Show Council Meeting
April 1, 2 Dallas, Texas

AQHA's Show Council met April 1-2 in Dallas. They reviewed all show-related recommendations from the Show & Professional Horsemen, Amateur, International and Judges Committees from the 2013 AQHA Convention. The Show Council's action appears on each of those agendas.

In addition to reviewing and making recommendations on items from the Convention, the Show Council also made the following recommendations from various agenda items:

1. **To amend rule SHW 245.3**
   For ~~three~~ five years immediately previous to application for Novice eligibility in a particular class, an individual may not have exceeded the point cap described in SHW245.1 for that **particular class. For example, if the Novice eligibility point cap established for a particular year in western riding is 45, and an individual in the immediately previous ~~three~~ five years to application has earned 12** novice youth western riding points + 8 youth western riding points + 12 novice amateur western riding points + 8 amateur western riding points + 5.5 open western riding points (45.5 TOTAL points), he/she is not eligible to participate in Novice western riding. Additionally, ~~for three years immediately~~ **at any time** previous to application for Novice eligibility in a particular class, an **individual may not have earned a superior award for that particular class in any equine organization or association with a membership of more than 7,500 members; won a world, reserve world,** national or reserve national championship title for that particular class in any equine organization or association **with a membership of more than 7,500 members; won an international or international reserve title for that particular class in the European Championships 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.**
   Executive Committee Action: Tabled. Refer back to Blue Ribbon Task Force to discuss the drop back to novice and rather than a three or five year drop back, consider a lifetime exclusion from novice once an exhibitor graduates out.

2. **To amend rule Show320.2 per the Show & Professional Horsemen Committee Report B English & Dressage Subcommittee #2**
   That an ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness in all English Flat (Hunter Under Saddle and Hunt Seat Equitation) and Over Fence classes is mandatory beginning with the 2014 Youth World Show and for youth in all other approved AQHA shows beginning in 2015.
   Note: This is a phase in requirement for **all** youth in English classes beginning with the 2014 Youth World Show and then for all youth in shows beginning in 2015.
   Executive Committee Action: Approve

3. That at the Youth World Show youth must be nine years old as of January 1 to compete in halter classes, except for performance halter where youth can be any age.
Executive Committee Action: Approve beginning 2014.

In other action:

1. Developing a recertification program for all judges regardless of age.
Executive Committee Action: Refer to task force studying retirement ages for judges to develop.

2. To support the concepts discussed with Stock Horse of Texas and developing a formal plan that addresses the topics discussed.
Executive Committee Action: Approve concepts and investigation.

3. Discussed the potential impact to leveling of possibly having to revert back to previous database and recommended that if AQHA did have to revert back to for a period of time, that no leveled shows be held until such time as programming can be developed for Leveling.
Executive Committee Action: Approve

4. To extend Youth World Qualifying through Monday, May 27 for the 2013 Youth World Show. May 1 – 27 will count twice (once for 2013 and once for 2014).
Executive Committee Action: Approve

5. The Show Council reviewed and discussed recommendations by the task force that met to consider Regional Championships.

    a. Consider/investigate reallocating some of the Regional Championship awards to recognize Rookies and build a Rookie level for core classes only (Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Showmanship, Trail) at the Novice Championships. If a person starts out as Rookie and is able to qualify through one of the available methods - even if they go on to earn 10 points prior to the Novice Championships – that person could enter one of the Rookie Classes. AQHA would recognize Rookie Medalists (First through finalists) in each of the core classes offered with prizes to be determined.
    Executive Committee Action: Approve

    b. Discuss with AQHA Corporate Partners a program to sponsor Rookie/Novice Shows with affiliates. With the support from AQHA being cut, there could be opportunities for Affiliates to brand Rookie/Novice Shows in their state to a corporate partner. This would allow the corporate partner to reach a newer exhibitor who is in his/her infancy with AQHA competition.
    Executive Committee Action: Approve

    c. Investigate reallocating funding to produce a third Novice Championship dedicated to cattle events.
    Executive Committee Action: Approve

d. For 2015 (2014 if possible) break out age divisions at Novice Championships for recognition – classes within classes. Offer 13 & Under, 14-18, Amateur, Select and Super Select. Halter would continue to be offered as all age. Goal would be to provide a full slate of awards (First through finalists). Offer sponsorship of individual age divisions to corporate partners (ala "Adequan Select" or "Ford Youth" could be "Wrangler 13 & Under)

Executive Committee Action: Approve

e. Develop an invitation program that reaches out to and invites high school groups; IHSA, NCEA and IEA. Exhibitors must meet novice eligibility requirements by classes, horse/rider qualification would be waived for these invitees because they ride on borrowed horses at events. These probable first-time exhibitors comprise a great market for AQHA.

Executive Committee Action: Approve to investigate. Consider beginning with IEA (high school) and in future years develop a program for IHSA and NCEA.

f. For affiliates that might want to continue a regional event of some sort, so long as the states/provinces in a region all agree, allow regions on a case-by-case basis to continue with the pointed show(s) that were given to the region with the understanding they can hold this modified regional event so long as they offer Rookie and Novice classes (perhaps they would want to make this a qualifying method to the Novice Championships). AQHA would not be able to support these with prizes and awards but there might be an option for limited promotional funds. Could continue to use Regional Championship name and brand if desired. Encourage regions to develop a show that would work in their region.

Executive Committee Action: Approve and investigate how AQHA could continue supporting at reduced levels.

g. Work with Affiliate Council to formally develop some sort of feeder program(s) (using professionals and riding instructors) where exhibitors who compete outside AQHA could be identified and through incentives, be invited to an AQHA Rookie/Novice show (or if a region continues to hold a Regional Championship, to one of those).

Executive Committee Action: Approve (this is similar to the emerging athletes program)

h. With leveling, AQHA needs to investigate using resources to help shows/affiliates recognize the intermediate rider. In early shows, more recognition and awards were steering toward the open. To keep intermediates engaged, a recognition program needs to be developed for this level. With Justin Rookie becoming Justin Intermediate, could those awards go to state affiliates to hand out during their state/provincial banquets?

Executive Committee Action: Approve and continue discussions with Blue Ribbon Task Force members.