



2026 NHSFR



GROUND RULES FOR NATIONAL FINALS BOYS & GIRLS CUTTING

- [PAGE 122] – EVENT RULES - #4D: Rule to read as stated, **ADDING: In the AMS system**, when two or more individuals are judging a cutting contest and one or two judges cannot complete judging of a go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judges or judges who complete the go-round will be the sole basis of computing the go-round.
- [PAGE 123] – EVENT RULES – 5B: **DELETE SENTENCE:** The horse should never get ahead of the animal and duck it back toward the herd to get more play but should let the turn back man turn it back to him.
- [PAGE 123] – EVENT RULES – 5C: A horse will be penalized 3 points each time a **cutter allows the cow being worked to move inside of the back fence marker within one step, or three (3) feet from the fence.** The back fence to be agreed on and designated by **show management** before the contest starts; meaning the actual fencer only, no imaginary line from point to point is to be considered. If any of the contestants voice an objection, before the contest starts, **show management** shall take a vote of the contestants, and a “back fence” acceptable to the majority shall be designated and used.
- [PAGE 123] – EVENT RULES – 5D: Delete in its entirety.
- [PAGE 124] – EVENT RULES – 5E: If a horse turns the wrong way with tail toward animal being worked, he/she will be **penalized five (5) points.**
- [PAGE 124] – EVENT RULES – 5I: **CHANGE TO READ:** Credit should be given for setting up a cow and holding it in a working position as near the center of the arenas as possible. When a horse goes past an animal to the degree he/show loses his working advantage, he/she will be penalized each time he/she does. Unnecessary roughness, such as a horse pawing or biting cattle, will incur a penalty.
- [PAGE 124] – EVENT RULES – 5J: A contestant may quit an animal when it is obviously stopped, obviously turned away, **backing up and fallen**, or is obviously behind a turnback horse. A penalty of three (3) points must be charged if the animal is quit under any other circumstances.
- [PAGE 124] – EVENT RULES – 5K: **CHANGE ENTIRE RULE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:** Runs are scored from 60 to 80 based on an analysis of what occurs during the work. Run content is a numerical value, minus penalties, which equals the score. The judge will start judging each horse when the cutters time begins, and each run will be started from a median score of 70.

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NEW - ADJUSTED MONITOR SYSTEM (AMS)

Adjusted Monitor System (AMS): may be used at the National High School Finals Rodeo and the State/Province High School Finals Rodeo.

Guidelines for Adjusted Monitor System "AMS":

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 the five-judge system and may be used in a three-judge system. In the five-judge system, the high and low scores will be discarded.

NOTE: Under this system, only the total combined scores, after throwing out the high and low, will be displayed to the public by a scoreboard, not visible to the judges. Scores should not be announced.

1. 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.
2. Scores of 195 and below, in a go round, will not be reviewed.
3. In the finals, only scores of 181 and higher will be reviewed or adjusted.
4. Scores are official one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of a go-round or class. In a final, scores are official one hour after scores have been verified for the last set of that final or before the first awards for that final are given, whichever comes first.
5. Show management has the responsibility for official placing at the show.

Guidelines for (Self-Adjusted Monitor System) SAMS

1. It is imperative that the system be announced prior to the start of the show.
2. There will be no adjustment to the following:
 - a) No change in run content or one (1) point penalties.
 - (b) No review of any run not reported to the announcer as a review at the time the judge calls in their score.
3. The following criteria will be followed when either a three (3) or a five (5) point penalty has been called for a review.

EXAMPLE: At the completion of the run the judges value of the run is A 74 with a review on a (3) point penalty (rule 13).

 - (a) The judge must document the penalty in the appropriate penalty box and circle it. Then write their score as 74R and circle it.
 - (b) The judge will report the score as follows to the announcer: "74R"
 - (c) 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
 - (d) After the review, if the judge's opinion is the penalty is not valid, he/she would leave the original mark for the horse and initial both the score and the reviewed penalty. They do not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.
 - (e) After the review, if the judge's opinion is the penalty is valid, he/she would write the new score next to the original score and initial the new score and the reviewed penalty. They do not erase the original mark or alter it in any way.
 - (f) All reviews should be made during a cattle change. A judge must resolve all reviews in a particular class before moving on to the next class. However, if the next class occurs without a cattle change (i.e., consecutive classes held in the same herd example: Junior Youth followed by Senior Youth), the judge must wait until the next cattle change to conduct any/all reviews.

Attention Show Management: For the judge to use the Self-Adjusted Monitor System you must provide an isolated location for the judge to review the runs in question. The room is to include a good-sized TV and AV equipment to play the video. Under no condition is a judge to review any runs in the arena or in the presence of contestants or other judges.

Multiple Judged System

1. 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) do not change their score, the other judge(s) will not be required to look at the run. If the judge(s) change 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 thereviews.
2. Two or three judges—no "R" is called:

The judge with the highest rating and most credits has the responsibility to communicate with the show secretary to review each judge's score card to determine if there are any major penalties (3 or 5 points) to be reviewed.

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