a group of cattle; the Cutter then moves toward the lead cow so as to visibly commit to it, and then cuts another cow.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty for changing cows.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter starts a group of cattle around him. He selects an animal and visibly commits to it. In his attempt to separate that cow from the other cattle; a) the Cutter runs across the pen several times with the cattle and is then able to make his/her cut;

b) the cow goes to the back fence with the other cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the middle of the arena and works it;

c) the cow goes back into the herd with the group of cattle and then the Cutter proceeds to bring the cow to the centre of the arena and works it;

d) the Cutter goes to the back fence with the cattle and is unable to cut that cow.

**RULING:**

In (a) no penalty; however, the point value of the run may be reduced due to the lack of a quiet, clean cut.

In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation (Rule 6).  
In (c) and (d) assess a five (5) point penalty for a loss (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 7:**

During the process of cutting a cow, the Cutter starts a group of cattle around him. He selects an animal and reins his horse toward it. For a brief period of time the animal is separated.

- a) the cow re-joins a group of cattle and runs to the back fence. The Cutter brings the cow back out and continues to work.
- b) as the herd holders attempt to drive the other cattle away, two (2) cows turn and re-join the cow that is already cut. The Cutter separates his original cow from the others without the group re-joining the herd or moving to the back fence.
- c) the cow that is cut runs over and joins a group of cattle that are being moved away by the Cutter's helpers. The Cutter reins his horse and cuts the cow away from the others without the group re-joining the herd or moving to the back fence.
- d) the cow that is cut runs over and joins a group of cattle that are being moved away by the Cutter's helpers. The group of cattle run back into the herd. The Cutter brings the cow out and works it.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for a back fence violation (Rule 6), and a one (1) point each time the Cutter reins his horse (Rule 8).

In (b) penalise the Cutter one (1) point each time he/she reins his/her horse to reseparate the cow (Rule 8). If the Cutter does not cue the horse in any manner, credit shall be given for the horse staying with the original cow.

In (c) assess a one (1) point penalty each time the Cutter reins his/her horse (Rule 8).

In (d) assess a five (5) point penalty for a loss (Rule 9).

**EXAMPLE 8:**

The Cutter is working a cow. Another cow that has previously escaped the turn-back horses decides to return to the herd. As the returning cow approaches the Cutter;

- a) his/her horse changes to the returning cow;
- b) the Cutter anticipates that a change might occur and reins his/her horse to prevent it. The horse's attention is momentarily diverted toward the returning cow, but he/she does not change cattle;

- c) his/her horse switches its attention and actually makes a move with the other cow. The Cutter reins the horse back to the original cow;
- d) the Cutter does not cue his/her horse and the horse does not switch to the returning cow.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a five (5) point penalty.

In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8).

In (c) assess a five (5) point penalty for the change and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (Rule 8). Total penalty of six (6) points.

In (d) give credit to the Cutter. The amount of credit given depends upon the exact circumstances of the situation.

**EXAMPLE 9:**

If the Cutter is committed to a cow, but before he is clear of the herd, his horse is abruptly attempts to change to a different cow.

- a) The Cutter had not released his/her horse and immediately reined it back.
- b) The Cutter had dropped his/her hand indicating his/her horse was on the desired cow.

**RULING:**

In (a) no penalty.

In (b) assess a five (5) point penalty.

**JUDGING RULE 11**

**When a horse loses his working advantage, misses a cow, or is working out of position; he will be penalised (a) 1/2 point, (A) 1 point, or (F) 1 point.**

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Loss of working advantage is defined as; when a horse goes by a cow to the degree that he loses his position to maintain control of the cow. (A) or (a).

A miss is defined as: A response of the horse to the action of the cow being worked, resulting in a loss of working advantage or being out of position. (A) or (a).

Working out of position is defined as: The position of the horse in relation to the cow being worked, being consistently either too short or too long in working to control a cow. (F)

**EXAMPLE 1:**

While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow by a horse's length. The cow turns, and it is necessary for the cutter to make a hard run before catching up to the cow.

RULING:

Assess a one (1) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (A)

**EXAMPLE 2:**

While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow. The cow turns, the cutter regains his control and working advantage of the cow within a short distance.

RULING:

Assess a one-half (1/2) point penalty for a miss or loss of working advantage. (a)

NOTE: The purpose of these examples is to indicate that all misses are not of equal value. A judge should never go to the lead by 1/2 point or start his card with a 1/2 point score.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

While working, the cutter's horse goes by a cow by a horse's length. The cow turns, the cutter is able to immediately maintain his control and working advantage of the cow.

RULING:

No penalty.

NOTE: A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow moving cow. The horse that can maintain working advantage over a cow that presents a severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged on a horse which immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses his working advantage. The cutter reins the horse back and, after taking several steps, the horse regains his working advantage.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (A); also, assess a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse (B). Total penalty of 2 points.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

While working, the cutter's horse goes past a cow and loses his working advantage. The cow stops and turns away, the cutter quits without regaining his working advantage.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (A).

NOTE: The cutter may not avoid a one (1) point penalty for losing his working advantage or being out of position by quitting a cow, even though the quit is legal under Rule 13.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

While working, the cutter's horse is extremely long in one direction and extremely short in the other direction. The cutter continues to work in this manner.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point (F) penalty per cow, a minus (-) in controlling a cow and reduce run content accordingly.

- a) A judge should acknowledge that a loss of working advantage, a miss, and/or working out of position, can result in a minus (-) in run content.
- b) During a monitored, multiple judged event; If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one (1) point penalties were not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one (1) point penalty. (This is at the judge's discretion only).

**JUDGING RULE 12**

**Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse actually pawing, biting or kicking cattle, will be penalized three (3) points.**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

While working a cow, the Cutter's horse opens its mouth and:

- a) attempts to bite the cow but does not make contact;
- b) bites the cow.

RULING: In (a) no penalty.

In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty.

NOTE: No penalty should be assessed to the horse which only nuzzles a cow with its lips while moving through the herd.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

While in the process of moving through the herd to cut a cow, the cutting horse:

- a) nuzzles a cow
- b) attempts to bite a cow but is reined away
- c) obviously bites a cow
- d) kicks a cow in the herd

RULING:

In (a) and (b) no penalty. In (c) and (d) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

While working a cow, the Cutter's horse:

- a) paws a cow;
- b) strikes with this front foot, but misses the cow;
- c) rears and paws with both front feet, but misses the cow;
- d) kicks at the cow, but does not make contact.

RULING:

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty.

In (b) no penalty.

In (c) and (d) no penalty, but this type of unusual behaviour would definitely detract from the run and cannot have a positive influence on the point value awarded for that run.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

During a run, while the Cutter is moving across the arena, his/her horse kicks out with one or both hind legs, or play-fully jumps into the air slinging his head and hopping up behind.

RULING:

No penalty; however, these types of behaviour certainly detract from the overall performance of a cutting horse and cannot have a positive influence on the point value of the run.

**JUDGING RULE 13**

**A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away or is obviously behind the turn-back horses and the turn-back horses are behind the time line. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.**

\*

### **EXAMPLE 1:**

While working, the Cutter quits a cow that is going across the arena. In the judge's opinion, the cow was not turned away from the cutting horse at the time of the quit.

#### RULING:

Assess a three (3) point penalty.

NOTE: No imaginary line will be considered in applying this rule. The cow's relationship to the cutting horse (turned away) is the only thing to consider in applying this rule.

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

While working, the Cutter quits a cow that is obviously turned:

- a) away from his/her horse
- b) toward his/her horse and not stopped
- c) toward the opposite end of the arena
- d) backs away

#### RULING:

In (a), (c) and (d) no penalty. In (b) assess a three (3) point penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 3:**

While working, the Cutter quits the cow that was for a brief time turned away and then turned toward him.

- a) the Judge is certain that the cow had turned toward the Cutter as he quit.
- b) the Judge is certain that the cow was turned away when the Cutter quit.
- c) the Judge is not sure whether the cow was turned away.

#### RULING:

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty., In (b) and (c) no penalty.

### **EXAMPLE 4:**

The Cutter is working a cow that has very little move. The cow makes a few slow turns and then stops, looking at the Cutter. Even though the cow is stopped, it is still moving its head from side to side and the Cutter's horse is countering these moves, the Cutter quits.

#### RULING:

No penalty.

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NOTE: A cow shall be considered stopped when it is no longer moving forward. It is not necessary for all four feet to be on the ground. A Cutter may quit a cow, after the cow has come to a stop, as long as the cow is not turning into this horse.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

A Cutter is working a cow near the centre of the pen. The cow stops while facing the Cutter's horse. As the Cutter is quitting, the cow:

- a) picks up a foot;
- b) begins to turn away from the horse;
- c) starts to back away from the Cutter;
- d) moves into the Cutter's horse and tries to return to the herd.

**RULING:**

In (a), (b) and (c) no penalty. In (d) assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

The Cutter is working a cow that takes him deep to the left side of the arena. The cow turns into the Cutter's horse; the Cutter:

- a) quits the cow in the turn
- b) waits to quit until the cow is turned away.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess three (3) point penalty. In (b), no penalty. NOTE: Under normal circumstances, when a cow takes a Cutter deep to either side of the arena and the cow turns into his/her horse, a hot quit will be called; however, if the Cutter waits until the cow has travelled a sufficient distance to clearly show the Judge the animal is moving away from his/her horse, a hot quit will not be charged.

**EXAMPLE 7:**

The Cutter is working a cow that is travelling parallel across the arena and moving into the arena wall. As the cow approaches the wall, it slows to a walk and stops momentarily at the wall. The Cutter quits the cow as:

- a) the cow stops on the wall;
- b) the cow turns away on the wall;
- c) the cow stops on the wall, then slowly turns toward the Cutter;
- d) the cow turns into the Cutter at a fast pace.

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b), no penalty. In (c) and (d), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 8:**

The Cutter is working a cow that falls to the ground. The Cutter quits the cow:

- a) while the cow is lying on the ground
- b) after the cow has fallen and is returning to its feet
- c) after the cow has returned to its feet and is moving into the horse

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b), no penalty. In (c), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 9:**

While working a tough cow, the Cutter picks up his/her reins to signify that he/she is quitting the cow. In the Judge's opinion the cow was turned away when the Cutter picked up his/her horse, but by the time the horse actually stopped, the cow had turned back toward the Cutter.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

NOTE: The Judge shall consider that a Cutter has quit a cow when he picks up on his/her reins or places his/her free hand on his/her horses neck, whether the horse stops instantly or not.

**EXAMPLE 10:**

The cow being worked stops, and the Cutter's horse stops. Both cow and horse and completely still. The Cutter picks up his/her horse so that it is reasonable to assume that he/ she intends to quit the cow. The cow then moves and the Cutter's horse counters that move even though there is tension on the bridle reins. The Cutter then continues to pull his/her horse off the cow.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 11:**

While working, the Cutter quits a cow that has run behind the turn-back horses and the turn-back horses are;

- a) behind the time line and the cow is turning toward him
- b) not behind the time line and the cow is turning toward him/her.

RULING:

In (a), no penalty. In (b), assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 12:**

While working, the Cutter stays on a cow that has run behind the turn-back horse. After the cow has moved back between the Cutter and his/her turn-back horse, the Cutter quits the cow while it is turning toward him/her.

RULING:

Assess a three (3) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 13:**

The Cutter quits a cow legally. The Cutter then begins to work the same cow again.

RULING:

No penalty.

NOTE: Quitting a cow that turns into the cutting horse will normally result in a three (3) point penalty unless the Cutter waits to quit until the cow has turned away from the cutting horse. On the other hand, under normal circumstances, a Cutter that initiates his/her quit when the cow turns away from the cutting horse will receive no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 14:**

The Cutter is working his cow in the middle of the pen. As the Cutter initiates his/her quit, by picking up his/her hand or reaching for the horse's neck:

- a) he/she realizes that the quit is hot; he/she immediately puts his/her hand down. In the next move the cow turns away and the Cutter stops his/her horse.
- b) the Cutter is uncertain if the quit is clean; he/she immediately puts his/her hand down but then decides to quit while the cow is moving into the cutting horse.

RULING:

In (a) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining.

In (b) assess a one (1) point penalty for reining, plus a three (3) point penalty for a hot quit. Total penalty of four (4) points.

## **JUDGING RULE 14**

**If a horse quits a cow, a penalty of five (5) points will be assessed.**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

The Cutter legally quits a cow while in working position. The Judge believes that the Cutter's horse has lost contact with the cow.

**RULING:**

No penalty, however, this should reduce run content.

**NOTE:**

It is the Judge's responsibility to call what actually happens. A Judge shall never anticipate an error.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

The Cutter's horse goes by a cow that has turned away or stopped, resulting in an obvious loss of working advantage. The horse is obviously not going to stop or turn around without assistance from the rider. The Cutter quits.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty

**EXAMPLE 3:**

The Cutter is working and his/her horse quits a cow. The Cutter reins and restarts his/her horse. The Cutter continues his/her work.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

The Cutter's horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves and the horse momentarily remains still. The Cutter does not rein the horse. The horse then turns around late, but is able to catch up to the cow.

**RULING:**

Assess a one (1) point penalty for losing the working advantage (being out of position) (Rule 11).

**NOTE:** Even though a horse shows a momentary reluctance to turn or stop with a cow, a quit will not be called if the horse actually turns or stops on its own. If the horse must be reined or stopped by the rider; a five (5) point penalty must be charged.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

The Cutter's horse stops with a cow and looks away from the cow. The cow moves and the horse remain still. The Cutter reins the horse back to the cow. In the Judge's opinion, the cutter reined the horse because the horse quit the cow.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty for the horse quitting the cow and a one (1) point penalty for reining the horse. Total penalty of six (6) points.

**JUDGING RULE 15**

**If a horse clears the herd with two (2) or more cattle and fails to separate a single animal before quitting, a five (5) point penalty will be charged. There is no penalty if time expires.**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

The Cutter is attempting to make a cut. When he/she selects the cow he/she wants, another cow refuses to separate from the cow selected. The Cutter goes back and forth across the pen several times. Finally, the Cutter decides that the situation is impossible and quits

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

The Cutter is working and:

- a) at the fault of the Cutter, he/she picks up additional cattle. The Cutter quits his/her cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.
- b) at no fault of the Cutter, he/she picks up additional cattle. The Cutter quits his/her cow legally before separating it from the additional cattle.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for picking up cattle (Rule 5b).

In (b) no penalty.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

The Cutter has a cow separated far enough from a group that he/she is able to release his/her horse and begin working before the herd-holders are able to return the other cattle to the herd.

One cow runs back and re-joins the cow being worked. The Cutter legally quits his/her cow without re-separating the animals.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

NOTE: Rule 15 applies only while the Cutter is making a cut. Once a cow is separated from the herd, the Cutter has satisfied the requirements of Rule 15.

**EXAMPLE 4:**

Before the Cutter can separate a cow on his/her third cut, the buzzer sounds.

**RULING:**

No penalty.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

During the process of cutting, the Cutter has two (2) or more cows in front of him/her. After clearly committing to one of these cows, the cow he/she committed to, turns and runs past the turn-back horses and the other cow(s) remain. The Cutter:

- a) stops his/her horse and returns to the herd to make another cut.
- b) positions his/her horse and waits for the remaining cow(s) and begins to work.
- c) holds his/her horse and waits for his/her original cow to be returned to the working area and then begins to work this cow.

**RULING:**

In (a), (b) and (c), no penalty.

NOTE: A Cutter may legally quit a cow under any circumstances so long as the cow is behind both turn-back horses, (provided the turn-back horses are behind the time line) or the cow has left the working arena; at that point in time, the Cutter may begin to work any cow in front of him/her or return to the herd and select another cow. The time line will be visibly marked.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

The Cutter is attempting to make a cut. He / She commit to a cow in a group of cattle; his/her horse does not:

- a) respond to the Cutter and the cow returns to the herd with the group of cattle

b) respond to the Cutter immediately, but he/she is able to stop the cow before it returns to the herd.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a five (5) point penalty. In (b), no penalty; however, the point value of the run may be reduced due to the lack of a quiet, clean cut.

NOTE: Any time a cutter commits to a specific animal and fails to cut the same animal a five (5) point penalty will be charged.

**EXAMPLE 7:**

During the process of cutting, the Cutter starts a large number of cattle around him/her. As these cattle come around, the Cutter moves toward the cattle so that it is reasonable to assume that he/she is attempting to cut one of them. The cattle all trot past him/her; he/she then returns to the herd and drives some more cattle out and makes his/her cut.

**RULING:**

Assess a five (5) point penalty for failure to separate. NOTE: After a Cutter moves away from the herd driving a group of cattle in front of him/her, he/she must cut a cow before re-entering the herd.

**JUDGING RULE 16:**

**Horses must be ridden with a bridle having a bit in the mouth or with a hackamore. A bridle shall have no nose band or bosal and hackamores shall be of rope or braided rawhide with no metal parts. Braided rawhide balls across the horse's nose are not permissible. A Judge must be able to freely pass two fingers between the hackamore and muzzle completely around the horse's nose. Choke ropes, tie downs, wire around the horse's neck, nose, or brow band, tight nose band, quirt, bat or mechanical device giving the rider undue control over a horse will not be permitted in the arena where an NZCHA approved or sponsored event is being held. Wire of any kind and on any part of the curb device is not permissible. Leather Curb straps or curb chains must be at least 3/8 of an inch in width and must be attached to the bit by nylon string, nylon straps or leather straps.**

**Decorative knots, rawhide balls or tassels are not permitted on curb devices. Breast collar may be used, no portion of which may pass over the horse's neck. Breast collars attached to the swell of the saddle on competing horses will be considered illegal. Chaps and spurs may be worn.**

**Chinks (any leggings not reaching the boot) are not permitted attire in the Contest Arena. A competing horse's tail cannot be tied in any manner that would restrict movement of the tail. Stock saddles will not be permitted in the Main Arena during any NZCHA produced shows including the with the exception of Snafflebit events. Any rider found to be contravening this dress code will be subject to the following: 1st offence - warning, 2nd offence - fine and 3rd offence - period of suspension. Any time a contestant is guilty of an infraction of this rule or any part therein, he/she shall be disqualified. A Judge has the right to have a contestant report to him/her if he/she is suspicious of any infraction of Rule.**

**Horses in the Snaffle Bit class may be ridden with a bridle having a snaffle bit only and shall have no noseband. Twisted wire snaffles shall not be used. Snaffle bits are to be a minimum of 10mm (3/8") and have a smooth single jointed mouthpiece. Bosals and Hackamores may be used. They shall be of rope or braided rawhide and have no metal parts.**

- a) **All horses must comply with Rule 16 while in the arena.**
- b) **Any person in the arena after the start of an NZCHA approved or sponsored event must wear western attire, including hats. Men must wear long-sleeved shirts with collars and buttons or snaps completely down the shirt front. T-shirts and slip over knits are not permissible. Women must wear long sleeved shirts with a collar. Sweaters may be worn over an appropriate shirt. Long sleeves must be worn rolled down. In extreme weather, show management with the consent of the Judge, may allow deviation from the dress requirements with regard to hats and/or sleeve length at outdoor shows outside of the working area only.**

**Under no circumstances will 'hoodies', football jerseys or 'sloppy joe's' be allowed within the Main Show Arena. Any rider found to be contravening this dress code will be subject to the following: 1st offence - warning, 2nd offence -and 3rd offence - period of suspension.**

- c) **Rule 16 shall become effective 30 minutes prior to the published starting time of championship and jackpot cuttings.**

- d) **Rule 16 may be set aside by show management for an official practice session provided that the practice session ends at least 30 minutes prior to the start of any performance.**
- e) **Contestants are limited to a maximum of four (4) helpers.**
- f) **If a member of the NZCHA witnesses a violation of Standing Rule 16, they must report the violation immediately to the Competitors Advocate or a Councillor.**
- g) **Violations of Rule 16 b, c, d & h shall result in disciplinary action as determined by the NZCHA Council**

**EXAMPLE 1:**

During a work, the Judge suspects that the hackamore being used is too tight.

**RULING:**

At the completion of the work, the Judge shall examine the hackamore. If the judge can pass two fingers completely around the horse's nose under the hackamore, no penalty. If the hackamore is, in fact, illegal, the Cutter must be disqualified. The illegal equipment must be reported to the Representative by the Judge and the Representative must report it to the NCHA.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Representative to report the use of devices not permitted by NCHA rules on the NCHA Confidential Contest Report to the NCHA office. The Cutter may be suspended for one year.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

During a work, the Judge suspects that a training device is being used.

**RULING:**

At the completion of the work, the Judge shall examine the Cutter's bridle. If the bridle is found to be illegal, the Cutter shall be disqualified.

NOTE: In the event a rider's equipment breaks during a horse's performance, the horse will be permitted to complete its allotted time and shall be scored in accordance with the other NCHA Rules for Judging Cutting Horses. (Rerun shall not be granted for equipment failure).

## **JUDGING RULE 17**

When a contestant is thrown from a horse or a horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

### **EXAMPLE 1:**

While working a cow, the Cutter falls from his/her horse one minute into the work. The Cutter remounts and continues to work.

#### **RULING:**

An automatic score of sixty (60) points will be given.

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

While working a cow, the Cutter's horse falls to the ground. The Cutter gets up and leads his/her horse out of the working area.

#### **RULING:**

Automatic score of zero (0) points will be given for leaving the working area before time expires.

NOTE: If the contestant leaves the working area before time expires after either the Cutter and/or horse falls to the ground, an automatic score of zero (0) shall be given (See Rule 18). NOTE: A horse is considered to have fallen to the ground when the horse is on its side and all four feet are extended in the same direction.

## **JUDGING RULE 18**

Any rider who allows his/her horse to quit working or leave the working area before his/her allotted time is up will be disqualified for that go-round with no score.

### **EXAMPLE 1:**

The Cutter loses a cow and decides to retire from the herd and rides out, or stops working, before the end of his/her time.

#### **RULING:**

The run shall be scored zero (0)

### **EXAMPLE 2:**

After working his/he first cow, the Cutter dismounts and tightens his/her cinch or picks up an object from the ground. He then remounts and completes his/her run.

**RULING:**

Score the run zero (0). The Cutter has allowed his/her horse to quit working after his/her time has started.

**JUDGING RULE 19:**

A contestant will be awarded a complete rework if in the Judge or Judges' opinion 2 1/2 minutes time was not allotted for the work, or if excessive disturbances had been created by factors other than those caused by the contestants or their help and the Judge or Judges have stopped the time. Such factors would include gate coming open, fences falling down and objects entering or falling into the working portion of the arena, but would not apply to cattle scattering through wild-ness or normal arena activities. Any rework must take place within the group of cattle drawn by the contestant and must occur before a change of cattle is executed. At the contestant's option, the rework may occur immediately or as the last work in that set of cattle. No rework shall be granted if the contestant involved has incurred a three (3) or five (5) point (major) penalty prior to a disturbance. After the cutter has completed his 2 1/2 minutes work, if in his/her opinion a situation has occurred of sufficient seriousness so as to warrant a re-run, he/she may immediately make a request for the same to the Contestant's Representative or to the designated Judge or Judges who shall report this fact to show management before the next horse is called to work. Show management shall make such facts as are available known to the Judge(s) and if the majority are in agreement that due cause did exist, a re-run may be granted provided the original work was free of a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) infraction. If the clock has not started, a re-work will automatically be granted.

**EXAMPLE 1:**

A Cutter is working his/her third cow and the gate behind the cattle comes open, or the cattle push the pen down.

- a) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- b) At the time of the disturbance, the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run. The Cutter has the right to choose whether he/she wants to work again immediately or at the end of his/her set of cattle.

In (b) the Judge shall not stop the run.

NOTE: The Judge has the sole right to terminate a run.

NOTE: The show management should make every effort to insure that gate latches are secure and that the pen is strong enough to hold the cattle.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

The Cutter is last to work in a group of cattle, and the gate comes open.

- a) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
  
- b) At the time of the disturbance, the judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run. The Cutter must re-run in the same group of cattle.

In (b) the Judge shall not stop the run.

**EXAMPLE 3:**

Before the buzzer sounds, the gate comes open and all of the cattle escape from the arena. The Cutter is unable to complete his/her run because he/she has no cattle to work.

**RULING:**

In this instance, the run has terminated itself. The Judges shall confer, and if a majority of the Judges have assessed a three (3) point or a five (5) point major penalty, the Cutter shall be scored a zero (0). If less than a majority of the Judges have assessed a three (3) point or a five (5) point major penalty, the Cutter shall be granted a re-run.

NOTE: If the Judge's stands are equipped with intercoms, the secretary shall ask each Judge whether he/she has called a major infraction and then based upon the Judges' replies announce. "The Cutter shall receive a re-run" or "The score is zero".

**EXAMPLE 4:**

While the Cutter is working, a skydiver lands near the arena causing the Cutter's horse to run off.

- a) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
  
- b) At the time of the disturbance, the Judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run. In (b) the Judge shall not stop the run.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

While the Cutter is working, it becomes apparent to the Judge that he has worked longer than 2.5 minutes.

- a) The run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction when the Judge realised that the Cutter has worked for longer than 2.5 minutes
- b) The Judge had called a three (3) or a five (5) point (major) penalty before he/she realised that the cutter had worked for longer than 2.5 minutes

**RULING:**

In (a) and (b) the Judge shall grant a re-run.

NOTE: It would be difficult to determine in some instances whether the major infraction occurred before or after the actual 2.5 minutes had expired; therefore, in this instance only, the Cutter shall receive a re-run.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

The buzzer sounds ending a run. In the Judges opinion, the Cutter worked for less than 2 1/2 minutes.

- a) At the time the buzzer sounded, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- b) Before the buzzer sounded, the Judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall grant a re-run.

In (b) the Judges shall confer. If each Judge has called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction, no re- run shall be granted, and the Cutter shall receive a score of zero (0).

**EXAMPLE 7:**

During a run, a chair falls into the arena. The noise frightens the cattle, causing them to scatter.

- a) the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction at the time of the disturbance.
- b) The Judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction before the disturbance occurred.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run.

In (b) the Judge shall not stop the run.

NOTE: A Judge shall not terminate a run in which he/she has called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction unless:

- a) human life is in danger

b) he/she is applying Rule 5 c.

**EXAMPLE 8:**

In a contest using two or more Judges, if a Judge terminates a run for the purpose of granting a re-run and the other Judge(s) do not agree that the run should have been stopped.

**RULING:**

- a) If two (2) Judges are being used, a re-run will be granted.
- b) If three or more Judges are used and a majority of the Judges have assessed a three (3) or five (5) point penalty before the time was stopped, no re-run will be granted.

**EXAMPLE 9:**

While the Cutter is working, a Judge falls out of his/her Judging stand, or the Judging stand collapses, or the stand overturns.

- a) At the time of the disturbance, the run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction.
- b) The Judge had called a three (3) point or a five (5) point (major) infraction at the time of the disturbance.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Judge shall stop the run and grant a re-run.

In (b) the Judge shall not stop the run.

NOTE: In (b) the fallen Judge shall mark the remainder of this run from the ground.

**IMPORTANT NOTE TO SECRETARIES AND TIMERS**

The Judge(s) has the sole right to terminate a work prior to the 2 1/2 minute buzzer. The Secretary or timer shall notify the Judge(s) immediately if the clock has not been started or malfunctions.

**EXAMPLE 10:**

While the Cutter is working, a small dog runs back and forth beneath the Judge's stand(s) distracting the cow which has been cut out and causing it to ignore the Cutter's horse. The Cutter immediately appeals for a re-work after time expires.

- a) The Cutter's run was free of a three (3) point or a five (5) point major fraction.
- b) The Cutter's run contained a three (3) point or a five (5) point major infraction.

**RULING:**

In (a) the Cutter may be granted a re-work if the Judges were unanimous that there was due cause. In b) no rework can be granted since the run contained a three (3) or a five (5) point major penalty.

**JUDGING RULE 20:**

A Judge marks from sixty (60) to eighty (80) points. One-half (1/2) points are permissible.

**EXAMPLE:**

The first horse in a contest works. The Judge cannot decide whether to mark the run a 73 or 74. The Judge decides to mark the run 73 1/2.

**RULING:**

Legal. The Judge may mark any run he/she chooses using one-half points: however, the reason for the one-half point is to allow the judge to differentiate between runs. It is, therefore, not desirable to begin one's score card with a one-half point marking.

NOTE: Judges are encouraged to use a full spread of scores in judging a contest. It is highly unlikely that in a class of twenty five horses, ten horses would have identical works and be marked the same score; however, many cutting horse contests conclude with several of the horses that place sharing the same scores because Judges did not assess a high enough point value to those good runs that occur early in the contest. By using a full spread of scores, the remaining horses in the contest are more likely to place in the positions earned by their performance.

**JUDGING RULE 21:**

When the Judge is in doubt about a penalty, the benefit always goes to the contestant. Penalties:

- (a) 1/2 point – (miss) losing working advantage (11)
  - (b) 1 point – reined or visibly cued (8)
  - (c) 1 point – noise directed to cattle (5a)
  - (d) 1 point – toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder (8d)
  - (e) 1 point – hold on too long on a cut (8a)
  - (f) 1 point – working out of position
  - (g) 1 point – hand too far forward
- 
- (a) 3 points – hot quit (13)
  - (b) 3 points – cattle picked up or scattered (5b)
  - (c) 3 points – second hand on reins (8b)
  - (d) 3 points – spur in shoulder (8c)
  - (e) 3 points – pawing or biting cattle (12)

- (f) 3 points – failure to make a deep cut(1)
- (g) 3 points – back fence (6)
  
- (a) 5 points – horse quitting a cow(14)
- (b) 5 points – losing a cow (9)
- (c) 5 points – changing cattle after a specific commitment (10)
- (d) 5 points – failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd (15)

60 score. If horse turns tail (7)

60 score If horse fall to ground (17)

Disqualification (score 0) – illegal equipment, or leaves working area before time expires

**EXAMPLE 1:**

The Cutter is working and quits a cow.

- a) The judge is certain the quit was legal
- b) The Judge is not certain whether the quit was illegal.
- c) The judge can not see the quit because the turn-back horse is in his/her vision.

**RULING:**

In (a) assess a three (3) point penalty for an illegal quit (Rule 13).

In (b) consider the quit legal.

In (c) consider the quit legal. A Judge must never guess or anticipate when making a call.

**NOTE: A GOOD RULE OF THUMB -** A Judge is duty-bound to call all penalties. If a penalty occurs call it. If the Judge must ask themselves, “Was that a penalty?” the benefit must go the Cutter.

Cutting horse runs are seldom identical. A judge can determine the difference in cutting runs by following these guidelines.

**GIVE CREDIT**

- a) For entering the herd quietly with very little disturbance to the herd or to the animal brought out (Rule 1).
- b) For taking an animal toward the centre of the arena (Rule 2).
- c) For driving a cow sufficient distance from the herd to assure that the herd will not be disturbed by the contestant’s work (Rule 2).
- d) For riding with a loose rein throughout a performance (Rule 3).

- e) For setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the centre of the arena as possible (Rule 4).

NOTE: A herd-holder's duty is to assist the Cutter in containing the herd and group of cattle the Cutter is trying to cut from. This gives the Cutter ample opportunity to demonstrate to the Judges his/her ability to work the herd, drive a cow, and set a cow up in the middle of the pen. These conditions allow a Judge to give credit to the Cutter under Rules 1a, 2 and 4. After assisting the Cutter in making a cut, the herd-holder should move to a position toward the arena wall that will enable him/her to contain the herd, but not distract from the run. Any excessive action by the Herd-holder will be dealt with as a reduction in run content. Although there is no specific major penalty for this action, it does hinder the Cutter's horse from showing his / her full potential. Therefore, Judges will begin reducing run content when excessive help from herd- holders affects the run, such as: saving a major penalty from occurring; cutting the pen down; and in fresh cattle, driving the herd out for the Cutter to cut from. Herd- holders should keep in mind they are jeopardising the Cutter's score when they give too much assistance to the Cutter.

- a) In fresh cattle, as a Cutter enters the herd, one or both of the herd-holders gets behind the cattle so that it is obvious to the Judge that the herd-holders are doing as much or more to drive the cattle out as the cutter is.

RULING:

The run content of the run will be reduced.

- b) In a late class at a weekend show, the cattle are re-runs and have become very difficult to move away from the back fence. Both herd-holders assist the Cutter in moving the cattle out far enough to make a cut.

RULING:

No reduction of run content.

- c) In re-run cattle, the Cutter receives no excessive help from his herd-holders and is able to drive the cattle out on his/her own to make a cut.

RULING:

Credit should be given and the run content increased.

d) In re-run cattle, the Cutter walks his/her horse to the back edge of the herd and stops. While the Cutter is sitting still the herd-holder on the opposite side rides in behind the cattle and drives them away from the back fence. When the cattle are a sufficient distance out, the herd-holder moves out from behind the cattle and allows the cutter to move up and make his/her cut.

RULING:

The run content of the run will be reduced.

e) After the cut is made, the herd-holder does not move his/her horse to a position on the arena wall, but stops in a position several feet off the wall. The herd-holder is not moving but it is obvious to the Judge that the cow being worked is being influenced by the presence of the herd-holder's horse.

RULING:

The run content of the run will be reduced.

f) As the cutter leaves the arena wall with a cow, the herd-holder on the opposite side believes the Cutter's path may cause the herd to split. He/she rides his/her horse out into the arena to a position that will prevent this from happening.

RULING:

No reduction in run content. The herd-holder has the right to position himself/herself so that the herd will not scatter

g) While a Cutter is working, the herd-holder is sitting in the corner. As the Cutter and cow approach the corner, the herd-holder:

- i. Remains in position but moves his/her horse slightly.
- ii. Comes out of the corner in an obvious attempt to stop or turn the cow.

RULING:

i. No reduction in run content. ii. Run content will be reduced.

h) The Cutter has worked a cow for several seconds and needs to get off. The cow is obviously not going to turn away without some assistance.

- i. As the cow approaches the side, with the Cutter in working position, the herd-holder moves his/her horse up to turn the cow away.
- ii. The Cutter has lost control of the cow and is out of position when the herd-holder turns the cow away.

**RULING:**

- i. No reduction in run content.
- ii. The point value of the run will be reduced.

i) After a miss, it is obvious to the Judge that the Cutter is about to lose or back fence a cow. The herd-holder moves his/her horse to prevent this from happening.

**RULING:** Assess a one (1) point penalty for the miss (Rule 11) and reduce run content for excessive herd help.

2. Consider the **DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY** of the run.

**DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY** is determined by the amount of effort exerted by the cow in its attempt to return to the herd. A cow that turns quickly and moves rapidly is more difficult to hold in a working position than a cow that turns and moves slowly. A Judge must give credit when a Cutter is able to hold a working position on a tough cow.

3. Consider the **EYE APPEAL** of the run. Runs that are attractive because of the style of the horse and the correctness of the overall performance shall receive credit.

4. Consider the **AMOUNT OF COURAGE** shown by the Cutter. A Judge shall give credit for a Cutter staying on a tough cow. Credit shall be given for a Cutter coming off the fence with a cow and then establishing a working position near the centre of the arena before quitting the cow.

**NOTE:** Coming off the fence in an attempt to set up a cow in the centre of the arena before quitting and staying on a

tough cow are high risk situations. If a rule infraction occurs in this situation, a Judge must call it; therefore, the Cutter who shows this type of Courage and commits no rule infractions, shall receive credit.

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5. Consider the **AMOUNT OF TIME** that the Cutter actually spends working cattle during the 2 1/2 minute run. A Cutter shall be given credit for his/her willingness to exhibit his/her horse actually working cattle. Obvious stalling in the herd or reluctance to cut a cow to allow time to run off the clock shall have a negative influence on the total point value of the run.

NOTES:

a) Run content is a numerical evaluation (60-80) based on a running analysis of what actually occurs during the work, without regard to penalty.

b) Guidelines for evaluating a work. The Judge will start judging each horse when the Cutter's time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of (70). The run will conclude at the first sound of the buzzer. The Cutter's run content will be based upon compliance with credit situations. Numerical value of run content will fluctuate up or down (60-80) throughout the run. Run content may be decreased without actual occurrence of a penalty. Actual occurrence of penalties will only be deducted at the conclusion of the run.

At any point in the run a Judge should be able to ascribe a numerical value based on the above standard. The standard is run content, a numerical value, minus penalties equals the score.

Run Content is a numerical value – penalties = score

**EXAMPLE 1:**

The Cutter works two cows and is attempting to cut his/her third cow when the buzzer sounds.

**RULING:**

The Cutter may work any number of cattle that he chooses.

NOTE: No penalty exists for "dying in the herd". The Judge shall, however always consider the amount of time spent working when marking a run. It is possible that the Cutter who "dies in the herd" actually did more work than the Cutter who is working at the buzzer.

**EXAMPLE 2:**

While working his/her first cow, it becomes evident to the Judge that the Cutter has started a spectacular run. The degree of difficulty is high. The eye appeal of the run is high. The Cutter is demonstrating a high degree of courage. The Cutter cuts a tough second cow and begins to work it. He goes past on a turn losing working position and has to take several steps before regaining it.

Two turns later he loses his working position again and reins his/her horse to aid him/her in his/her recovery. He/she is able to quit the cow legally. He/she cuts a tough third cow and holds the cow in working position until the buzzer sounds. In the Judge's opinion, the run has an original point value of 76.

**RULING:**

Subtract three (3) one (1) point penalties, one (1) point for each time the Cutter actually lost his/her working position and one (1) point for reining.  $76 - 3 = 73$

**EXAMPLE 3:**

The Cutter has a run that in the Judge's opinion has an original point value of 73. Just prior to the buzzer sounding, the Cutter lost a cow.

**RULING:**

Subtract a five (5) point penalty from the original point value.  $73 - 5 = 68$

**EXAMPLE 4:**

The Cutter has a run that in the Judge's opinion has an original point value of 74. The run was penalty free.

**RULING:**

Record the score as 74.

**EXAMPLE 5:**

Cutter A cuts cleanly and works two cows. He/she holds both cows very near the centre of the arena. Both of the cows worked by the Cutter are slow and neither makes much effort to return to the herd. Cutter B cuts cleanly and works two cows. He/she holds his/her first cow very near the centre of the arena. He/she cuts his/her second cow cleanly but works it almost entirely on the right one-third of the arena. The first cow worked by Cutter B is slow and makes very little effort to return to the herd. The second cow moves rapidly and turns quickly in its attempt to return to the herd. Both Cutter A and Cutter B have penalty free runs.

**RULING:**

Cutter B shall receive more credit than Cutter A. A Judge must always consider the degree of difficulty in a run. While Cutter A more nearly fulfils the requirements of Rule 4 by holding his/her cattle near the centre of the arena. Cutter B must receive a higher score because the degree of difficulty of his/her run is much higher than that of Cutter A.

**EXAMPLE 6:**

Cutter A and Cutter B have runs that in the Judge's opinion have similar degrees of difficulty. Cutter B's run is more attractive than Cutter A's. The style of his/her horse is more appealing to watch than that of Cutter A's.

RULING:

Cutter B shall receive more credit because the eye appeal of his/her run is higher than that of Cutter A's.

**EXAMPLE 7:**

Cutter A is working a cow that runs to the fence and turns away from his/her horse. He/she stays on that cow and is able to establish a working position on the cow near the centre of the arena. Cutter A then holds that cow for two (2) turns and quits legally. Cutter B is working a cow that runs to the fence and turns away from his/her horse. Cutter B stays on that cow and the cow runs all the way across the arena and turns away. The Cutter stays with that cow again and legally quits it when it turns away on the other fence. Cutter B was not able to contain the cow in the centre of the arena after coming off the fence.

RULING:

Cutter A shall receive more credit than Cutter B. Even though Cutter B demonstrated courage in coming off the fence with the cow, the results of the courage did not positively influence the point value of the run. To be eligible for credit the Cutter must establish a working position and contain the cow near the centre of the arena after coming off the fence.

**EXAMPLE 8:**

Cutter A has a run that is high in degree of difficulty, but low in eye appeal. Cutter B has a run that is high in eye appeal, but low in degree of difficulty. Cutter C has a run that has a moderate degree of difficulty and a moderate amount of eye appeal.

RULING:

Cutter C shall be placed the highest. His/her run is more complete. It has a degree of difficulty with eye appeal. Cutter A shall be placed between C and B. The degree of difficulty is more valuable to the point value of a run than is eye appeal.

### **EXAMPLE 9:**

In the Judge's opinion, Cutter A and Cutter B have similar runs. The degree of difficulty, the amount of eye appeal, the amount of courage are each very similar. Cutter A actually spends more time working cattle during the 2 1/2 minute period than Cutter B did.

### **RULING:**

Cutter A shall receive more credit than Cutter B.

### **SAMS (Self Adjusted Monitor System)**

It is imperative that the system be announced prior to the start of the show.

1. There will be no adjustment to the following:
  - a. No change in run content.
  - b. No change in one (1) point penalties.
  - c. No review of any run not reported to the announcer at the time the Judge calls in His/her score.
  
2. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or five (5) point penalty is in question on the Judge's card. The Judge must report the score and indicate that a review will take place on that particular score. For instance, if a horse has a completed run with run content score of 74 and has incurred a three (3) point infraction, he must designate the specific infraction in the appropriate penalty box.

If the judge wishes to review the penalty, he/she will report the score as follows to the announcer: "74R"

The announcer must announce "74R" for the review to be valid, and this announcement must be made when the run is complete and before the next run takes place. It is the Judge's responsibility to be sure the call indicating the "R" is announced. At the same time he/she records his/her score with the "R", he/she circles the penalty to indicate where the review will be made.

All reviews should be made during a cattle change, but in no case will the review be permitted to take place during the following class.

A Judge must resolve any and all reviews in that particular class before moving on to the next class. A Judge should have an NZCHA Casebook with him/her in case he/she needs to aid his/her decision making process. If the Judge, after reviewing the video tape, decides that his/her score must be lowered based on the penalty review, he does the following:

- a. He/she leaves the original mark for the horse and circle in place. He/she does not erase the original or alter it in any way.
- b. Next to the original score and circle he/she indicates the new score and initials same. If there is no room on that horse's score line, a Judge may use the bottom of his/her Judge's sheet or the back of his/her score sheet to record the "adjusted" score and initial the change. Under no circumstances should the Judge use another piece of paper or any other means to indicate a change of score. If the Judge does not change the original score, he/she shall initial it within the circle. The Judge then turns his/her score sheet in to the announcer (show management) and the announcer will make the following statement:

"Horse #19, Docs Tommy, has a score of 74 if no adjustment or 71 if adjusted."

If there are more adjustments in that group of cattle, each announcement will be the same.

Under this system, it is imperative that the elected representative and show management enforce each and every rule pertaining to "judge-contestant" contact. If any contact is made with the Judge by a contestant over the review process before, during or after the process, the cutter will be excused from the arena, all entry fees forfeited and the judge will file an immediate letter with the NCHA stating the situation and all related facts. The system is being implemented not only as aid to assist the Judge but also to provide the contestant with a more fair and accurate score.

To aid this system, show management must provide video equipment by which the review process can take place. Any system will work as long as it provides a clear picture and is consistent for all contestants. The procedure has been designed to add an element of fairness to our judging system and the better the review process and equipment, the easier the review becomes.

At the Judge's discretion, this system may be used in any cutting class.

Judges should approach the use of the system as an aid to their overall success in placing horses in the correct order. The following is offered to all Judges based on our successful NZCHA monitor system that is currently in place at all NZCHA sponsored events and is being used by many Affiliates at their aged events and/or major circuits.

### **Summary of "SAMS"**

1. Deal with the three (3) and five (5) point penalties only. You are never to re-judge the run or the run content or adjust any one (1) point penalties.

2. Make your call after careful thought process and move on to the next review. Do not dwell on the call. Our current system has taught us that after three reruns of the same situation the Judge should have a working knowledge and basis in fact for a decision.

3. Rule 21 is in the rule book to determine in favour of the cutter, if a penalty situation does not have an absolute conclusion. However, it is important that Rule 21 is used as an aid, not a crutch. If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.

4. Do not let the review process affect your concentration or confidence. All Judges will make an error, and the review process, along with the Casebook, will increase your capacity to make the correct call when the situation reoccurs. The goal of any Judging system is to put the money and horses in the proper order.

5. The penalty review will not have any impact on the run content except to add or subtract the penalty value (3 or 5 points) to the score.

To recap, here are the important points:

- a. Record your score as normal. Designate the appropriate penalty for reviews.
- b. Communicate your score to the announcer 3pt. 5pt. i.e. 74R
- c. Review the major penalty only; 3 or 5 points as designated.
- d. Use the Casebook, if necessary, to aid your decision.
- e. Complete the reviews and make the class complete before moving to the next class. In the event of equipment failure, all scores reviewed or not reviewed will remain official, and the Judge continues to mark his/her card in the normal fashion.

6. Two or three Judges—one uses the “R” and the other(s) did not:

The judge(s) marking the “R” will review the situation first. If the Judge(s) does not change their score, the other Judge(s) will not be required to look at the run. If the Judge(s) changes the score, then the other Judge(s) will be required to review the situation. If the decision of the Judge that called the “R” results in the difference of a major penalty between the Judges; the other Judge (s) will be required to review the situation. This should be done totally separate with no communication between the Judges during the reviews.

7. Two or three judges—no “R” is called:

If during any run one Judge calls a major penalty (3 or 5 points) and the other Judges do not call a review, then all Judges must look at that particular situation, separately with no communication among them. It is the Show Secretary’s responsibility to review each Judge’s score card to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points). They may agree there is, or is not, a penalty. The purpose is that all Judges reviewed the situation. This is to better help the judges and also the contestants.

8. The NZCHA does not allow the use of the “self-review” system where more than three Judges are being used. The NZCHA has trained and qualified a number of “field monitors” available at an affordable cost to monitor large shows. With three or more judges, the system has difficulty because of the many review situations created and the time factor involved. A “Field” or “Staff” monitor can be used with much greater efficiency.

The “SAMS” is a positive step toward better NZCHA Judging and more accurate placing of horses. The goal of the NZCHA Judging system has been and remains the proper purse distribution based on credits and penalties.

If you have any questions about the system or its use, please contact the NCHA office, and we will attempt to answer all inquiries.

In order for the Judge to use the Self Adjusted Monitor System, show management must provide an isolated location for the Judge to review the runs in question. The room is to include a good sized TV, video player and NZCHA Case Book.

Under no condition is a Judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants or other Judges.

### **Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System**

The Adjusted Monitor System (AMS) is a system that has been designed to make Judging equally fair for each contestant. The AMS is required to be used with five Judges, and may be used with a two and three Judge show. In the five Judge systems, the high and low scores will be discarded. The following guidelines are to be used by the monitors who will be administering the Adjusted Monitor System.

1. First and foremost, the monitor is not the Judge, but is there in the capacity to monitor and make rulings on major penalty discrepancies, based on reviewing film and using the “NZCHA Judging Casebook of Rules and Regulations for Judging Cutting Horse Contests.”
2. Monitor(s) may talk to contestants and owners about a particular run or penalty provided the Director of Judges or a designated non-contestant liaison is present. The monitor(s) will be allowed to watch the show in a designated area. They will not talk to contestants or owners beyond the exchange of normal greetings during the show.
3. The monitor(s) will deal only with three and five-point penalty discrepancies in the Judge’s cards.
4. The monitor(s) will be concerned with obvious penalties. All other calls will be ruled as judgment calls.

5. Procedure of the monitor:

*The monitor will be required to watch all runs either live in the Judges stand or in an appropriate monitor room with adequate monitor (live feed). The monitor will be required to record all obvious three and five point penalties.*

- a. The monitor(s) look at the judge's cards for three or five point penalty differences. In the event the Judges are split on a particular penalty, *and in the event that the monitor judge has recorded an obvious three or five point penalty which was not recorded by either Judge, (This will be known as a Monitor Review MR)* then the work is reviewed on film, and is then ruled on by applying the "Rules for Judging Cutting Horse Shows" found in the NZCHA Rule Book.
- b. If the monitor(s) are in full agreement that the rule in question was violated or not violated, then the Judge in error will be asked to the monitor room. If the monitor(s) are split on the rule in question, Rule 21 is applied.
- c. If the Judge or Judges charged a penalty, the Judge will be asked to show the monitor where he/she charged the penalty in that run.
- d. If the Judge or Judges did not charge a penalty, then the penalty will be shown to the Judge / Judges.*
- e. In either case, the Judge or Judges can see the situation as many times as he/she wishes, and if he/she requests any clarification of the rule in question, then it is given to him/her from the Rule Book and Casebook examples.
- f. If a major penalty has been called in error, thereby making clear and obvious one-point penalties not previously charged, then the adjusted score shall reflect the one-point penalty.
- g. At this time, the Judge has the opportunity to change his/her score or leave his/her score as originally marked. In no way is the Judge intimidated or encouraged into changing his or her score or leaving his or her score as originally marked.

h. If the Judge wishes to change his/her score, an affidavit is signed by the Judge signifying the penalty, and the score is adjusted by the amount of that penalty from a \_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_. *If the review was called by the Monitor (MR) then the MR shall be recorded on the Judges Score card.*

**EXAMPLE:**

Go Round

Group of Cattle

I wish to change from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_ . (horse's name)  
[ ] three-point penalty  
[ ] five-point penalty

Signature

Date

i. Monitor(s) will be given the authority to educate a Judge after he/she has signed his/her penalty slip and made his/her decision on a call when there is an obvious misapplication of a rule violation.

6. The monitor(s) will have full use of video equipment, including video replay, slow motion, and wide angle or overhead film to determine each infraction in question. If a monitor finds a penalty to be ruled inconclusive due to video evidence; the run will not be reviewed by a Judge or Judges (Inconclusive film evidence). If there is inconclusive film evidence, the call must stand as is. No adjustments will be made.

7. There will be no inquiries; runs will be reviewed on the basis outlined in 5a. However, contestants may ask to review a run in question with the Director of Judges or with a liaison and the monitor(s).

8. If there are no discrepancies on the Judges' cards, the run will not be reviewed, except for the evaluation of Judges during go rounds. For the purpose of evaluating Judges during go-rounds four or five runs will be looked at in each bunch of cattle.

9. The monitor(s) will not review one-point penalties; however, they may review any run with a Judge where there are clear misapplications of multiple obvious one-point penalties. Scores of 195 and below, in a go-round, will not be reviewed.

10. All reviews with Judges will be taped.

11. A Judge Evaluation sheet will accompany each set of cattle. This will allow monitors an up-to-date record in case they have to give a Judge a warning.

12. Monitors will abide by all rules set forth in the criteria for Judge Evaluation.

13. Judge monitor responses will be issued to each Judge at the completion of the show. Exit interviews may be conducted.

14. Once the scores are adjusted, show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.

## **SOME POINTS ON SHOWING AND JUDGING THE CUTTING HORSE**

The following questions and answers are included in this Rule Book as an aid to a clearer understanding of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses. The opinions expressed are based on surveys and Judging Clinics conducted by the NZCHA

### *1. What is the desired number of cattle to work?*

The number of cattle to cut in the two and one-half minute time limit is not over three head on fresh cattle. If a cutter can do as much on two head as another can do on three, the cutter working the two head should have the higher score because he/she has not spent as much time in the herd.

### *2. Approaching the herd.*

A horse should never be set down hard approaching the herd. Walking or trotting to the herd is acceptable provided the horse is taken up very easily before getting close enough to disturb the cattle. The horse should display no hesitation, weaving or reluctance to approach and enter the herd.

### *3. Entering and working the herd.*

The true cutting horse enters the herd with ease, concentrating on the job to be done; not looking over the fence or biting; alert, but quiet, making no unnecessary movements that might disturb the cattle.

Here are some specific points on herd work;

- a) How far should a horse go into the herd to cut a cow? He should go deep enough to show his/ her ability to get one out.
  
- b) Is it all right to enter the middle of the herd on either side and to the middle or back side and get the one wanted? Yes.
  
- c) Is it all right to go behind the herd and bring out the one wanted? Yes.

### *4. When should a horse be turned loose?*

A rider entering the herd may have a light-rein contact with the horse, and maintain this contact while he/she is in the herd and while he/she is in the process of cutting the animal free from the remaining cattle. When the animal has been cut, he/she should let his/her horse alone, and the horse should be given enough slack so that it would be obvious to the Judge that the horse was on his/her own.

### *5. Bringing the cow from the herd.*

The cutting horse should stay a reasonable distance from the cow if possible, showing a great deal of expression but no illness toward the animal being cut. Illness is defined as biting, trying to bite, pawing, kicking or charging. Facial expression and ear position should not be considered as a sign of illness. He/she should be on his/her toes, making counter movements to the cow regardless of the distance separating them. The horse should not rush or push cattle excessively in bringing one from the herd unless the cow turns around and tries to get back at the edge of the herd. The horse should bring a cow a sufficient distance from the herd toward the centre of the arena, so the herd will not be disturbed while working, and set the cow up.

### *6. When is a cow set up (in working position)?*

The cow should be in the middle of the arena or as near this point as possible with the horse making movements to counteract movements of the cow. This does not mean that the horse would be moving while the cow is standing still.

When the cow moves, the horse should make faster moves so that he/she will hold the cow, not only from returning to the herd but also from going from side to side (wall to wall), without excessive help from his/her turn-back riders.

7. *When is a horse out of position?*

The loss of working advantage (being out of position) is not determined by the distance that a horse goes by a cow; it is determined by the response of the horse to the action of the cow. A horse should have no difficulty maintaining working advantage over a slow moving cow. The horse which can maintain working advantage over a cow which presents a severe challenge shall receive credit. No penalty should be charged the horse which immediately regains position after going sufficiently past a cow to cause it to turn.

8. *Picking up cattle.*

No penalty shall be assessed for cattle that leave the herd so long as it is not caused by the contesting horse.

9. *What is not a satisfactory way of quitting a cow?*

A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, or is obviously behind the turn-back horses and the turn-back horses are behind the time line. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.