

May 30, 2020

1. During this time of rapid change due to the covid-19, please check our Region 6 webpage [natrc6.org](http://natrc6.org) often for the latest information regarding our 2020 ride schedule. If everything works out like we all want it to, we will have an amazing fall schedule! Our ride year will kick off in July with an LeD ride and clinic in Nebraska followed with 3 rides in September and 3 more rides in October! As always, the safety and well-being of our NATRC family is of utmost importance. Our wonderful ride managers will continue to monitor local, state, and national agency directives.
2. Thank you to Shari Parys for keeping our Region 6 webpage updated with the latest information, especially when it comes to our ride schedule. I would encourage each of you to make our Region 6 webpage the startup page for your internet browser. That way you will be sure to know of any updates and/or schedule changes.
3. As I mentioned last month, Gina Kollars is our new Region 6 Ride Coordinator. You will be hearing from her from time to time with various ride schedule updates. Even though this year's ride season has yet to get started, it is not too early to start thinking about our ride schedule for 2021. We already have three brand new rides and a new clinic on the 2021 schedule! If you are a current ride manager, it is time to secure your ride date(s) for next year. If you are interested and willing to manage a ride that would be very appreciated by all our members! We have locations in MO, KS, NE, and IA identified as possible ride locations. We just need ride managers to make it a reality. We have experienced ride managers very willing to serve as mentors for new ride managers.
4. Our national Board of Directors made the difficult decision at their last board meeting that there will be no live National NATRC Convention in 2021. It will be held in Omaha in 2022 instead and will still be hosted by Region 6. We now have an extra 12 months to plan!
5. Have you watched any of the new "Let's Ride" webinars as a part of the 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenge? There have been three so far and they have each been excellent! Hopefully there are more being planned, so be on the lookout for information on how to participate. Just in case you missed any of these webinars or if you want to watch them again you can find them on our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel. While you are there, why don't you go ahead and subscribe to our NATRC channel so you won't miss any new videos as they are added.
6. While our ride season is on hold, have you signed up yet for the 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenges. It is not too late to sign up for these virtual challenges. Sign up any time to hone your skills and reach for a new set of goals. <https://www.natrc.org/virtual-challenges>
7. Tammy Vasa will be sending out another "Special Bulletin" of our Region 6 Rally newsletter very soon. Be on the look out for this second edition! Thank you Tammy!!!
8. Have you been shopping from home during our quarantine? If you are shopping on Amazon, please remember the Amazon Smile program. Designate the North American Trail ride Conference, Inc as your charity of choice and when you do, .5% of your eligible purchases go to NATRC! [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

9. Region 6 is on social media! Huge shoutout to Kristen Schmalzried, our Region 6 Marketing/Social Media coordinator for keeping us up-to-date with her Facebook posts on our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6, North American Trail Ride Conference page. Follow us on Twitter @natrc\_6 and follow us on Instagram @natrcr6. A new Region 6 picture is posted each day. Are you in one of those pics? There are currently 84 pics!
10. Our National NATRC Board has been busy these last few months. Recently they have started meeting monthly utilizing the Zoom video conferencing tool. In fact, given the current virus situation, they are going to utilize Zoom for what would have been their face to face meeting in July. Not only is this the wise thing to do considering any air travel and virus concerns, but it is also the prudent thing to do as this will save our regions significant travel expenses. With our rides on hold for the time being there is no ride income for our regions. I greatly appreciate our National NATRC Board for their wisdom in not overburdening our Regions and creating any additional hardships.
11. Speaking of our NATRC National Board of Directors, Region 6 is fortunate to have two outstanding members representing us. Shari Parys and Marla Stucky do a wonderful job. As I mentioned above, the Board has been conducting monthly Zoom meetings. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will make sure and include a report from Shari and Marla following that meeting in my next membership update. NATRC National Board of Directors meeting minutes can be found on our national webpage. They are a little behind in posting their minutes at this time, but that should be resolved soon. Currently they just have their face to face meetings posted through 2019. I would anticipate that they will also post their zoom meeting minutes when they update the webpage, so keep a look out for those.
12. I am attaching the 2021 NATRC Rule Proposals to this update. Please look these over and share any feedback to Shari or Marla. They are open to any questions you may have regarding these proposals. The NATRC National Board of Directors will be voting on these rule changes in July, to take effect for the 2021 ride season which begins in mid-November 2020.

I hope this update finds all of you safe and healthy. If you haven't already, I encourage everyone to get signed up 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenges. A few of you posted your obstacle video from last month's challenges. They were awesome videos! So yeah, sign up and join the fun while we patiently wait for that first ride of the season!

Stay safe and get to riding!

John

## 2021 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS – May 5, 2020 – Changes in Bold

### REVERT MEMBERSHIP BACK TO CALENDAR YEAR

#### SECTION 1 – GENERAL

##### A. Membership

2. ~~Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of 12 months. Membership fees are due on the individual membership renewal date each year. Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of 12 months commencing January 1 each year regardless of the month in which payment of dues is received. All membership fees are due on January 1 each year.~~

##### Rationale:

The rolling renewal date led to confusion, extra work to track current members at events, and missed renewals. The calendar year membership is easier for both members and NATRC to use and remember.

### CHANGE LIMITS FROM PLACINGS TO POINTS FOR COMPETING IN NOVICE

#### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

##### A. Divisions

##### 2. Novice

##### e. Limitations

- (1) Any horse and adult rider combination having ~~won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation,~~ in horse (regardless of ~~division or~~ class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. A horse and rider combination that attains ~~five firsts 250 points~~ in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (2) Any horse and junior rider combination having ~~won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points,~~ lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of ~~division or~~ class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) and rider having reached age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. An age eligible horse and rider combination that attains ~~five firsts and 225 250~~ points in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (3) Any adult rider having ~~won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation,~~ in horsemanship (regardless of horse, ~~division,~~ or class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider ~~that who~~ attains ~~five firsts 250 points~~ in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (4) Any junior rider having ~~won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points,~~ lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, ~~division,~~ or class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) and having reached the age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider ~~that who~~ reaches age 14, attains ~~five firsts and 225 250~~ points in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- ~~(5) A rider or horse and rider combination with five firsts may compete for awards in the Competitive Pleasure Division.~~
- (5)** Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice Division except by participating Distance Only.

##### Rationale:

With low ridership, it's possible for first-time competitors to place 1<sup>st</sup> in horsemanship when they are the only competitor in their class. Thus riders are ribboning out of Novice too soon. Limitations based on point accumulation would be a better solution.

### ADD EXPERIENCED CLASS TO LEISURE DIVISION

#### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

##### A. Divisions

##### 4. Leisure

##### e. Classes

- (1) This division will offer **Experienced**, Adult and Junior Classes as defined in Section 4 B, **with the exception that Experienced teams are defined as:**
  - (a) Any NATRC judge (Veterinary, Horsemanship, Leisure).**
  - (b) Any NATRC rider with more than 250 points of any combination of Leisure Division Team and Open, Competitive Pleasure, Novice Horsemanship at the beginning of the ride year.**
  - (c) Any NATRC rider who has won a national award in a Competitive Pleasure or Open Division.**
- (2) Horse and rider will compete as a team, with their combined scores used to determine placing recognition.
- (3) A Junior may compete in the Adult or Experienced Class.**
- (4) Any adult may compete in the Experienced Class.**

##### Rationale:

Leisure is meant to be a home for riders new to NATRC and experienced NATRC riders who for whatever reason do not want to compete in a Novice, CP, or Open Division ride. The skill levels here are generally very different. We want to welcome both groups, but they shouldn't be competing against each other.

## CHANGE TWO MILE POINT TO FORWARD MOTION POINT

### SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

#### I. Trail Conduct

##### 5. ~~Two Mile Forward Motion~~ Point

- a. From a properly identified **forward motion** point (posted sign) ~~approximately 2 miles from the finish each day~~, riders must maintain forward motion and not stop or dismount from this point to the finish line except in extenuating circumstances dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship. Forward motion must be via the most direct route, without stopping, following the marked trail. Any deviation may result in penalty assessment or disqualification unless dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship.
- b. No one shall interfere with the rider's forward progress and/or pacing except when necessary for the safety of the horse/rider.
- c. **For Novice, Competitive Pleasure, and Open Divisions, the forward motion point should be approximately two (2) miles from the finish each day.**
- d. **For the Leisure Division, the forward motion point should be approximately one (1) mile from the finish.**

#### **Rationale:**

*Because the Leisure Division can be as short as 8 miles, requiring that one quarter of the ride be forward motion does not seem reasonable. This limits judging opportunities, trail access, and P&R location to a very limited portion of the trail. Shortening the Leisure Division point of forward motion keeps the ratio to total ride distance similar to other divisions.*

## ALLOW LENIENCE IN LEISURE DIVISION TIME PENALTIES AT COMPLETION OF RIDE

### SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

#### J. Timing and Time Penalty Points

##### 3. Early Arrivals

- a. A horse completing the day's ride in less than the minimum time and within 30 minutes prior to the minimum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute before the minimum time. Rider **or Leisure Division team** will also be faulted. **The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.**
- b. A horse **and rider team** arriving more than 30 minutes early shall be disqualified.

##### 4. Late Arrivals

- a. A horse completing the day's ride exceeding the maximum time and within 30 minutes subsequent to the maximum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute exceeding the maximum time. Rider **or Leisure Division team** will also be faulted. **The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.**
- b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will receive completion points and mileage only.

#### **Rationale:**

*To allow some judgement is assigning time penalties to the Leisure Division.*

## LEISURE DIVISION - SOURCING JUDGES and EVALUATION OF OVERNIGHT STABLING

### SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

#### B. Stabling

~~4. Competitors in the Leisure Division are excluded from stabling judging.~~

~~5. 4. Stabling options **not allowed** during competition as primary containment:~~

~~6. 5. Stallions:~~

### SECTION 6 – JUDGING

D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on trail ability and manners. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.

3. Judges **may must** be sourced from the approved Leisure Division Judges List ~~or the standard list. An NATRC-approved veterinary judge may serve as the full judge for this division.~~
4. **This division is exempt from stabling evaluation. Overnight stabling will be evaluated for safety and must comply with NATRC stabling rules. This will not be scored.**

#### **Rationale:**

*Our standard judges must go through additional training before judging the Leisure Division, so management must refer to the separate Leisure Division Judges List for all who have completed the appropriate requirements. Plus Equisure requires overnight stabling evaluation. Portion of Section 5 was removed since the difference in Leisure Division is better described in Section 6.*

## REVISE LEISURE DIVISION PLACINGS AND POINTS DISTRIBUTION

### SECTION 9 – AWARDS

#### A. Ride Awards

3. Horse and horsemanship scores for Leisure Division will be added together to determine placing **of** teams for **Experienced**, Adult and Junior Classes. **First through tenth place teams in both classes will be recognized. Leisure Division will include first through sixth place in each class offered.**

### C. Point Distribution

TYPE B RIDE – Leisure Division						
Number of starters						
PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 <sup>st</sup>	6	5	4	3	2	1
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5	4	3	2	1	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	3	2	1		
4 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	1			
5 <sup>th</sup>	2	1				
6 <sup>th</sup>	1					
C**	½	½	½	½	½	½

#### Rationale:

Awarding six placings is consistent with the other divisions. Some feel it is demeaning to not make the top ten, so it is easier to only announce the top six and not draw attention to those placing well below.

### ADD OUT-OF-REGION REQUIREMENT TO PRESIDENT'S CUP CRITERIA

#### SECTION 9 - AWARDS

##### B. Annual Awards

##### 2. National Awards

- a. PRESIDENT'S CUP (National Sweepstakes Champion): This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse in the Open Division.
  - (2) The horse must be officially started in at least ~~four rides of any ride type made up of any combination of one~~ out-of-region ~~and or three~~ out-of-state rides ~~of any ride type~~.

#### Rationale:

The President's Cup is truly a national award. It should be expected that the winner competes against horses other than those in its own region to win this prestigious award.

### RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT NOVICE ON NATIONAL LEVEL

#### SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

##### A. Divisions

##### 2. Novice

- a. Age of Horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. **(60 months for national awards)**

##### 3. Competitive Pleasure

- a. Age of horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. **(60 months for national awards)**

#### SECTION 9 - AWARDS

##### B. Annual Awards

##### 2. National Awards

- q. **HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSE: Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Heavyweight, Lightweight, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.**

##### Age of Horses

**(1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Horse awards must be at least 60 months of age.**

- (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.**

- (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.**

- r. **HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP: Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Heavyweight, Lightweight, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.**

- s. **HIGH POINT NOVICE TEAM: This award is presented to the Novice Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.**

##### Age of Horses

**(1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Team award must be at least 60 months of age.**

- (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.**

- (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.**

#### Rationale:

We want to encourage Novice Division riders to compete and to attend the national conventions. Particularly on this last point, we need to give them some reason to come. Items "q" and "r" are 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> national placings. Item "s" would be the single best combined Novice Division horse and rider. Costs: For "q" and "r", 3 classes (junior, lightweight, heavyweight) per horse and rider x 6 ribbons (36 ribbons). For "s", one award per year.

## **RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM**

### **SECTION 9 - AWARDS**

#### **B. Annual Awards**

##### **2. National Awards**

- p. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM:** This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.

##### **Age of Horses**

**(1) Horses competing for High Point Competitive Pleasure Team award must be at least 60 months of age.**

**(a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.**

**(b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.**

#### **Rationale:**

*We already have an overall high point Open team with the Jim Menefee Memorial award. If we add a High Point Novice Team, Competitive Pleasure would be the only standard division without this award. For consistency and fairness, if the Novice passes, we should also include Competitive Pleasure. We are encouraging the team aspect and should do so across the board.*