

January/February 2025

Our 2025 show schedule is confirmed!

BMC 2025 SHOW SCHEDULE

April 12

May 17

June 28

August 16

September 27

October 18

October 19

We are currently working on the possibility of an additional *event* being added to this schedule and will let members know when it becomes a reality. We are also working on hiring judges, making some modifications to a couple of the classes in an attempt to make those classes easier to judge, streamline the class(es) and make it a better learning experience for the riders.

One of the things we do at the conclusion of a season is take a look at things we did well and where we can do better. Lessons learned this year are that we can do better educating our members to give them the best experience possible. We are attempting to do just that and I have traveled metaphorically from here to Texas talking with old friends who have a lifetime of experience. I take this information and apply it where I can to make BMC better while remaining true to its roots. Our improvements of the past couple of years were huge. We have great ground & a fabulous venue with a solid cattle supply but it takes more and with a lot of thought & consideration we can work on that. Input is always welcome & appreciated and remember, there is no stupid question.

We will be updating & clarifying the show rules before the season begins and urge all to read them when they have a question.



We'd like to congratulate Nikole Monter for winning the annual *Bridleless* class for the 2nd year in a row. We'd also like to congratulate Ric Johnson in receiving the *Top One* buckle for the most First Place finishes during the season.

We need to recognize our donors & sponsors during the 2024 season:

Ginger & Jody Taylor, Cecil Stuurmans, Victor & Linda Dickson, Steve & Nicallee Smith, Paul & Heidi Wittig/Jameson Lake Quarter Horses, Mike & Tersea Thompson/Mt Acres Performance Horses, Jason Schaper. Kris Haas/Schaper Horses & Cattle, Nikole Monter & Family, Ron & Tina Schumacher, Gail Cox, Panottoniu's Leather, Tim & Rita Jensen/Tanglewood Ranch, Michelle Beauniaux & Sean Snyder, Liz Southard, Merrick Veit, Janie Larsen, Loraine Varriano, Greg & Karen Jones, Alec & Robin Eubanks.

What is the Goal?

In the contest arena, the art of the cutting horse comes alive in a classic test of intelligence, training, breeding, and skill. In competition, the cutting horse and rider must work together as a team in demonstrating their cattle handling skills.

The contest begins as the pair approaches the herd. The horse and rider have two-and-a-half minutes to complete their work. As the team crosses the time line, the judge's job begins!

Cutting, like skating or gymnastics, is judged by NCHA-certified judge(s) who rate the horse's performance by using a point scale. A score starts at 70 and then moves up or down from there based on credits and penalties for events that happen during the run. The judge is the one who determines and applies those factors. Judges use the [official NCHA Score Card](#) to notate and mark their scores. Most scores range from 60 - 80.

Factors that help determine a score

Credit on a run can be earned by a number of variables, such as:

- *excellence in herd work*
- *skill in driving and setting up a cow*
- *deftly handling a difficult situation*
- *showing courage in confronting a difficult situation*

Deductions will be applied if any of a variety of instances occur. Major penalties include:

- *horse quitting a cow when not prompted by the rider*
- *losing a cow*
- *rider not using a legal method to quit working a cow*
- *rider changing their mind and switching to a different cow after a specific commitment during the cut*
- *failure to separate a single cow from the herd when performing a cut*
- *horse turns its tail to a cow*
- *fall of horse or rider*
- *rider placing a second hand on the reins*

Rulebook

The NCHA Rulebook outlines all the criteria judges use to evaluate a run and it is updated once a year. This is a must read for all new and renewing members. Not only does it have all of the standing rules, it also contains the judge's Case Book that uses real show examples of situations and how rules would be applied.