

2024 NRHA Rule Change Proposals

(May 2023 Board Voting Results)

Approved/Approved with Amendments

43-1-24: Amateur Derby Division for Category 2 & 6 – Approved as amended to follow current trial conditions.

Intent of Proposal: *The addition of the Amateur Derby allows non-pros who have limited time to practice and may be less experienced than those who have access to training programs on a daily basis an opportunity to compete on a level playing field. To offer this division to the Non-Pro Derby Categories allowing non-pros who are not afforded certain advantages that are available to professional trainer's family members a separate division to participate. Being a restricted division provides an opportunity beyond all the existing levels to further encourage grassroots participation in Aged Events and encourage future growth of the industry.*

As Amended: *The language is based on the current trial period conditions/criteria that have been in place since April 2022.*

NRHA Handbook - Page 44 and 47

Add at end of Cat. 2 and 6 charts.

Amateur Derby Must have a Non Pro membership. See Show Rules and Regulations.

I. Aged Show and Closed Aged Show Conditions for additional rules.

Page 61 – Insert a new (6) and renumber subsequent items.

Show Rules and Regulations, I. Aged Show and Closed Aged Show Conditions

(6) Amateur Derby. May only be run concurrent with a non pro derby. At minimum, a Non Pro Level 4 and Level 1 must be offered in the concurrent derby.

(a) Added Money: Added money cannot exceed half of the Level 4 added money and cannot exceed the Level 1 added money in the concurrent non pro derby.

(b) Entries: To compete in the Amateur, the same rider/horse must be cross-entered into at least one level of the concurrent non pro derby. Show management can define which level(s) must be cross-entered.

(c) Eligibility: Riders must have a Non Pro membership and adhere to the Non Pro Membership Conditions. For earnings caps and other criteria, please refer to the current NRHA Eligibility Policy.

Renumber subsequent.

***Note:** *The requirement that the Non Pro Derby hold both a Level 4 AND Level 1 ties to the added money definitions below. Ex. If we did not require both 4 and 1, a show could host a L4 Non Pro, with no other levels, and but have an Amateur Derby with up to 50% of the L4 added money. Our feeling is that was not in-line with the intent, so this is a good time to address that.*

Add the following to the Eligibility Policy so those restrictions can be updated annually and alongside other eligibility criteria.

	<u>Earnings Cap</u>	<u>Categories Included</u>	<u>Years</u>
Amateur Derby	\$100,000	2, 6, 8, 11	Lifetime

Also ineligible to compete:

- Youth members (as defined by the youth membership requirements in the NRHA Handbook).
- Legal dependents of professional equine trainers.
 - A legal dependent is defined as being officially claimed as a dependent on a tax return.
- Spouses or legal partners/mates of professional equine trainers.
 - Partner/mate status will only be accepted when the civil status is legally and lawfully registered in the country/state of residence. All relationships must be current and lawful.
- A “professional equine trainer” is defined as someone who handles the mounted preparation of a horse with the intent to improve the horse’s performance in any equine discipline (as defined in the NRHA Handbook).

42-1-24: Masters Non Pro – Approved

Intent of Proposal: *The intent of this rule is to give recognition to one of the fastest-growing segments of the NRHA, Masters Non Pro, (riders who have reached their 60th birthday on or before Jan. 1st of the current year). This is a group that has been supporting the industry for many years with horses bought, sold, horses in training, showing, and sponsorships. The numbers show that there are plenty of members in this age group, and we feel as if the ability to run for a world Championship Title against one’s peers in age would give this age group a huge incentive to show. In addition, if Masters was added to Category 7 as a NAAC finals class, it would give this age group a class in OKC to aim for and would hopefully get affiliates who do not currently offer classes for Masters to add it to their show schedules, and to get in in the ARCs as well as NAAC.*

Page 42. Categories of Competition and Class Eligibility

Category 1

(NRHA Approved Ancillary Classes; World Championship and Top Ten awards to apply...)

Masters Non Pro: For Persons 60 and older as of January 1 of the current year. ~~Can run concurrently with the Category 2 Level 4, Level 3, Level 2, or Level 1 Non Pro class.~~ Ancillary Masters Non Pro classes will be considered Category 1 and not count as a top ten class. **ADD: Can run concurrently with Category 1 Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, and Prime Time Non Pro.**

Category 2

NRHA Approved Aged Shows

ADD: Masters Non Pro: For Persons 60 and older as of January 1 of the current year. Can run concurrently with the Category 2 Level 4, Level 3, Level 2, or Level 1 Non Pro class.

Category 5

NRHA approved Ancillary classes. Not for World Champion and Top Ten awards...

~~DELETE: Masters Non Pro: For Persons 60 or Older as of January 1 of the Current Year.~~

Category 6

NRHA Approved Closed Aged Shows

ADD: Masters Non Pro: For Persons 60 and older as of January 1 of the current year. Can run concurrently with the Category 2 Level 4, Level 3, Level 2, or Level 1 Non Pro class.

Category 7

NRHA Approved Affiliate Championship Classes

ADD: Masters Non Pro. Currently Master Non Pro is an optional Regional Affiliate Finals Championship class.

Page 69. Q. Year-End Awards

(4). Add to list: **Masters Non Pro**

(5). Earnings are awarded on a “one horse/one rider” combination in the Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2, Novice Horse Non Pro Level 3, Prime Time Non Pro, **Masters Non Pro**, and Youth classes.

42-2-24: Legends Non Pro – Approved

Intent of Proposal: I cannot think of one reason why a “Legend Rider” would pay \$100 entry fee+ to show against a rider 15-25 years younger and probably on a level 4 horse. Legends have been around a long time supporting NRHA and RHF with time and money. Now support us as we are entitled to.

Page 42. Categories of Competition and Class Eligibility

Category 1

ADD:

Legends Non Pro: For Persons 70 and older as of January 1 of the current year. Can run concurrently with the Category 2 Level 4, Level 3, Level 2, or Level 1 Non Pro class. Ancillary Legends Non Pro classes will be considered Category 1 and will not count as a top ten class.

44-1-24: Maturity Definition – Approved as amended

Intent of Proposal: With many Derbies including 7-year-olds, the Maturity definition should be updated. This would help avoid situations when a horse is entered in a Derby and Maturity at the same show (“taking two bites at the apple”) and its impact on other horses that this could take away from.

Page 44. Category 2

Maturity- Limited to horses **7 8** years or older **for classes held in North America and 9 years old or older for classes held in the European and Oceania regions.** Can be run in either Open or Non Pro divisions.

47-1-24: Updating the Definition of Category 8 – Approved as amended

Intent of Proposal: Updating to reflect recent changes with FEI. This also updates the category definitions to recognize or approve events hosted in the same spirit of riders representing their countries as individuals or teams.

Page 47. Category 8

INTERNATIONAL & NGB & FEI COMPETITIONS

International, NGB-National Governing Body, FEI-Federation Equestre Internationale; to include recognized and/or approved events **with a focus on riders representing their countries in individual or team competition**, ~~such as World Equestrian Games, Pan Am Games, CRIs-Concours de Reining International, CRIOs-Concours de Reining Internationale Official, etc. (See below for more guidelines.)~~

Approved Category 8 Events that are run concurrently with NRHA classes and seek NRHA approval.
Recognized Category 8 Events that are run separately from NRHA classes or events but seek NRHA approval. Ex: FEI World Equestrian Games

51-1-24: Less Than 8 Horses Between Runs – Approved

Intent of Proposal: This is adding the current practice to the Handbook. This is commonly seen and accepted for aged events that have a final and a finalist draw party. Many times in finals, a drag is made after less horses than in ancillary classes or go rounds, so the drag can provide more time between runs even if the number of horses is less than eight.

Page 51. F. General Show Conditions

(10) A rider may not show more than three (3) horses in an NRHA class. If a rider rides more than one horse, there should be a spread of at least eight (8) horses between his/her runs. When this is not possible due to a limited number of entries, the spread should be the maximum possible. **If a hand-draw is performed for a finals class, a rider may accept a draw with less than eight (8) horses between his/her runs.** A horse may be entered only once per class. When classes run concurrently, a rider may show three (3) horses per class. However, a horse may be shown only once....

53-1-24: General Show Conditions – Approved

Intent of Proposal: Adding language into the handbook to reflect current practice and clean up redundancies.

Page 53. G. Event Approval

Add:

(8) Entry fees may not be more than 10% of the added money.

(9) Judge's fees cannot exceed the entry fees.

Page 60. H. Ancillary Show Conditions

Remove:

~~(5) Judge's fees may not exceed the entry fee~~

Page 64. J. Jackpot Affiliate Show Conditions

Remove:

~~(6) Judge's fees cannot exceed the entry fee~~

Add:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Max Entry Fee</u>
<u>Youth</u>	<u>\$10</u>
<u>Rookie Level 1</u>	<u>\$20 or not more than Rookie Level 2 or Limited Non Pro</u>
<u>Rookie Level 2</u>	<u>\$20 or not more than Limited Non Pro</u>

Page 64. K. Entry Level Ride & Slide Show Conditions

Add:

(7) Youth classes can have no more than a \$10 entry fee

Page 65. M. Para Reining Show Conditions

Remove:

~~(7) Judge's fees cannot exceed the entry fee~~

54-1-24: Certified Show Secretary – Approved

Intent of Proposal: Adding language into the handbook to reflect practice.

Page 54. (8) Event Classifications

(d) BB Events:

Add: **(D) Show Secretary or Show Manager must be certified by NRHA.**

(e) A Events:

Add: **(F) Show Secretary or Show Manager must be certified by NRHA.**

(f) AA Events:

Add: **(H) Show Secretary or Show Manager must be certified by NRHA.**

54-2-24: Show Secretary Showing at Events – Approved

Intent of Proposal: Larger events like A and AA have a heavier workload than smaller shows. In order for show secretaries to be able to focus on their role, it is important that their attention is not split between the show office and being an exhibitor.

Page 54. (8) Event Classifications

(e) A Events:

Add: **(G) Show Secretary may not show.**

(f) AA Events:

Add: **(I) Show Secretary may not show.**

54-3-24: Official Videographer – Approved

Intent of Proposal: In 2022, a show considered using a vendor that could robotically record every run, but the rider had to wear a tracker on their wrist. This posed problems with inhibiting the rider's movement, confidence in the video, concern with biosecurity, etc. Advancements are being made every day in technology with robotics and RFID tracking. However, we are unlike national and world human sports leagues in that reining has dozens of companies that offer video services to NRHA events. Since we don't have a way to directly oversee these companies, the use of this new technology could become inconsistent and problematic, so requests should be submitted in advance of the event.

Page 54. (8) Event Classifications

(d) BB Events:

(C) **Official v** Videographer for all classes is strongly recommended. **Since official videography can be used for reviews, the video must be captured manually, not by using automated systems.**

(e) A Events:

(D) **Official v** Videographer required for all classes. **Since official videography can be used for reviews, the video must be captured manually, not by using automated systems. Other video may be captured, but does not fulfill the requirement for having an official videographer.**

(f) AA Events:

(E) Official videographer required for all classes.... **Since official videography can be used for reviews, the video must be captured manually, not by using automated**

systems. Other video may be captured, but does not fulfill the requirement for having an official videographer.

54-4-24: Judges Monitor – Approved as amended

Intent of Proposal: This change would make the judging throughout the larger NRHA events more in line with the goals and intents of the NRHA judging system. It would also help to ensure that judging stays consistent by using the NRHA judges monitors at the larger events.

Page 54. (8) Event Classifications

(e) A Events:

(E) Judges Monitor is recommended **for the entire NRHA event.**

(f) AA Events:

(G) Classes that offer \$50,000 - ~~\$99,999~~ or more in added money (~~total of all divisions~~), a Judges Monitor or five chairs judges must be used.

(H) Classes that offer \$100,000 or more in added money (total of all divisions) a Judges Monitor and five chair judges must be used.

56-1-24: Judge's Score Sheets – Approved

Intent of Proposal: As more entities are developing tablets to score reining classes there is a need to clarify to show management that handwritten NRHA Official score sheets are required to be submitted as official documentation for NRHA results. This clarification is necessary to verify maneuver/penalty score verification and/or as a backup in the case of tablet or internet connection malfunctions. And to clean up the verbiage of score card vs score sheet so they are all listed the same.

Page 56. (11) Show Secretary

(C) (ii) Keep a complete set of results and judges' score sheets on file for at least one year from the show date. **When electronic tablets are used, a handwritten NRHA official score sheet card must be used to provide backup in the case of electronic tablet malfunction.**

Page 67. P. Show Results

(1) Show management is required to send official show documents (results, **NRHA official handwritten judges score sheets cards**, membership applications, competition licenses, transfers, non pro declarations, fees, and other NRHA forms) and complete show results to be received in the NRHA office within ten (10) business days following the completion of the NRHA event or the event will be subject to late fines. Show management will also maintain copies of the results, original judge's score **sheets cards** if an electronic version is sent to NRHA and official show entry forms for at least twelve (12) months. Prior to sending the documents to the NRHA office, the original judge's score **sheets cards** must remain in the show secretary's custody for supervision, control, and safekeeping.

Page 69. P. Show Results

(9) Judge's score **sheets cards** must be posted for NRHA approved classes. The **sheets cards** should be available for review within one (1) hour of class completion. If photocopying is not an option, original judge's score **sheets cards** must be available for supervised inspection, but the **sheets cards** must remain in the show secretary's custody for control and safekeeping until they are submitted to the NRHA. (10) A reining will be complete and the posted scores will be considered official thirty (30) minutes following the last horse of the day. Scores must be posted or made available to exhibitors prior to the

judge leaving the grounds for the day. Corrections to a judge's score ~~sheets cards~~ cannot be made once the judge leaves the grounds. Corrections to results due to inputting errors may be made any time.

Page 78. B. Judging Of Freestyle Reining

(1) Required maneuvers in Freestyle will receive a score based on technical merit from the technical judges utilizing judges score ~~sheets cards~~ specifically designed for the Freestyle....

Page 78. C. Score Card Sheet

(1)) The NRHA has revised its standard score ~~sheet card~~ for reining to accommodate the special needs of the Freestyle.

Page 97.

(19) All riders must dismount and the horse must be presented and the bridle dropped by the rider or a designated representative. The horse and equipment must be checked by the designated judge in the arena or in close proximity to the arena during a pre- or post-check. Should the equipment judge detect cause for a no score the exhibitor or his/her representative, trainer or guardian may at that time accept the no score and allow the equipment judge to cause the appropriate changes to all score ~~sheets cards~~ or request the other judges confer on the appropriate call....

Page 139. Pre/Post Check

Section 2. Should the judge responsible for examining horses and equipment determine that a rule violation has occurred, that results in a no score the exhibitor or his/her representative, trainer or guardian may at that time accept the no score and allow the equipment judge to cause the appropriate changes to all score ~~sheets cards~~ or request the other judges confer on the appropriate call.

Page 170.

Figure #8 – Sample Score ~~Sheet Card~~

Figure #9 – Sample Freestyle Score ~~Sheet Card~~

56-2-24: Option to Require Jog In – Approved

Intent of Proposal: With the growth of the sport, the length of show days continues to be an issue for show management. To address this several years ago, the option to jog in was added to all walk in patterns. Along with this show management also can encourage all riders to jog in to conserve time. To continue with this philosophy, this rule change would allow show management to require that all horses be jogged to center. Show management would be responsible for communicating this prior to the event (schedules, website, entry forms, etc.) and during the event. The same penalty application as used in Pattern 11 would apply if a horse was not jogged to center.

Page 56. Show Manager

(viii) Show schedules should not run more than 12 consecutive hours, excluding all breaks. **To assist with the length of the show schedule, show management may require horses be jogged to center on designated patterns (See Rules for Judging. Patterns). Show management is responsible for posting this requirement.** Show management could be subject to review and a possible fine for every quarter-hour past the 12-hour limit...

Page 102, 103 – Pattern 2
Page 106, 107 – Pattern 4
Page 108, 109 – Pattern 5
Page 110, 111 – Pattern 6
Page 114, 115 – Pattern 8

Page 124, 125 – Pattern 13
Page 126, 127 – Pattern 14
Page 128, 129 – Pattern 15
Page 132, 133 – Pattern A
Page 134, 135 – Pattern B

Horses may walk or jog to the center of arena. **(To assist with the show schedule, show management may require that horses be jogged to center. Show management is responsible for posting this requirement.)** Horses must walk or stop prior to starting pattern. Beginning at the center of the arena facing the left wall or fence.

Page 144. Penalty Score Zero

Section 4. The NRHA Handbook further specifies that the refusal of a command (balk) will incur a penalty score of 0.... The NRHA Handbook further states that a penalty score of 0 will be applied if a horse jogs in excess of 1/2 of the circumference of a circle, or 1/2 the length of the arena. (See Figure #5.) This does not apply to pattern #11 which is a jog in pattern, **or any other pattern requiring a jog in**, and requires a horse to jog the majority (over 1/2 the distance) of the way to the center.

60-1-24: Prime Time Non Pro Added Money Approved

***Intent of Proposal:** The intent of this rule change is to allow the added money in the Prime Time Non Pro to align with the Non Pro added money, which is a closer demographic than the Intermediate Non Pro. Currently the Prime Time Non Pro added money is aligned with the Intermediate Non Pro which has an earnings cap and eligibility restrictions which can change yearly. Prime Time Non Pro is the fastest growing division in the NRHA, and once you reach 50 years old, you are eligible for life. These are the people who support the industry through sponsorships, horses in training, and showing. These people should be allowed the ability to align their earnings with the Non Pro which closer resembles the demographics and eligibility.*

Page 60. H. Ancillary Show Conditions. (4) Added Money

(d) Prime Time Non Pro added money may not exceed the added money in the ~~Intermediate Non Pro~~ class, ~~with a maximum of \$1,000.~~

61-1-24: Requiring a Level 4 Open and Level 4 Non Pro Class for Aged Shows – Approved

***Intent of Proposal:** Proposed to drop “or” and replace with “and” to include all riders at all events. The restriction of riders is already handled through the 4 levels of Competition. Why should any riders be excluded from any NRHA event? If you offer a level 2 \$1,000 then you should have to offer a level 4 with at least \$1,000. The current does not offer a level playing field at all events. No other rules will be impacted by this change, but competition will be allowed to be fair across all events.*

Page 61. I. Aged Show and Closed Aged Show Conditions

(2) NRHA Aged shows must offer a minimum of one (1) Level 4 Open ~~or~~ **and** one (1) Level 4 Non Pro class.

95-1-24: 65 and Older Holding Saddle Horn in Category 2 & 6 – Approved

***Intent of Proposal:** This change will allow riders 65 and older to hold the saddle horn, if necessary, in aged events (Category 2 & 6), allowing them to use this the same as they can in other classes.*

Page 95. (8) The Following Will Result in a Penalty of Five Points (C) Holding the saddle with either hand

Exception 4. Age 65 and older (Non Pro classes only, ~~excluding Categories 2 and 6.~~ Age as of January 1.)

Page 144. 5 Point Penalties. Section 1.

Holding the saddle with either hand (except in the Freestyle Reining or Youth 10 & Under Short Stirrup class or for riders 65 and older (Non Pro classes only, ~~excluding Categories 2 and 6.~~ Age as of January 1.)

99-1-24 Modified Patterns – Approved as amended

***Intent of Proposal:** The length of time needed to run a full pattern can be detrimental to television production and appealing to new fans who are unfamiliar with our sport and its nuances. With the addition of more spectator-oriented, high-production events such as The American Performance Horseman, NRHA should be poised to present our sport in the best light possible to new markets. This addition formalizes NRHA's ability to adapt to those scenarios that aim to bring in fans and a larger audience to the sport. This proposal does not recommend modified/abbreviated patterns for our traditional categories of competition so we may maintain the standard that has been established there (ex. world title and aged event classes).*

Page 99. Patterns

7. With the exception of Entry Level Ride & Slide Level 1 **& Para-Reining** classes, the following patterns are the only patterns to be used at NRHA events. NRHA Green classes should use NRHA patterns but simple lead changes are allowed. **Show management hosting Category 11 or 13 classes may request approval from the Executive Committee to use modified patterns following a review and recommendation from the NRHA Judges Committee.**

132-1-24: Adding Lope In Pattern 17 – Approved as amended

***Intent of Proposal:** With the growth of the sport, the length of show days continues to be an issue for show management. To address this several years ago, the option to jog in was added to all walk in patterns. To continue with this philosophy, this rule change adds the option of a lope in version of Pattern 13. These don't have the intensity of a run-in but do allow for runs to be completed with more efficiency. The length of show days can have a detrimental impact on members and their overall enjoyment of NRHA shows, plus the impact on show staff and officials.*

Recommended judging application: Without trotting, the horse should pick up the correct lead within the first quarter of a circle. The same penalty application as used in Pattern 11 would apply if a horse was not jogged to center. Penalties while loping to the center of the arena will be assessed. ~~while the judging of the pattern (first maneuver) begins at the center of the arena.~~

Page 132.

Add a Pattern 17 (Lope in version of Pattern 13)

(Continued on next page)

Pattern 17

Begin on left lead. Continue to the center of the arena to begin the pattern facing toward the left wall or fence, without stopping or breaking gait.

1. Beginning on the left lead, complete two circles to the left: the first circle large and fast; the second circle small and slow. Stop at the center of the arena. Hesitate.

2. Complete four spins to the left. Hesitate.

Pattern continues as listed in Pattern 13.

Add diagram that shows lead departure from the gate at the end of arena, on right wall for left lead.

Page 157. Pattern Descriptions

Pattern 17

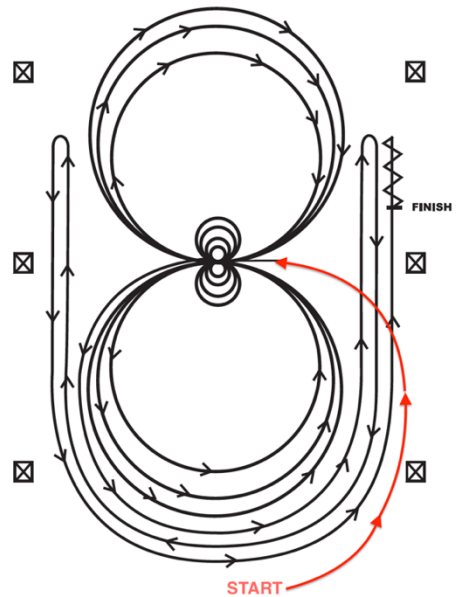
Maneuver 1

Left circles departure, large fast, small slow, stop, hesitate

Maneuver 2

4 left spins, hesitate

Description continues as listed in Pattern 13.



Amended to add: Pattern 18 (Lope in version of Pattern 5)

Pattern 18

Begin on left lead. Continue to the center of the arena to begin the pattern facing toward the left wall or fence, without stopping or breaking gait.

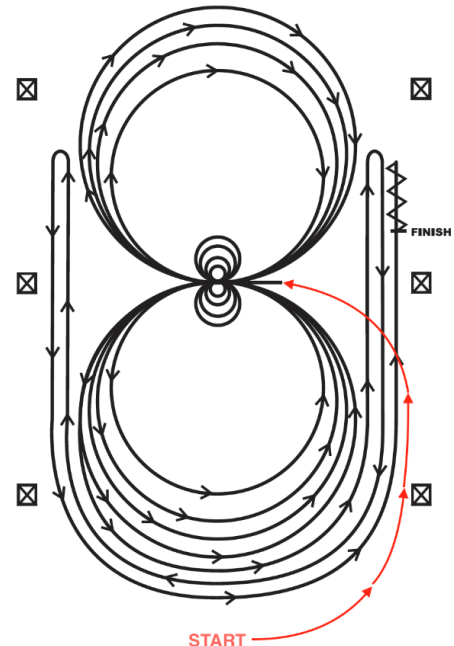
1. Beginning on the left lead, complete three circles to the left: the first two circles large and fast; the third circle small and slow. Stop at the center of the arena. Hesitate.

2. Complete four spins to the left. Hesitate.

Pattern continues as listed in Pattern 5.

Add diagram that shows lead departure from the gate at the end of arena, on right wall for left lead.

Also add Lope In version of Pattern 5



Pattern Descriptions

Pattern 18

Maneuver 1

Left circles departure, two large fast, small slow, stop, hesitate

Maneuver 2

4 left spins, hesitate

Description continues as listed in Pattern 5.

No Action Taken

20-1-24: Tail Alterations

33-1-24: Adding an Amateur Division

37-1-24 Definition of Immediate Family

45-1-24: Change "Ancillary" to "Traditional" in All Instances

50-1-24: Block Draws

66-1-24: Removing the Requirement of Ordering the Lawson Trophy

67-1-24: Ties in Classes With \$2,000 Added, Category 2 & 6, and NAAC

173-1-24: Removing Youth Points from the Eligibility of Rookie Levels 1 & 2

TBD-1-24: Soundness Check Before Showing