

Q-Ribbon: May 2015

Deadlines to Remember



Prior to May 1, AQHA should receive your **completed** September show application(s) and any corrections to your August show(s).

AQHA Show Approval Status

Date and/or location changes are being processed as received
Show approval applications are being entered as received

AQHA Show Results Status

April show results are being processed

Leveling Eligibility

Exhibitors must show the show secretary proof of their level eligibility. It is very important that secretaries ask for this information; it's the same concept as the Register of Merit for performance halter. If they are not able to provide proof of Rookie, Level 1 or Level 2 eligibility, exhibitors should be entered in Level 3 or the all-age class being offered.

We need your help as show management to make this known so members know their responsibility as an exhibitor.

Level 1 Eligibility Clarification



SHW 245.3 When determining eligibility for a level in a particular class, an individual/ horse may not have exceeded the point cap described in SHW245.1 for that particular class. In addition, at the time of application for Level 1 (formerly Novice) an individual may not have earned a Superior award in a particular class in any equine organization or association with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including AQHA): placed in the top 10 at any AQHA world championship show in a particular class; won a world, reserve world, national or reserve national championship title (**excluding Level 1/Novice**) in a particular class in any equine organization or association with a membership of more than 7,500 members; placed first at an AQHA Level 1 (Novice) championship show in a particular class; won an international or reserve international title for that particular class at the European or German championships regardless of whether the international class in question was an AQHA-approved class; or won

a total of \$5,000 in cash and prizes with any equine organization or association. If an exhibitor has not reached any of the above achievements but has pointed out of Level 1, the exhibitor can only return to Level 1 in that particular class if the exhibitor has not earned any points in that class for 10 consecutive years and must meet eligibility requirements per Rule SHW245.3.

Show Applications

Remember, your judges need to be submitted on your show approval application at the time the application is sent to AQHA. Your application/approval is not complete without those judges being named. It is very important, as well, that the judges you submit are those judges you have contracted to judge your show. When the incorrect judge is submitted, that judge receives a confirmation letter from AQHA for a show they have not agreed to judge and it could count toward the total number of shows they are allowed to judge. On the flip side, judges who are contracted but not listed on the application do not receive the proper confirmation letter, which causes further confusion.

Also, please remember the Mission Statement must be signed for each of your circuits. There is not a blanket statement that covers all of your circuits.

If you are offering classes that are not considered core classes – such as speed events, working hunter, reining, etc. – please consider offering Level 1 to help members [qualify for the Level 1 championship shows](#).

New Rule Changes per the AQHA Executive Committee

At its April meeting, the AQHA Executive Committee continued to make huge strides for the benefit of the American Quarter Horse by approving stronger penalties and fines for animal welfare rule violators; enacting significant penalties for positive drug tests involving detection of clenbuterol in show horses beginning November 1, 2015, and modified penalties in horse racing, beginning May 1, 2015; barring the use of lip chains in show horses beginning January 1, 2016; and several other actions. The actions exemplify the Association taking a stand on animal welfare for the protection of the horse and for the future of the breed.

These welfare topics were discussed and reviewed by AQHA members, the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission, the AQHA Show Committee and AQHA Show Council, and the AQHA Racing Committee and AQHA Racing Council. The recommendations from each of these bodies were sent on to the AQHA Executive Committee for its review and final decision. The Executive Committee adopted some of the recommendations in their entirety (stronger penalties and fines for animal welfare rule violators) and modified others (clenbuterol and the use of lip chains).

Fines and Penalties

AQHA rules VIO204 and VIO220 AQHA Show Fines and Penalties Regarding Abuse and Unsportsmanlike Conduct have been amended to include stiffer fines and penalties for violators of the Association's animal welfare rules.

Besides broader fine ranges, the new fines and penalties also include mandatory probation for any Level 1 second offense or higher citations. The following statement was also added to the chart: "All fines and penalties are cumulative and run consecutively in the case of multiple offenses."

Any offense – including a white warning card – results in the violator’s name being placed in a database that is immediately accessible by all AQHA stewards.

“If someone gets a white warning card at a show and three days later is stopped by a steward at a different show for violating an animal welfare rule, the steward will check the database and find that person’s previous violation,” said AQHA President Dr. Glenn Blodgett of Guthrie, Texas.

The Executive Committee also approved a recommendation to publicize information on AQHA’s website regarding animal welfare rule violators, the name of the horse or horses involved, the names of the responsible parties, and the fines and penalties assessed. That news will appear at www.aqha.com/news after cases are ruled on by an AQHA hearing committee.

Tail Restriction

The Executive Committee also approved AQHA Rule VIO204.14, which makes the use of any item or appliance that restricts movement of a horse’s tail a violation of AQHA animal welfare rules.

“Tying a tail to restrict its movement is considered a Level 1 offense,” Dr. Blodgett said. “Wrapping a tail too tight to restrict circulation is a Level 3 offense.”

This rule goes into effect immediately.

Clenbuterol

Previously this year, positive drug tests for detection of clenbuterol in American Quarter Horse racehorses resulted in significant penalties. That policy has now been expanded to put an end to the illegal use of clenbuterol in show horses, beginning November 1, 2015, and in time for the 2015 AQHA World Championship Show.

A bronchodilator marketed as Ventipulmin, clenbuterol is a legitimate and valuable medication used by veterinarians to treat horses with breathing difficulties, but its use has gotten completely out of hand because of its ability to act as a beta-2 agonist to increase muscle mass when used in dosages exceeding recommended amounts.

“Leveling the playing field in the show industry shouldn’t be limited to providing levels for all skills of horses and riders,” Dr. Blodgett said. “It also means doing away with the illegal and illicit use of performance-enhancing drugs. It all comes down to protecting our horses.”

The fines and penalties for positive drug tests for detection of clenbuterol will be the same in both industries. Those fines and penalties begin May 1, 2015, for racing and November 1, 2015, for the show industry. The first offense of a positive clenbuterol test in either a racehorse or show horse is a \$5,000 fine and 180-day suspension of the responsible party. The second offense carries a \$7,500 fine and a one-year suspension of the responsible party. The third offense results in a five-year suspension of the responsible party.

Lip Chains

AQHA Rule SHW355.4, which eliminates the use of lip chains in show horses, goes into effect January 1, 2016.

“While many of our halter exhibitors lobbied in favor of lip chains at the 2015 convention, the Executive Committee members – based on input from the Animal Welfare Commission, the Show Committee and Show Council – believe that the use of lip chains in halter classes is not the intended use for lip chains – especially in the hands of novice exhibitors. It’s simply not humane,” Dr. Blodgett said.

To view all committee and council recommendations with the Executive Committee’s actions, visit www.aqha.com/convention.

Awards Recognition Concepts Merges With Classic Awards Inc.



Due to past success and potential future endeavors, AQHA has moved Awards Recognition Concepts to limited liability company (LLC) status. Even though ARC will still be controlled and operated by AQHA, the expectation is to grow the subsidiary beyond producing AQHA awards. As part of the formation of the LLC, ARC recently purchased Classic Awards Inc. and merged it with ARC operations. [Learn more](#) about this new merger.

Top Shows in 2014

The customer comes first, right? Any show management team worth its salt will tell you that knowing the exhibitors’ wants and needs is priority *numero uno*. And generally speaking, what exhibitors want and need is more bang for their buck.

On www.aqha.com/showing, teams from the top AQHA shows in 2014 weigh in on why exhibitors return to these hot-spot circuits year after year. [Continue reading](#) for some inspiring ideas.

Win Money Through the Time to Ride Challenge

Last year, AQHA Executive Committee Member Ralph Seekins, along with his wife, Connie, the Alaska State Quarter Horse Association and the Interior (Alaska) Horse Council participated in the Time to Ride Challenge with an event to introduce people to horses.

More than 600 people attended and more than 250 signed up to test ride a horse. Hundreds more were able to see, touch and interact with a number and variety of horses, from Friesians to American Quarter Horses. The event also held demonstrations of the different horses. Ralph Seekins said, “In my opinion, it was a very successful event that acquainted many kids and moms with horses.”

Do you have summer events like shows and day camps already planned? Add on a beginner-

friendly event to introduce new people to horses and you could win your share of \$100,000. [Sign up for the Time to Ride Challenge](#) by May 26. You'll also receive a free marketing toolkit, easy to use customizable ads and posters, "Best Practices" study with examples of creative event and outreach ideas and a chance to grow your business and improve community connections!

Q-Ribbon Newsletter

Miss an issue of the *Q-Ribbon Newsletter*? Check them out here – [Q-Ribbon Newsletter Archives](#).

Thanks for all you do!



Patti Carter
Director of Shows and Professional Horsemen



Melinda Ackley
Manager of Competition Operations