

name as specified in rule 101, or must complete a membership application and pay for it at the show, which will be submitted with the show roster. Show management must inspect this membership card or a photocopy of it at any show the exhibitor has entered. If the exhibitor is a member but cannot produce their card or a photocopy of their card at the show, they must fill out a replacement form, purchase a new membership and pay the required fee at the show before entering. This fee is non-refundable.

**(c)** To allow show management qualification for monetary assistance from a state, province or country in which an AQHA-approved show or event is conducted, in which state, province or country prohibits exclusion of nonmembers, if otherwise qualified, a nonmember may gain entry in the open and youth divisions by payment of a nonmember fee equal to an individual member fee as specified in rule 101. Payment of this fee will allow a non-member access to the particular event or show, which includes the entire show circuit. By entering as a nonmember, the individual agrees to abide by all AQHA rules. Upon collection, all such fees shall be remitted to AQHA by show management.

**(d)** Leased horses are ineligible to be shown by an amateur in amateur or open events or compete in youth events, except when a lease pertains to transfer of rights for breeding purposes only, such horse is eligible if the owner of record retains sole privilege of competition.

### **403. AMATEUR ELIGIBILITY**

**(a)** The application for amateur membership must be true and correct in each detail. A false statement shall be grounds for possible disciplinary action under AQHA's disciplinary procedure, which includes suspension, fine and/or expulsion from membership. In addition to the requirements of rules 101 and 402, a person is eligible for an amateur membership and maintains eligibility when he or she:

**(1)** is 19 years of age on or before January 1 of the year of application and no longer eligible to compete in AQHA youth classes;

**(2)** An amateur may show in the select classes on the day they turn 50 years of age.

**(3)** has not shown, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse (whether or not a registered American Quarter Horse) for remuneration, monetary or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, nor received remuneration for instructing another person in riding, driving, training or showing a horse for five calendar years previous to application for amateur membership; An exception exists with respect to an amateur member certified as an instructor in equitherapy by North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) or similar organizations. Such approved organizations shall be compiled and maintained by the AQHA Amateur Department. The excepted instructor shall teach only students enrolled with an approved organization or prescribed such rehabilitation by a licensed medical doctor. Any amateur competitor excepted under this provision shall file such certification with the AQHA Amateur Department prior to any competition by such individual.

**(4)** does not hold credentials of horse show judge, either for AQHA or any other equine organization;

**(5)** must not exhibit in open or amateur AQHA classes horses owned by any third party, but shall only exhibit horses solely owned by the applicant or the applicant's family, which is the applicant's spouse, child, stepchild, parent, grandparents, grandchild, step-

parent, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling, spouse's parent, spouse's step-parent, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step-sibling's spouse, sibling's child, sibling's step-child, half-sibling's child, half-sibling's step-child, step-sibling's child, step-sibling's step-child, parent's sibling, parent's half-sibling, parent's step-sibling, parent's sibling's child, parent's sibling's stepchild, parent's half sibling's child, parent's half sibling's stepchild, parent's step sibling child, parent's step sibling's stepchild, legal ward or legal guardian. Separate legal entities, such as family corporations, trusts or partnerships, are also authorized owners of the amateur exhibitor's horse so long as all legal and equitable owners and beneficiaries of the legal entity are individuals specifically authorized by this rule. "Owned" means, in addition to other legitimate methods of acquiring ownership, the bona fide legal ownership obtained for adequate consideration in reasonable relationship with the actual market value of the horse. For example, a \$5 payment for a world championship quality horse does not meet the required character of required ownership for competition in AQHA's amateur division. The relationship of the amateur to the owner of the participating horse must be evidenced by submitting legal documentation (i.e. copies of marriage and/or birth certificates) to AQHA's Show Department;

**(6)** Within the five calendar years previous to application for amateur membership an individual cannot hold membership accreditation in the following organizations: Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Women's Professional Rodeo Association, International Professional Rodeo Association and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association All Women's Rodeo for those events or classes which are the same events or classes the individual competes, or desires to compete, in AQHA amateur competition. For example, a person who competes in a PRCA roping event may not compete in amateur calf roping, dally team roping (heading or heeling) but may show in any other amateur classes. A permit holder is not considered as one who has membership accreditation in a professional organization and may compete in any AQHA Amateur class;

**(7)** has not, nor during the period of amateur status cannot, show, train or assist in the training of a horse for which an immediate family member accepts remuneration, monetary or otherwise, either directly or indirectly, for training, assisting in the training or showing of said horse;

**(b)** As a condition for the issuance of amateur membership, the applicant, and/or the family member who actually owns the horse with which the amateur will participate, agrees to provide, upon request, such documentation or other proof as requested by AQHA to support the representations of sole economic ownership of the horse or horses exhibited by the amateur in amateur or open events, and the other criterion set forth above. Failure to promptly furnish such documentation upon request may be cause for immediate termination of amateur membership and be grounds for possible disciplinary action by the Executive Committee under AQHA disciplinary procedure for failure to respond to request for information.

**(c)** To become eligible for amateur membership, or become eligible for reinstatement to amateur membership, the individual must wait five years from the date of the last incident which rendered the individual ineligible. Violation of AQHA's rule requirement for truthful application for amateur status may be cause for more severe

sanction than such waiting period.

**(d)** Payment of entry fees and/or expenses by anyone other than the amateur, his/her immediate family, or a corporation, partnership or other business entity in which the amateur and/or a member of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owner, shall be considered remuneration except for demonstrations, exhibitions or international team competitions, where the amateur is a member of the nationally sponsored team.

**(e)** Every person competing in an amateur class must possess a current individual AQHA Amateur membership card or a copy of an AQHA Amateur membership card. Show management must inspect this card at any show entered.

**(f)** Upon revocation of amateur membership because of ineligibility, all earned amateur points from time of violation of eligibility rules shall be revoked.

**(g) Permits.** Amateur card holders may ride horses owned by someone other than immediate family members in any open division performance class for which they have been granted exemption by AQHA with no penalty, provided the amateur member pays all entry fees and expenses in connection with showing.

Upon written request to the amateur department, and after receiving from them a permit authorizing such, an amateur member will be permitted to exhibit a horse he/she does not own in open division classes at a maximum of two AQHA-approved shows. The amateur member seeking exemption must submit to the amateur department the names and exact dates of the two shows, as well as the horse's name and AQHA registration number which they will exhibit.

Only one such permit will be granted for a rider for a given horse, and no AQHA points will be awarded. Show management shall not allow a non-owned horse to be shown by an amateur member in the open division unless exhibitor has said permit at the time of entry.

#### **404. YOUTH ELIGIBILITY**

**(a)** In addition to the requirements of rules 101 and 402, any horse exhibited in the youth division must be solely owned by the contestant showing the horse or by the contestant's parent, stepparent, sibling, half-sibling, step sibling, grandparent, step grandparent, sibling's child, sibling's step-child, half-sibling's child, half-sibling's step-child, step-sibling's child, step-sibling's step-child, parent's sibling, parent's half-sibling, parent's step-sibling, parent's sibling's child, parent's sibling's stepchild, parent's half sibling's child, parent's half sibling's stepchild, parent's step sibling child, parent's step sibling's stepchild, sibling's spouse, half-sibling's spouse, step-sibling's spouse or legal guardian (as evidenced by court documents), or owned by the institution in which the contestant is enrolled as a ward. Separate legal entities, such as family corporations, trusts or partnerships, are also authorized owners of the youth exhibitor's horse so long as all legal and equitable owners and beneficiaries of the legal entity are individuals specifically authorized by this rule. "Owned" means, in addition to other legitimate methods of acquiring ownership, the bona fide legal ownership obtained for adequate consideration in reasonable relationship with the actual market value of the horse. For example, a \$5 payment for a world championship quality horse does not meet the required character of required ownership for competition in AQHA's youth division. Such ownership must be evidenced by AQHA records and the certificate of registration of such horse must

show such person as the owner by proper endorsement of AQHA at the time the horse is entered in any youth activity, show or class.

**(b)** As a condition for the issuance of youth membership, the applicant and/or the family member who actually owns the horse with which the youth will participate, agrees to provide, upon request, such documentation or other proof as requested by AQHA to support the representations of sole economic ownership of the horse or horses exhibited by the youth in youth events, and other criteria set forth above. Failure to promptly furnish such documentation upon request may be cause for immediate termination of youth membership and be grounds for possible disciplinary action by the Executive Committee under AQHA disciplinary procedure for failure to respond to request for information.

**(c)** Stallions are prohibited in all youth classes.

**(d)** Every person competing in a youth class must possess a current youth membership card issued by AQHA according to rule 101. Show management must inspect this card or a photocopy at any show entered.

Note: Although it is legal for a youth to show a non-owned horse in the AQHA open division, this action could violate rule 403(c) of the *AQHA Official Handbook* concerning amateur eligibility.

#### **405A. NOVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR AMATEUR & YOUTH.**

Every person competing in a novice amateur or novice youth class must possess a novice amateur or novice youth membership card.

**(a)** Novice exhibitors cannot have earned 25 or more halter points or 25 or more performance points in the AQHA open, novice amateur, amateur, novice youth or youth divisions combined in a particular skill set. (Example: 7 novice youth western riding points + 3 youth western riding points + 8 novice amateur western riding points + 5 amateur western riding points + 2 open western riding points = not eligible for novice amateur or novice youth in the novice skill set D.)

**(b)** Novice points are not recorded on a horse's performance record; points are recorded on the exhibitor.

**(c)** Once an individual has earned 25 AQHA novice amateur, amateur, novice youth, youth or open points, or any combination thereof, in a skill set; or, won a world or reserve world in an AQHA-approved event, national or reserve national championship title in any equine breed organization; or won a total of \$5,000 in cash and prizes with any equine breed organization, he/she will no longer be eligible to participate in the novice skill set containing that class(es) in subsequent years but may continue to compete in that novice skill set until the end of the calendar year in which the afore-mentioned instances occurred. Any individual who has been an accredited horse show judge will not be eligible to participate in novice skill sets.

**(d)** If an individual is considered a novice upon application, he/she will be considered a novice for that calendar year.

**(e)** Points earned in the novice division may not be used for any amateur or youth awards, or World Championship Show qualification.

**(f)** Applicants are responsible for verifying eligibility regarding earned halter and performance points in novice amateur, amateur, novice youth or youth divisions. Applicants may contact AQHA concerning halter and performance points in novice amateur and novice youth divisions that have been reported to AQHA and recorded in AQHA's records.

**(g)** A novice achievement award will be awarded to an individ-

ual that has completed a skill set. A belt buckle will be awarded to an individual for the first novice skill set completed. A novice certificate of achievement will be awarded for all other skill sets that an individual completes.

**(h)** Novice amateur and novice youth members may apply for up to 10 permits that allow them to compete in one AQHA-approved show per permit with non-owned horses in novice division classes only. Points earned in these classes will count toward the 25-point cap per novice skill set for novice eligibility. Applications for permits shall be directed to the AQHA Show Department on application forms provided by AQHA or an application may be filled out at an AQHA-approved show, and be granted as AQHA, in its sole discretion, determines.

**(i)** A novice amateur member or novice youth member wanting to show a college or university owned or leased horse in novice classes only must meet the following requirements:

**(1)** The individual must be a current novice AQHYA member or an AQHA novice amateur member prior to the AQHA-approved show at which they wish to compete.

**(2)** The individual must request an application from AQHA to be eligible to participate in this program. The application must be submitted and approval must be received prior to participating in the AQHA-approved show. A letter will be sent to the applicant either confirming or denying the application. If the application is approved, the letter must be presented to the show secretary at time of entry.

**(3)** The following items must be submitted with the application: verification that the individual is enrolled in 12 credit hours per semester, signature of college or university equestrian team coach or equine program instructor, list of college or university owned or leased horses that the individual will be showing and photocopy of student identification.

**(4)** For AQHA purposes the spring semester will be from January 1 - June 30 of the current year and the fall semester will be from July 1 - December 31 of the current year.

#### **405B. LIMITED RIDER FOR YOUTH, AMATEUR AND OPEN DIVISION**

**(a)** The limited rider per skill set program is designed for exhibitors that may have graduated out of the novice program and can serve as an intermediate division between the novice division and other divisions. This program could also benefit an exhibitor that may lack the experience of other exhibitors in a particular skill set and also encourage an exhibitor to try a new skill set.

**(b)** To be eligible for the youth limited rider skill set, the youth exhibitor cannot have earned twenty-five (25) or more points in the youth and/or open divisions in that particular skill set. Novice points do not count against the youth's eligibility for any limited rider skill set. If a youth member has graduated out of the novice youth program by earning twenty-five (25) or more novice points in a particular skill set, he/she would still be eligible to enroll in the limited rider skill set so long as they have not earned twenty-five (25) or more points in that skill set in the youth or open divisions.

**(c)** To be eligible for the amateur limited rider skill set, the amateur exhibitor cannot have earned twenty-five (25) or more points in the youth, amateur and/or open divisions in that particular skill set.

Novice points do not count against the amateur's eligibility for any limited rider skill set. If an amateur member has graduated out of the youth and/or novice amateur program by earning twenty-five (25) or more novice points in a particular skill set, he/she would still be eligible to enroll in the limited rider skill set so long as they have not earned twenty-five (25) or more points in that skill set in the youth, amateur and/or open divisions.

**(d)** To be eligible for the open limited rider skill set, the open exhibitor cannot have earned twenty-five (25) or more points in the open division in that particular skill set. If a youth or amateur exhibitor has earned twenty-five (25) or more points in the youth or amateur limited rider program in a particular skill set, they would still be eligible for the open limited rider skill set.

**(e)** Awards from the limited rider program will be tabulated at the end of the year. Eligibility period is from January 1 through December 31 of a calendar year. The participant with the greatest number of limited rider points in each skill set will be recognized. Points will be awarded based on chart 415.

**(f)** Once twenty-five (25) points are earned in a given skill set, the exhibitor may continue to show for that calendar year but will be ineligible after that time for that particular skill set. However, the member may exhibit in another skill set for which they qualify. After the completion of twenty-five (25) or more points in a particular skill set, the change of a horse/rider combination does not make an exhibitor eligible for the same skill set.

**(g)** Ties for year-end limited rider awards will be broken by determining which exhibitor earned the final point on the earliest date in the year. In the event this does not break the tie, the award will go to the participant with the most class wins for the calendar year.

**CHART #405A. (1)**

**LIMITED RIDER AND NOVICE SKILL SETS**

A	Halter/Performance Halter	O	Western Pleasure
B	Reining		***2-Year-Old Pleasure
C	Working Cow Horse		*** <u>Green Western Pleasure</u>
D	Trail	P	Western Horsemanship
	*** <u>Green Trail</u>	Q	Hunter Under Saddle
E	Western Riding		*** <u>Green Hunter Under Saddle</u>
	*** <u>Green Western Riding</u>	R	Hunt Seat Equitation
F	**Team Penning	S	Tie-down Roping
G	**Ranch Sorting	T	Breakaway Roping
H	Barrel Racing	U	Heading
I	Pole Bending	V	Heeling
J	Stake Race	W	Cutting
K	*Jumping	X	Showmanship
L	Working Hunter	Y	*Pleasure Driving
	***Green Working Hunter	Z	*Versatility Ranch Horse
M	Hunter Hack		
N	Equitation Over Fences		

\* No novice skill set for novice youth

\*\* No novice skill set for novice amateur or novice youth

\*\*\* Open only

**405C. NOVICE AMATEUR AND NOVICE YOUTH SHOWING LEASED HORSES**

**(a) Novice Amateur and Novice Youth may show a leased horse in the Novice Division only.**

**(b) The horse must be leased for a least a period of six months.**

**(c) The lease must be recorded with AQHA on a Lease Authorization Form and submitted to AQHA prior to exhibiting the horse.**

#### **406. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION**

**(a)** Any stallion, mare or gelding one year old or older must have been issued an AQHA registration certificate to compete in an approved halter class. Only stallions, mares, spayed mares, non-breeding mares and geldings, 2 years old and older, which have been issued an AQHA registration certificate, are eligible to compete in approved performance classes or contests. No 2-year-old may be shown in any performance class prior to July 1 of its 2-year-old year. However, yearlings may compete and earn points in showmanship at halter classes.

**(b)** Geldings that are still listed as stallions according to AQHA records at the time the show results are processed will be disqualified. See 216(a).

**(c)** Weanlings may be exhibited without a registration certificate but must be shown as unnamed, must be eligible for registration with AQHA and either before or after a registration application is filed, should AQHA determine the weanling is either ineligible for registration or eligible only upon fulfillment of certain conditions, the weanling shall not further participate in approved shows, or, if registration is conditional, it shall not participate in approved shows until those conditions are fulfilled.

**(d)** Stallions may not be exhibited in novice amateur, youth or novice youth classes.

#### **407. SHOW APPROVAL**

**(a)** All approved classes must be open to any American Quarter Horse owner meeting age, ownership and eligibility requirements. Membership in AQHA and/or AQHYA for youth competition is the only mandatory membership. Show approval is a privilege, not a right, granted or rejected at AQHA discretion on an annual basis according to continuous evaluation of the applicant, including, but not limited to competence of show management, enforcement of AQHA rules, quality of show, and service to AQHA members. Applicants desiring to hold an AQHA-approved show must obtain prior tentative AQHA approval. To obtain tentative approval for a previously approved show, an application form available from AQHA must be correctly and entirely completed if show results and points awarded to the horses are to be accepted and entered in AQHA records as official. A \$100 non-refundable application fee must also accompany the initial application. There are no diskette refunds. For new show approval, a letter of request must be directed to the Director of Shows for investigation. For approval of a Special Event, All-Novice, Versatility Ranch Horse and Equestrians with Disabilities, a \$50 fee must be submitted for each date requested. If special event or other date is approved the \$50 fee will be applied to show approval. The fee will not be refunded if the special event is not held or cancelled. However, if the special event date is denied the \$50 fee will be refunded.

After completion of the tentatively approved show, when AQHA receives all requisite reports from show management and the AQHA Senior Director of Shows has certified that the show has been conducted according to AQHA rules, tentative approval becomes final