



2019 QUALIFYING HANDBOOK

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective Date and Repeal

These rules become effective January 1, 2019, for the conduct of the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships of 2019 and each subsequent year, presuming proper and adequate financing arrangements can be made and committed prior to January 1 of each year.

The AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the AQHA Official Handbook and the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships. All participants and owners agree to abide by such rules and regulations.

The 2019 AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships shall be at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma on June 18-22, 2019.

ELIGIBILITY

A horse is eligible to compete in Versatility Ranch Horse Competition in which it has earned the minimum number of points assigned for that class. All points considered for eligibility in this show must have been earned starting, March 1, 2018, at AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Competitions, and only official AQHA records will be used as the basis to determine eligibility. No points earned at any AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Competition beginning **March 1, 2019** or after that date, will be counted or considered for eligibility purposes.

No official AQHA points will be earned by participation in the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships; however, any placings in the top 10, finalists placings, Reserve All-Around World Champion and All-Around World Champion will be recognized on the permanent record of the respective horse.

QUALIFYING

Qualifying Period: March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019

- There are seven divisions in VRH competition – Junior, Senior, Cowboy, Amateur, Limited Amateur, Youth and Limited Youth

To qualify in the all-around to compete for the all-around versatility ranch horse world champion titles:

- Senior aged (6 years old and older) horses must earn 1 all-around point in the open division,
- Junior aged (5 years old and younger) horses must earn .5 all-around points in the open division (*special note – if a horse was 5 as of December 31, 2018 it will still be eligible to compete in the junior division, and abide by junior equipment rules.*)
- To qualify to compete in the all-around cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, youth or limited youth divisions, the horse must earn .5 all-around points in those divisions (in

amateur, limited amateur, youth and limited youth must be a horse/exhibitor combination),

- **Or** show in three or more shows in the all-around competition of the appropriate division.

To qualify in individual classes:

- Senior horses must earn 1 point in that class in the open division.
- Junior horses must earn .5 points in that class in the open division.
- To qualify to compete in an individual class in the cowboy, amateur, limited amateur, youth and limited youth divisions, the horse (or horse/exhibitor combination) must earn .5 points in that class,
- **Or** show in three more shows in an individual class in the appropriate division.
- The minimum eligibility points required will be determined and adjusted annually.
- **Horses qualified in both Limited Amateur/Youth and Amateur/Youth individual classes may cross enter the same class (ie. Ltd Amateur Trail & Amateur Trail) ONLY if they are not competing in the All Around. If the horse is All Around eligible, they must choose one division or the other. (A horse is All Around eligible if it competes in one cattle class, one non-cattle class and conformation).**
- To compete at the VRH World Show for the All-Around Versatility Ranch horse:
 - The person completing the entry form must choose at least one cattle class, one riding class other than a cattle class and conformation. This will carry through all divisions. A person can enter more classes and, if so, all the scores in the classes will count toward the All-Around.
- If a horse is a Limited competitor, he/she can compete for the Limited All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse; however, cannot then compete in the Amateur Division – must choose between the two.
- Entry fees will be as follows:
 - All entrants:
 - Drug test fee - \$55 per horse per division
 - Open, Cowboy, Amateur and Limited Amateur:
 - Entry - \$75 per class
 - Office Charge - \$35 per class
 - Cattle Charge Cutting - \$110 per class
 - Cattle Charge Cow Work - \$75
 - Trail Obstacle Charge - \$30
 - Youth:
 - Entry - \$45
 - Office Charge - \$35 per class
 - Cattle Charge Cutting - \$85 per class
 - Cattle Charge Cow Work - \$75
 - Trail Obstacle Charge - \$30
 - Stalls: \$200 each for the duration of the show – extra stalls may be requested
 - If you move in prior to noon on Monday, June 16, stalls are \$25 per night
 - If you move out after noon on Monday, June 24, stalls are \$25 per night
- Awards will be given for each individual class, as well as for the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse.
- Prize money will be awarded in addition to other awards.
 - For the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse competition, there will be \$5,000 added money in the Junior Division; \$5,000 added money in the Senior Division; \$1,500 added to the Cowboy Division; \$3,500 to the Amateur Division and \$1,500 to the Limited Amateur Division.
 - Of the \$75 entry fee per class, \$37.50 of that will be paid out to the particular class and \$37.50 will go into the All-Around payout for that division.
 - For specific payout percentages, please refer to the payout chart at the end of this book.

Any exhibitor or owner receiving disciplinary action by the AQHA Executive Committee for show rule violations at this year's AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships they will be prohibited from participating in the next year AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships. This rule excludes anyone receiving a first time administration penalty for an overage of therapeutic medication.

No horse may be shown under a AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships 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, commission or any kind of remuneration for selling or buying a horse for that individual; or 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.

INVITATIONAL CLASSES

All qualifiers to the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships will receive an invitation to the show in the event(s) in which they qualified.

The Amateur, Open, Cowboy and Youth All-Around World Champions from the 2018 VRH World Show will be automatically invited back to show in the 2019 show, so long as the Amateur and Youth exhibitors are still the owners at the time of the invitation.

In amateur, limited amateur, youth and limited youth competitions, the invitation is for the same horse/exhibitor combination. Therefore, horses must be shown by the same exhibitor listed at the time of entry and that exhibitor must be eligible as the owner or a relation of the owner to show the horse in accordance with Rule SHW220 of the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook.

In open competition, the invitation is for the horse. Exhibitors' names must be listed on the entry form along with their AQHA ID number showing current membership. Exhibitor changes may be made at the show, but proof of current membership will be required.

Once a horse begins competition in any All-Around competition, the exhibitor of the horse must remain the same in any and all segments of those classes, unless, for good cause shown to show management, at its sole discretion, show management may allow a rider substitution.

Open competitors may exhibit up to three horses in the Junior Division and three horses in the Senior Division, – Amateur, Limited Amateur, Youth, Limited Youth and Cowboy exhibitors may show up to three horses in their respective divisions.

International, Alaskan and Hawaiian entries

If no horses qualify in an event from Alaska, Hawaii and each international country not contiguous to the United States, the high-point horse is invited to the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships without being required to meet minimum qualifying point levels. The method for determining the high-point horse will be the horse earning the most points at AQHA-approved Versatility Ranch Horse Competitions within the respective state or continent of the owner's domicile during the qualifying period of March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.

Amateur, Limited Amateur, Youth and/or Limited Youth exhibitors that qualify in any class in their respective divisions may substitute a deceased horse with another horse if the horse dies prior to the entry deadline and all other ownership requirements are met by May 10, 2019.

Use of Official Records

Show results not received by AQHA by March 10, 2019, will not be used to determine eligibility for the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships.

ENTERING

Deadline for entry will be May 10, 2019, and entries must be received in the AQHA office by that date. Telephone entries will not be accepted. Late entries will be accepted until May 31 with a penalty fee of twice the entry fee, plus other normal applicable fees. All late fees will be added to class purses.

All entries must be on official entry forms furnished by the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships. Please print or type all requested information. Entries will not be accepted if appropriate fees are not remitted.

You may return your entry and fees to the address listed below, and we strongly encourage you to use an overnight delivery system.

AQHA

Attn: Heidi Lane

1600 Quarter Horse Drive

Amarillo, Texas 79104

A current AQHA membership is required of all exhibitors in open classes. A current AQHA Amateur or Youth membership is required in all Amateur, Limited Amateur, Youth or Limited Youth competition.

CANCELLATIONS/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.

On-Site Check-In Information

An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary.

All entries are subject to examination or drug testing under the provisions of Rule VIO400 of the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook.

Should an exhibitor/owner fail to bring the horse's Registration Certificate to the Show, the show secretary will download a copy of the horse's markings from the AQHA office and the horse will then be inspected against the copy of the markings.

ARRIVAL

The Lazy E Ranch will receive horses entered in the show beginning at Noon on June 16, and horses must be out by Noon on June 24 (if a person needs to come in sooner or stay longer, contact the Lazy E Ranch at 405-282-3004.

Every horse entered for competition shall be under the control of the World Show Management, but AQHA, Zoetis, the Lazy E Ranch, their agents, servants or employees, will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

Upon entry, every exhibitor and owner and all other participants accept the facility and grounds, including, but not limited to, the arena, stalls and alleyways, where the show is being conducted on an as is basis, agreeing to be solely responsible for property damage or personal injury caused by third parties to the exhibitor, participant or owner, his property or staff, or caused by himself, his participant horses, exhibitors, representatives, agents and employees occurring in conjunction with this show; and further agree to indemnify and hold American Quarter Horse Association harmless from any and all such liability, whenever or however, arising, not caused by AQHA's own negligence or that of AQHA's representatives, agents or employees.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All horses entered and/or help horses must have a current, original health certificate dated within **7 days of check-in**.
- A negative Coggins/EIA report 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/EIA results should indicate the horse's registered name.
- All horses must have AQHA Horse Health Check-In sheet to present to **stall office**.
- All horses not officially entered in the show used as helping horses must be registered American Quarter Horses.

JUDGING OF THE SHOW

A minimum of three (3) judges will judge all classes. Judges will score each class independently and will place all the entries in the class. Their individual score or placing cards will be given to the World Show management for tabulation. Final placings will be determined by combining the three (3) scores or placings earned in each segment of competition. **ALL JUDGING RULES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE 2019 AQHA RULEBOOK with the exception of the time limit in the Limited Amateur and Limited Youth Cow Work.**

VRH Limited Amateur & Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work

- Will follow 2020 AQHA VRH Limited Cow Work rules:
 - SHW564.1 Content. Exhibitors in the limited ranch cow work cannot compete in both the ranch cow work and limited cow work class, at the same show with the same horse. Limited ranch cow work exhibitors are allotted one minute and **forty-five** seconds to complete the work. When there are **50** seconds left, the announcer will announce, **50** seconds remaining. At one minute and **forty-five** seconds, the announcer will call for time. Exhibitors are not required to use all of the allotted time, but must ride until the judge whistles the end of the run or time expires, whichever occurs first. There are four parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving it down the fence to the opposite end of the arena; and

boxing it at the opposite end of the arena, and then driving the cow past the middle marker again. There is no expectation that the exhibitor will make a 'fence turn', rather the drive down the fence demonstrates correct position and control around the corner.

TIE PROCEDURES

- 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 score sheets. These maneuvers will be ranked as first tie-breaker, second tie-breaker, 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 Versatility 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. For further information regarding the calculation for All-Around, please refer to SHW555 of the AQHA Official Handbook.

Monitoring Procedures

A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented in all classes except ranch trail. The monitoring system is 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 (1) to review any lack of concurrence in scores or placings when major penalties, disqualifications, zero scores or "re-rides", are involved (hereafter "Major Penalties; see below) or (2) 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.

Class Routine

Exhibitors must have their horses in place 15 minutes before the class in which they are entered is called. Announcement regarding the progress of the preceding class will be given over the show announcing system.

Show management shall exclude horses from competition should there be any unnecessary delay on the part of the exhibitor in bringing the horse into the ring. In the event a horse is excluded from competition, all entry fees and charges will be forfeited without liability to the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships or NRSHA Show. Working orders will be posted for all classes, and all exhibitors must enter the arena at the direction of show officials in the drawn order.

No one, other than contestants in the class and show officials, will be allowed in the arena or in alleyway during the judging except turnback help and herd holders in cutting.

Movement of horses in any class will be at the discretion of the judge; however, horses will not be pulled out or lined up in placing order by any judge at any time.

All judges are to inspect each horse for possible lameness at all times while being judged. Any time a judge calls a horse lame, he is to tell his ring steward the entry number of the horse. The ring steward will in turn communicate to show management that his or her judge has called an entry lame. If the majority of the judges (two or more) call the horse lame as outlined in Rule SHW325 of the AQHA Official Handbook, it will be excused from that segment of the competition. No announcement will be made over the show announcing system that a horse is being excused. Judges rulings regarding lameness are official and are not subject to review.

If the horse is competing for the All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse in any division, the following policy will prevail:

1. A horse may be determined to be lame in a specific class and will be disqualified in that class but may or may not choose to exhibit in the following class(es).
2. If an exhibitor chooses not to compete in the remaining class(es), the credits earned at that point from previous class(es) will be used to calculate the final placings.

When an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by the management or by officials of the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships, the decision is final.

The American Quarter Horse Association, AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships Management reserve the right to change the order and/or published time of classes before or during the show. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be aware of changes and check the show office or announcer's stand for the most current information.

Special Rules and Regulations

Each exhibitor will be assigned two numbers. During the performance classes, one number should be placed on each side of the saddle or saddle pad. One number must be worn on the exhibitor's back in the show ring for conformation classes. If the number(s) are not worn properly, or the wrong number(s) is worn, show management may fine that contestant.

Unless otherwise noted in this booklet, the rules printed in the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook shall govern. Any rules and regulations not covered by the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook or by rules and regulations of the 2019 AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships will be handled by World Show Management, and their decision will be final without recourse of any nature.

Any exhibitor or rider who refuses to obey the requests of the judge, ringmaster or a World Show official is automatically barred from further competition and forfeits all previous winnings, together with entry fees and other charges. At the discretion of the show management and/or the World Show Committee, the offending individual and his entire exhibit may be removed from the grounds.

All horses are subject to drug and tail testing under the provisions of Rule VIO330 and VIO400 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.”

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.

Attire/Logos

- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class; however, this is a world class event that will receive worldwide publicity. Therefore, 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, etc., provided they meet the following size restrictions;
 - 1) Logos on any attire or equipment – maximum size of 2” x 3”, or 6 square inches
 - 2) Pocket emblems and apparel manufacturer logos on clothing for sale “off the rack” may not exceed 1” x 2”, 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 the 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 can not wear that item of clothing during competition.

General Information and Services

No Liability

Every possible protection and courtesy will be extended to exhibitors at the AQHA/Zoetis Versatility Ranch Horse World Championships, but AQHA, Zoetis, Lazy E Ranch, their respective officers, directors, employees and representatives, do not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this Show in regard to participants or for other third parties or for the horses or property thereof. As an express condition of the privilege to participate, each owner of an American Quarter Horse, exhibitor, trainer and their employees or representatives, and all other participants, by participating in the Show, assume risk of participation and do hereby release and discharge the above parties from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, as to personal injury or property damage occurring as a result of participation in an event conducted at the Show, or on Show grounds.

No one, including exhibitors, may sell products from their stall area.

World Show Participation Guidelines for Executive Committee and Their Immediate Family Members:

1. For purposes of these guidelines, the following definitions apply:
 - a. "Immediate Family Member" shall mean an Executive Committee member and his/her spouse, parent, grandparents, stepparent, sibling, half-sibling, step-sibling's spouse, half sibling's spouse.
 - b. "World Shows" shall mean AQHA World Championship Show, AQHYA World Championship Show, Select World Show or the Versatility Ranch Horse World Show [including AQHA's Cowboy Mounted Shooting World Championships] (the "World Shows").
2. Immediate Family Members may not exhibit a horse at the World Shows.
3. Regardless of who the exhibitor is, the following horses are ineligible to compete at a World Show:
 - a. Horses registered in the individual name of an Immediate Family Member;
 - b. Horses registered in joint name of an Immediate Family Member and any other party; or
 - c. Horses registered in the name of an entity (including, but not limited to, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates and syndicates) in which an Immediate Family Member has an ownership interest in.
4. An Immediate Family Member's trainer may exhibit any horse at a World Show so long as such horse is not ineligible to compete pursuant to Rule 3 above.
5. As AQHA World Show representatives, Executive Committee members should avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest associated with the World Shows and be sensitive to relationships which might be construed as inappropriate.

Payout Information

Please be advised that if you earn money premiums, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations require we have a W9 form on file before we pay. The W9 must be completed using the **OWNER's** name and social security or tax number. Please utilize the form contained in your qualifiers' packet or awards envelope and turn in to AQHA personnel at the show, or to Heidi Lane at hlane@aqha.org or fax to (806) 349-6412 by June 26, 2019.

Payout checks will be mailed by the American Quarter Horse Association following the report of all drug and tail test results. Premiums will be paid by check by AQHA and mailed to the address of the owner or lessee at the time of entry.

Zoetis AQHA - Versatility Ranch Horse World Show 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%