

Fact Sheet-Novice Championship Show

Locations : Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro , Tennessee
South Point Hotel Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Date: Novice Championship Show Weekend: October 5-7, 2012

Qualifying: To qualify for the Novice championship shows, competitors will go through a national or state qualifying system. Qualifying for the Novice Championship show is tied to the horse/rider combination. It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse, but the exhibitor and horse must qualify as a team, and the horse must be a registered Quarter Horse. The qualifying period for the Novice championship shows is May 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

There also is no restriction on which Novice Championship Show an exhibitor may attend. If a competitor residing in the East wishes to attend the AQHA Western Novice Championship Show, he or she may do so. The same goes for competitors residing in the West who would like to compete at the Eastern Novice championship. ***However, a competitor may only compete at one Novice championship show per year.***

National Qualification: There are two ways to qualify nationally.

- a. **Top Ten at a Regional Show** Any exhibitor/horse team earning a top-10 placing at an AQHA Regional Championship Show during the Novice Championship Show qualifying period will automatically qualify for the Novice Championship show. The regional championship qualifying rule requires that the horse/rider show in novice classes.
- b. **Show to Twenty Shows** An exhibitor/horse team that shows in twenty different shows during the qualifying year will automatically qualify for the Novice Championship show. Note that a show is defined as a single show number; many circuits have three or four shows in the circuit. There are some shows that are one show number with several judges i.e. Quarter Horse Congress. Regular, Special Events, Introductory, Novice and Rookie shows count as qualifying shows. For 2012 only, an exhibitor will be able to show in either novice classes or the open, youth or amateur classes to earn the 20 judge qualification. In future years, the national qualification will be limited to Novice classes only.
If a member chooses to qualify more than one horse, each horse must be shown in twenty different shows.

If a competitor nationally qualifies for one of the Novice Championship Shows, their invitation to the event will not be for a specific class. As long as one of the two national qualifying options has been accomplished, *an exhibitor will be able to enter any Novice Championship class for which they are still a novice*. If a competitor earns the required number of points and graduates out of a specific Novice class in 2011, the competitor will still be eligible to compete in that class at a 2012 Novice Championship Show. However, in subsequent years, the exhibitor will only be able to participate in the Novice Championship in classes he or she remains eligible for during the qualifying year.

State Qualification: The AQHA Affiliate Council has helped to coordinate with the state and provincial affiliates to determine the method of state qualifying. Methods of state qualifying will vary by affiliate – if a competitor is interested in state qualifying for a 2012 Novice championship show, he or she should contact their state or provincial affiliate. At the end of the qualifying period, each affiliate will submit their list of qualifiers to AQHA. As with nationally qualifying, if an exhibitor qualifies through the state method in any single class, he or she may enter any class at the Novice Championships. Each state or provincial affiliate will submit 3 state qualifiers per class, if there are not 3 qualifiers in a particular class the affiliate may move that ‘slot’ to another class and submit 4 in a particular class; however, no more than 6 state qualifier will be allowed in any particular class.

Classes Offered in Novice Amateur and Novice Youth

- Halter (Mares & Geldings):
Yearlings, 2 Year Olds, 3 Year Olds, Aged
- Performance Halter Mares and Geldings
- Showmanship
- Horsemanship
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Trail
- Western Riding
- Reining
- Barrel Racing
- Pole Bending
- Stake Race

Refer to the 2012 Novice Championship page at www.aqha.com for the most up to date information.