

**Email Received: & Forward for independent review.
Although we note that as per our General Event Guidelines**

***The Judges Decision is Final (see attached guidelines and T&C's signed by each competitor)**

*** We did not have video Review at the 2023 AGHW event**

*** Use of NRCHA Rules for a guide with our event rules overriding all.**

Dear AGW Committee and officials,
(Kim Peterson, Steph Lancefield, Sam)

It is with great regret, I must inform you of an issue with the scoring in the AGW Final Cowhorse competition on Saturday night which has a considerable effect on the major placings of this competition. I have been advised that I am required to forward a protest/complaint fee, can you please inform me of where that needs to be deposited.

Please note -

I am requesting that this protest/complaint and the attached evidence is reviewed by independent parties.

So as not to waste anyone's time, I have sought advice and I have been advised that this issue is deemed as warranting an official protest/complaint, is appropriate and carries merit.

The issue is centred around the fact that in the cowhorse section of the AGW final, the Reserve Champion (the second place getter)'s cow clearly goes past the end marker. This should result in a one point penalty. This was witnessed by and brought to my attention by a number of people so it must have been quite clear for people to see it and it is evidenced by numerous photos and videos taken from various angles around the arena, including the video belonging to the second placegetter.

(Please see attached photos, which clearly shows irrefutable proof that the cow is WELL past the marker.)

I would like to point out that this photo was sent to me by the second place getter herself and that I appreciate her integrity and honesty in doing so.

The timing of this protest/complaint is due to the fact that the score sheets were not made public (and have still not technically been made public) within an hour of the class, as required by the ARCHA, even with numerous requests from competitors, so no parties were in a position to be able to confirm discrepancies in a timely manner and before presentations were made.

Once the score sheets did appear late yesterday, some forty hours after the event, I had numerous messages stating that the second placegetter did not get a penalty for the cow going past the marker. The one point penalty she should have incurred would, in fact, alter the placings. The third place getter was on 138, the other competitor would be on a 137.5 once the correct deduction had been made, therefore the placings would have been reversed.

It should be remembered that there is also a very large difference in prizes and winnings at stake here, it is not simply a different coloured ribbon.

I am so very sorry to have to be the bearer of this, it is done with great reluctance and regret and if it was not for the considerable pressure I have been under to follow this through I would much rather have chosen a different path.

I trust that this will be handled fairly, professionally and without any bias or personal repercussions in the future. I am simply acting on advice, in an effort to have an unfortunate but VERY clear mistake rectified.

Thankyou very much for your time,
Yours sincerely,
Donna Sadler

Independent Review provided by Through Aaron Scobie President of ARCHA

Jeff Ralph ARCHA Non Pro Director
Wayne Hinder - ARCHA Director of Judges

Judge Glenn Wise was also consulted. He advised that the following is to be noted.

Judges Decision is final
Note section from the NRCHA Rule book provided also.

If the show is complete and the judge has left and there is NOT a videographer, then the result is final.

Email Correspondence

Hello Aaron,

Thank you for your time on the phone today, please see attached the email Protest/ Complaint received from Donna Sadler.

Please be advised that we did not have a videographer set up for reviews, this is certainly something we had looked into but could not afford this year and will certainly be looking at adding it in next year.

The photographer that was on site taking video was employed by individual competitors to film elements of their runs and some highlights for The Australian Cowgirl Co, She was not employed to video for review and she was moving all about the arena throughout the event and was not in one specified location.

I have requested a letter from the judge Glenn Wyse.

I appreciate you taking this to your board for an independent review.

The Australian Cowgirl Co

Aaron Forwarded to the judges for review. Along with the email from the complainant.

Email Response from Jeff Ralph.

From: ARCHA Non-Pro <nonpro@cowhorseaustralia.com>
Sent: 07 April 2023 10:49
To: ARCHA President <president@cowhorseaustralia.com>
Subject: RE: Protest/complaint re AGW Final

Hi Aaron,

After our discussions in relation to NRCHA Rule book and NRCHA guide to Protests, I think the event organisers position on this issue is clear.

NRCHA advises:

If the show is complete and the judge has left and there is NOT a videographer, then the results are final.

As the private photo provided is a screen shot of a private video, it cannot be relied upon as evidence to alter the scores & placings. The judge scored this event in real time, and I'm sure applied the same assessment to all competitors.

As there was no official videographer for this event for the judge to review the run, either during the event or at a later stage, the results as they stand, must be considered final.

Situations like this certainly present event organisers with justification to employ an official videographer and charge a video fee to all competitors. For judges to have the option to review a video of any run is invaluable at any event, especially when there is a single judge.

If you need to chat further please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Kind Regards,

Jeff Ralph
NonPro Director
m: 0411 22 44 66
e: nonpro@cowhorseaustralia.com
w: <https://cowhorseaustralia.com/>

fb: <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianReinedCowHorseAssociation>



Email Response from Wayne Hinder

From: Wayne Hinder <whinder@y7mail.com>
Sent: 07 April 2023 07:15
To: ARCHA President <president@cowhorseaustralia.com>
Subject: Re: Protest/complaint re AGW Final

Hey Aaron & Jeff,

In my opinion the photo taken was not taken in the same position as the judge so it's different to determine what the judge was seeing in that moment. Also the NRCHA policy is that if the show doesn't have an official videographer that the judges results are final.

Cheers Wayne

Taking all above into consideration the decision was made by The Australian Cowgirl Co the decision that the Judges Decision is final still stands and placings for Australia's Greatest Horsewoman 2023 will not be changed.

Email Response after the review was completed.

Dear Donna

Thank you for your submission for protest in regards to the finals of Australia's Greatest Horsewoman.

Please be advised the following:

As per our event Guidelines on entry form paperwork signed by yourself, The Judges Decision is Final. However out of fairness to the situation as it involved a member of our team, I sent your protest off for independent review, this review was provided by Wayne Hinder and Jeff Ralph. (Please see below their responses)

I have also discussed the situation with the Judge and have been advised that his decision is final.

In agreement with the ARCHA/NRCHA representatives the decision of The Australian Cowgirl Co is Final as per our guidelines.

In light of this situation, we will be looking into having a videographer on site for next years event, this will come at the expense of competitors and was not provided this year as the expense was not achievable.

The decision is made as per our guidelines that the judges decision is final and there is no change to placings for Australia's Greatest Horsewoman.

I would also like to advise this protest and result will be placed on the public notices page on our website.

With Regards

Kim Peterson
The Australian Cowgirl Co