



2020 HANDBOOK

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2020 QUALIFYING HANDBOOK

RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules become effective January 1, 2020, for the conduct of the AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships of 2020.

The AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the 2020 AQHA Official Handbook and the AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships Qualifying Handbook. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations, and all decisions made by show management will be final.

The AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships – held June 23-27, 2020 at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma. (Move in June 21st)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2020 to avoid late fees.

- Show Secretary: Heidi Lane, AQHA, 1600 Quarter Horse Dr, Amarillo, TX 79104
Email hlane@aqha.org, fax 806-349-6412 phone: 806-378-4338
- For additional questions, please contact Kelsey Coon at 806-378-4343 or kcoon@aqha.org

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All horses must have a current health certificate dated within 30 days.
- A negative Coggins paper that contains the horse's markings issued within the last 12 months is required on those horses with the health certificate; however, if instead of a health certificate, you have an equine passport, a negative Coggins paper contains the horse's markings issued within the last six months is required.
- All health papers and Coggins results should indicate the horse's registered name.
- All horses not officially entered in the show used as helping horses must be registered American Quarter Horses.

ROOKIE ELIGIBILITY

- Rookie eligibility is based on lifetime achievements (in open, amateur, and/or youth Divisions) of exhibitor and horse; both of which must be eligible to enter a Rookie class.
- For an exhibitor to be Rookie eligible:
 - The exhibitor must have earned fewer than 10 lifetime points in that class in any division: open, amateur or youth.
 - The exhibitor may also not have won \$5,000 or more in any equine organization or association by class.
- For a horse to be Rookie eligible:
 - The horse must have earned fewer than 50 lifetime points in that class in any division: open, amateur or youth.
 - The horse may also not have won \$1,000 or more in any equine organization or association by class.
 - The point and earnings limit do not apply to horses in over fence classes.
- Rookie classes will be held as all-age amateur and all-age youth classes.
- Rookie classes will be held separately from Level 1 classes, and if the horse/exhibitor are eligible, may show in both.

LEVEL 1 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Level 1 competition, an individual may **NOT**:

- Have exceeded the point cap for that class
- Have earned a superior award in the past 10 years for that particular class in any equine organization with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, ApHC,).
- Have placed in the top three at any AQHA world show in that particular class.
- Have won a world, reserve world, national or reserve national championship title in that particular class (excluding Level 1 classes) in any equine organization with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including but not limited to AQHA, APHA, ApHC,).
- Have won an international or reserve international title for that particular class at the European Championships or German Championships regardless of whether the international class in question was an AQHA-approved class
- Have won a total of \$5,000 in cash and/or prizes with any equine organization
- Have been an accredited horse show judge or who has trained professionally

If a competitor won a class at any Level 1 Championship, he/she cannot show in that same class at future Level 1 Championships. ([AQHA Rule SHW245.3](#))

- However, that exhibitor can continue to show in that class at AQHA shows (excluding the Level 1 Championships) until he/she meets the point level.
- The exhibitor being mentioned can also still show at the Level 1 Championship in any other class(es) for which he/she is still Level 1 eligible

GENERAL INFORMATION

- It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse to show in either Rookie or Level 1; however, the horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse.
- Exhibitor must be current AQHA member (in good standings with AQHA) at the time of entry through the end of the show. If a membership will expire prior to the Level 1 Championships, the membership can be renewed at the time of the show.
- An exhibitor may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible.
- Exhibitors may show at both a Level 1 Championship and an AQHA World Championship Show in the same year.
- A horse can be shown only once in the same class in each division, (youth/amateur).
- All horses are subject to drug testing under the provisions of Rule VIO253 and VIO400 of [the 2020 AQHA Official Handbook](#).
- All horses are subject to tail testing under the provisions of Rule VIO330 which state, "For the purpose of this rule, normal tail functions defined as "being able to raise the tail to or above the horizontal plane." A horse's inability to raise its tail to or above the horizontal plane in response to a tail test conducted on site by an AQHA-approved veterinarian shall be considered a violation of this rule."
- An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary. Each exhibitor will be assigned two numbers. During the classes, one number should be placed on each side of the saddle or saddle pad. If the numbers are not worn properly or the wrong numbers are worn, show management will disqualify that contestant (SHW 300.7)
- No class entries will be taken on-site; however, exhibitors have the ability to scratch from classes at the show.

- Any exhibitor or owner receiving disciplinary action by the AQHA Executive Committee for show rule violations at this year's AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships will be prohibited from participating in the next year's AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships. This rule excludes anyone receiving a first-time administration penalty for an overage of therapeutic medication.
- No horse may be shown under an AQHA judge if that judge has been the owner, trainer, agent in any capacity or conditioner of that horse within the previous three months; and a judge may not judge a horse which is owned or exhibited by anyone from whom he has received a salary, whether or not a horse is concerned in the transaction, has been in the employ or has represented such individual in any capacity for remuneration within three months from the date of the show.
- Every horse entered for competition shall be under the control of Show Management, but AQHA, the Lazy E Ranch, their agents, servants or employees, will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
- **No one, including exhibitors,** may sell products from their stall area.

ATTIRE/LOGOS

- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class; however, this is a world class event that will receive media coverage and exhibitors are urged to be neat and clean at all times.
- With the exception of amateurs, contestants and anyone assisting the contestants in the arena, are allowed to display up to four sponsor logos (any company) on their equipment and apparel, providing they meet the following size restrictions:
 1. Logos on any attire or equipment – maximum size of 2"x3", or 6 square inches
 2. Pocket emblems and apparel manufacturer logos on clothing for sale "off the rack" may not exceed 1"x2" or 2 square inches
 3. Contestant endorsements by current AQHA Corporate Partners will be exempt from the size requirements
 4. Contestants violating these guidelines may be disqualified from competition and/or fined to a maximum of \$500.
- The contestant may not cover a logo of a non-AQHA Corporate Partner/sponsor with any sort of tape, cloth, etc. If the logo is of a company that is not an AQHA Corporate Partner, and is larger than the specs listed above, the contestant simply cannot wear that item of clothing during competition.

ENTERING

- Entries must be received by May 15, 2020 to avoid late fees. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Lane 806-378-4338
- EVERY entry must fill out a W-9 to be considered a valid entry. If you DO NOT include a signed, completed W-9 your **entry will not be processed** until we receive one. Remember the W-9 information needs to match the owner of the horse EXACTLY. (business name, personal name, ranch name, etc.)
 - Level 1 Entry Fee - \$70 per class
 - Rookie Entry Fee - \$60 per class
 - Cowhorse/Boxing Cattle Fee - \$75 per class
 - Roping Cattle Fee - \$55
 - Cutting Cattle Fee - \$125
 - Office Fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor combination
 - Drug Fee - \$55 per horse
 - Stall Fee - \$200 per stall
 - ****New for 2020** if you are only staying 1 or 2 nights maximum you may purchase a "day stall" for \$100
 - Early Arrival Stall - \$ 25 per stall

LATE FEE POLICY

- Entries received after deadline date (May 15, 2020) and up to June 1st. \$150 flat late fee per horse/rider combination
- *All jackpot classes must be entered by June 1st. No jackpots can be added after June 1st.*
- Entries received from June 2nd until June 15th \$300 flat fee per horse/rider combination. Entries received after June 2nd may not receive fresh cattle
- EVERY entry must fill out a W-9 to be considered a valid entry. If you DO NOT include a signed, completed W-9 your **entry will not be processed** until we receive one. Remember the W-9 needs to match the owner of the horse EXACTLY as it reads. (business name, personal name, ranch name, etc.)

CANCELATIONS/REFUNDS

- A full refund will only be given if requested prior to the entry deadline.
- A partial refund may be considered if a horse becomes severely injured, disabled or deceased, but only if requested a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of competition. Documentation from an AAEP-approved veterinarian stating the severity of the debilitating injury or illness is required. Stall, drug, obstacle and entry fees will be refunded; however, office fees and cattle charges will be not be refunded.
- Illness, accidents or other incidents concerning people will not be eligible for refund.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Should any horse entered in the 2020 Level 1 Cattle Event Championships die, the exhibitor may substitute and participate with another. The appropriate show office must be notified by noon the day prior to the appropriate class and be provided a written statement reporting the death of the horse, along with the original registration certificate that can be marked to indicate the horse is deceased.
- If a horse becomes severely injured or disabled, a substitute will also be allowed so long as a written statement is provided with the entry(ies) by an AAEP-approved veterinarian stating the severity of the debilitating injury or illness, and lack of the probability of short-term recovery. The appropriate show office must be notified by noon the day prior to the particular class.

JACKPOT PAYOUT INFORMATION

Please be advised that if you earn money premiums, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations require that we have a W-9 form on file before we pay.

The W9 must be completed using the OWNER's name and social security or tax number and returned to Heidi Lane at worldshow@aqha.org or faxed to (806) 349-6412 by June 20, 2020.

Payout checks will be given to the Owner of Record on the horses Registration Certificate, by the American Quarter Horse Association.

AQHA Level 1 Cattle Championships Jackpot Payout Chart

No. Paid	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
1 place	100%									
2 places	60%	40%								
3 places	50%	30%	20%							
4 places	40%	30%	20%	10%						
5 places	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%					
6 places	30%	24%	18%	12%	9%	7%				
7 places	28%	23%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%			
8 places	25%	20%	15%	12%	10%	8%	6%	4%		
9 places	23%	18%	15%	11%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	
10 places	20%	16%	14%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%

JUDGING PROCEDURES

- All AQHA events will be judged according to the rules listed in the 2020 AQHA Official Handbook. No other publication will supersede the rules of the 2020 AQHA Official Handbook, or the Level 1 Cattle Events Championships Handbook.
- Judges shall examine and check for lameness in all horses brought into any class.
 - In all classes, a horse shall automatically be disqualified if two or more judges call the horse lame during the class. If it is determined that an entry does not fit the criteria of Rule SHW325 of the [2020 AQHA Official Handbook](#) of being obviously lame, the horse will not be excused and will remain in the arena.
- When an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by the management or by officials of the AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships, the decision is final.
- In the event a horse is excluded from competition, all entry fees and charges will be forfeited without liability to the AQHA Level 1 Cattle Events Championships.
- There will be three judges for all classes, and their placings will be combined.
- Judges will score each class independently and will place all entrants in the class.
- The individual score/placing cards will be given to show management for tabulation.

TIES

- In each class, specific maneuvers will be designated by the judges to be tie-breakers. The tie-breaker maneuvers will be made prior to the start of the class and so noted on the score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tiebreaker, second tiebreaker, and so on.
- Exhibitors competing for the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse shall have their class placings credits entered into the all-around tabulation. Credits from each class shall be added together for the overall placing for the event. Ties for the all-around versatile ranch horse are broken first using the highest placing in the ranch cow work class, or the limited ranch cow work class, whichever is applicable to the division. If this does not break the tie, other classes will be used in the following order: ranch cutting, ranch reining, ranch trail, ranch riding, and ranch conformation.

MONITORING PROCEDURES

- A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented not only as an aid to assist the judges, but also in an effort to provide the exhibitors with a fair and accurate score or placing. The monitor system will automatically be used.
 - To review any lack of concurrence in scores or placings when major penalties, disqualifications, zero scores or “re-rides”, are involved.
 - When a judge requests a review, lack of concurrence concerning lameness or non-Major Penalties will not be reviewed.
- A penalty review will not have any impact on the run content except to add or subtract the penalty value to the score.
- All penalty reviews will take place during the next drag, break, cattle change, or at the end of the class.
 - It is possible that a public announcement may not be made that an exhibitor’s performance is being reviewed. Regardless of whether a public announcement is made, no scores are official until penalty reviews are completed.
- No judge shall be required to change his/her score following a video replay. Each judge’s decision is an individual call and based on the individual decision from a video replay.
- Any clear evidence of fresh blood on the horse, including but not limited to the nose, chin, mouth, tongue or gums, regardless of cause, shall be cause for disqualification.

RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES

- **BARREL RACING**
 - In all barrel racing classes, the following disqualifications will be monitored:
 - Failure to follow the pattern.
 - Excessive use of whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
 - In the case of electric timer malfunction, re-runs may be required as directed by show management and their decision shall be final.
- **CUTTING**
 - Three (3), five (5) point penalties, and DQ’s may be monitored
- **RANCH RIDING**
 - Zero (0) scores, three (3) point, five (5) point, and off pattern (OP) penalties may be monitored.
- **REINING**
 - Zero (0) scores, no scores, two (2) point penalties, with the exception of marker penalties, and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.
- **TIE-DOWN/BREAKAWAY/HEADING/HEELING**
 - In tie-down roping, the roper may throw only two loops and must be done so within a one-minute time limit.
 - The one-minute time limit is from the time the calf leaves the chute until the roper signals the time is complete. Although the time limit stops when the roper signals the tie is complete, the horse will continue to be judged until the rider has mounted the horse and ridden forward.
 - Breakaway roping will be placed by the fastest time.
 - Zero, two, three, and five-point penalties may be monitored:

- Any attempt by a contestant to position his horse behind the barrier, enabling the contestant to rope the animal without attempting to leave the box.
- In breakaway, that the loop passes over the head of the calf.
- In breakaway, a contestant that breaks the rope from the horn by hand or touches the rope or string after the catch is made.
- In heading/heeling, the rope not being wrapped around the saddle horn at least one complete turn.
 - Under no circumstances will the run content or any two-point penalties or one-point penalties be adjusted.
- In the heeling class, any head catch made by the header must be a legal catch. Legal catches are both horns, half-head and around the neck.
- Anyone with a current AQHA membership riding a registered American Quarter Horse may assist in heading and/or heeling.
- **WORKING COW HORSE/BOXING**
 - All exhibitors will complete their reined work and will immediately follow with working the cow.
 - The judges may, at their discretion, award new cattle to enable the contestant to show his or her horse's ability on the cow.
 - Horses should keep working until the judge blows the whistle. If exhibitor quits working before the judge blows the whistle, a score of 0 will be given.
 - All horses must be shown in the same bit, snaffle, hackamore, and reins in the cow work that was used in the reined work.
 - One score will be tabulated from the reined work and one score will be tabulated from the cow work. A total score will then be tabulated from both work scores.

ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES

- Please refer to the [2020 Official AQHA Rulebook](#) to familiarize yourself with these rules. Rule VIO100 through VIO240. Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any horse will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.
- Prohibited devices may not be used anywhere on the grounds.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / INDEMNITY

Participants (and, if 17 years old or younger, participants' parents and/or legal guardians) agree that they understand the nature of Level 1 Championship Show participation and attendance activities ("Activities") and that the Activities include, but are not limited to, "inherent risks of equine activities" that may result in property damage and bodily injury, including, but not limited to, permanent disability, paralysis, and death (collectively "risks"); that such risks may be caused by participant's own action or inaction, the action or inaction of others participating in the activities, the condition of the premises at which the activities take place, and/or the negligence of the "releasees" named below.

Participants understand that "inherent risk of equine activities" means dangers or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (a) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury or loss to persons on or around the equine; (b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals; (c) hazards, including, but not limited to, surface or subsurface conditions; (d) a collision with another equine, another animal, a person, or an object; and (e) the

potential of an equine activity participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury or loss to the person of the participant or to other persons, including, but not limited to, failing to maintain control over an equine or failing to act within the ability of the participant.

A PARTICIPANT FULLY ACCEPTS AND ASSUMES ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES PARTICIPANT INCURS AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES. PARTICIPANT HEREBY RELEASES, DISCHARGES, AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE AQHA, AQHA CORPORATE PARTNERS OR, THE OWNER AND LESSORS OF PREMISES ON WHICH THE ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE OR THEIR RESPECTIVE ADMINISTRATORS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES (EACH CONSIDERED ONE OF THE "RELEASEES" HEREIN) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES WHENEVER OR HOWEVER ARISING AS TO INJURY, DEATH AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRING AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OR CAUSED OR ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

A participant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend releasees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, from all third party claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses of any nature arising out of (i) participant's negligent act(s) or omissions during or related in any way to the activities; and/or (ii) participant's willful act(s) or omission(s) during or related in any way to the activities.

AQHA PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY

AQHA prohibits the use of any still photography and/or video cameras for commercial use or distribution through websites, social networking sites or any other media by competitors, spectators and visitors at the Association's Championship Shows. Any commercial or mass distribution of photography and/or video, or advertisement thereof, taken of subjects within the show ring without prior written consent from show management, is expressly forbidden.

Professional photography equipment, cameras with lenses longer than 4 inches and camera support pods or video cameras of any size mounted on a tripod are NOT permitted under any circumstances except by credentialed media. **No photography or video footage will be allowed of subjects within the competition arena, unless prior written consent is given by show management.**

The show's official photographer, videographer, and *The American Quarter Horse Journal* are the only parties permitted to provide others with competition photos or videos. **Anyone, other than official sources, who provides or intends to provide photos or video from the competition arena to a third party, whether for free or for purchase, can be ejected from the event or banned from these events (including showing at AQHA-approved shows) indefinitely.**

As reciprocal assistance to AQHA for privilege of membership, participation in approved events and ownership of an American Quarter Horse, AQHA may use, without payment of any fee whatsoever, any photograph or other forms of likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner, their horses and registered equine names, to promote AQHA's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from AQHA.

Media representatives are issued credentials prior to the show upon the completion of an application process. To view the AQHA Photography and Videography Policy and credential request application, visit the show's media resources section on AQHA's website.