



August 22, 2007

To: The NRHA Executive Board and to the NRHA Appointed Board of Directors

The Board of the Oregon Reining Horse Association, on behalf of our membership, would like to express to you our concerns about and oppositions to the proposed rule changes you will be voting on this week. Though there are numerous rule changes that we find we are unable to support, we will focus on the membership due increase proposal as well as the proposed medication policy.

The Oregon Reining Horse Association is a relatively new active participant in NRHA's affiliate program. Two years ago we offered our first NRHA affiliate circuit and since then have more than doubled our membership numbers. Each year we have welcomed new members into NRHA and have worked hard to grow our shows with NRHA classes and added money. We have really strived to promote the NRHA with our membership and have undoubtedly helped to increase NRHA's membership count from the state of Oregon.

With that being said, the proposed increase in NRHA membership dues will be nothing less than devastating for our organization. Not only will most of our Open and Non Pro riders essentially be forced to opt out of most of the classes for which they are eligible due to the increased dues, but a lot of our newer members that are just getting into reining will most likely not be able to justify the cost of renewing their NRHA membership.

Part of the excitement of running a grass roots organization is the gratification from watching new members start at the affiliate level and gradually work their way up to being competitors on a national level. As a rapidly growing affiliate, we beg NRHA to remember that its roots are still the affiliate organizations and that nothing good can come from hurting those that are working the hardest to grow the sport of reining through NRHA membership.

In addition to membership dues, we are very concerned about the proposed medications policy. If enacted, the proposed policy will place an enormous burden on the affiliates which are already running on volunteered time. The policy also seems to be highly experimental which, as proposed, will yield nothing but unreliable, inaccurate results. If there is indeed a need for a drug policy within the NRHA, why reinvent the wheel?

In closing, we ask that the elected officers and Board of the NRHA take into consideration the responses of its affiliates and members on the proposed rule changes.

Our hope is that the NRHA Board and elected officers operate within the parameters of sustainable growth and long term benefit through moderate changes.

Respectfully,

Steve Snowden  
President

Dana Warne  
Vice President

Sarah Mosttler  
Secretary

Rosie Irish  
Treasurer

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John Irish

Ed Mayfield

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Debbie Walker

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