

RULE 35 - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner is strictly prohibited. This includes any act which the general public would perceive to constitute inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse. Any act of inhumane treatment, abuse or intent to abuse a horse will be dealt with in the strongest possible manner as provided for in NCHA rules. The NCHA “Zero Tolerance Policy” covers acts occurring not only in the show arena, but also those occurring anywhere on the show grounds, the warm-up area, practice pen or any other location.

The NCHA “Zero Tolerance Policy” contained in NCHA Standing Rule 35 encompasses all of the following acts:

1. **Horse Abuse:** Horse Abuse includes: excessive jerking; cueing; whipping; use of lip wire or similar device; slapping or hitting a horse on the head, or any other part of the body, one or more times, in any manner, either with the rider’s hands, reins or any other object; using a bit in such a way that a horse is caused to bleed from its mouth or face; using any object held in the rider’s hand to hit a horse; or any other act which may cause trauma or injury to a horse.
2. **Inhumane treatment:** Inhumane Treatment is the exhibition of a crippled or injured horse, or a horse with any other health abnormality, which could thereby result in the horse’s undue discomfort or distress. The decision of show management or judge as to whether inhumane treatment has occurred should be based upon consultation with a veterinarian. If show management or a judge determines, in the sole discretion of either, that the welfare of the horse requires immediate action, and a veterinarian is not available, show management or a judge may immediately implement any action allowed by the NCHA Zero Tolerance rules.
3. **Administration of injectable or oral medications or possession of any drug paraphernalia while in the show arena, practice arenas, alleys leading into the arenas or any other public areas of the show grounds is strictly prohibited unless administered in a life-saving situation which should only be done based on consultation with a veterinarian.**
4. Any member observing activity that violates these rules should immediately report such conduct to the NCHA Executive Director and/or Show Management. Any violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action which may include fines, probation and/or suspension as provided for in the NCHA Rules.
5. Please consult the NCHA Rule book to insure that you are familiar with and are abiding by all NCHA rules relating to the welfare of the horse at all times, including Standing Rules 35 & 35A.