

RODEO JUDGES COMMITTEE

October 21, 2006

Nashville

Eight people representing 7 associations attended the committee meeting.

We had one new judge certified for the 2006 rodeo year, one resignation, and one disappearance. We currently have 11 certified judges, plus 2 new certifications approved by the Trustees on Thursday, bringing the total number of active judges to 13, for a net gain of +1 over 2006. We also have a number of students in various stages of training.

Seminars were held in Phoenix, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Nashville in 2006.

Discussion topics on Friday included the ongoing effort for consistency, the expanded rookie training period, and various other issues. The committee is both satisfied with and proud of the implementation of the expansion of the rookie program. While it creates more work for us, we are confident that the results will demonstrate that our rookie judges are better prepared than they may have been in the past.

We are extremely pleased with how well the new 60 second rule has worked re speed events. We have only had a handful of disqualifications (as a result of this time limit), and the contribution of this rule to the smooth running of speed events has been measurable. We strongly advocate keeping this rule in place going forward.

While we objected to the rule change for calf roping on foot (for 2006) which allows the finish judge to be on foot rather than mounted, we experimented with this option at a couple of rodeos this year and discovered a few things:

1. The timers loved it.
2. The scorekeepers loved it.
3. The finish judge had a smaller field of vision (being closer to the action), hence fewer visual distractions.
4. The finish judge had a broader audio field (being closer to the action), resulting in a greater number of audio distractions.

We still prefer that new judges finish the event on horseback, because they need to gain experience finish flagging while mounted prior to tackling the more complex events of breakaway and team roping.

We discussed protests, and are pleased to note a significant decline in the number of protests involving judges.

We recommend that the current requirement to hold a seminar at university be optional for our committee. We already hold a minimum of 5 seminars per year throughout the country, covering all divisions plus Convention, with each typically lasting 5-6 hours.

The seminars are scheduled to coincide with rodeos because that is where the judges are. It is extremely rare that attendees are not active judges, or active student judges. We feel that expecting some judges to shoulder the additional expense of attending University in order to attend a seminar is impractical, unnecessarily onerous and unrealistic.

The committee felt that reimbursement for officials' expenses often may be insufficient, and are concerned that officials being significantly "out-of-pocket" to attend rodeos may negatively impact host association's ability to attract competent officials for their rodeos.

Throughout the year, we made a number of recommendations to the Rodeo Rules Committee.

The year-round committee has been very busy. The communication between the members has been extremely frequent and productive.

Many thanks to Thom, Brian and, well, us for all the hard work this year, as well as to the convention committee for their valuable suggestions and input.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the 2006 Finals judges: Amy, Rick, Frank and Kyle. This will be Frank and Kyle's first time, so be nice to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Griffin & Rick Jones, Co-Chairs

2006 Judges Committee

Amy Griffin

Rick Jones

Thom Sloan

Brian Helander