

**Racing Committee
2021 AQHA Convention
San Antonio, Texas**

1. Approve the minutes of the previous Racing Committee meeting at the 2020 AQHA Virtual Convention.
Executive Committee Action: Approved

2. The following individuals were selected for nomination to the 2021 Champions Selection Committee. Geographic balance to be considered when choosing the 11 committee members with the remaining nominees to serve as alternates.
 - 1) Lee Jenkins (GA)
 - 2) Duayne Didericksen (ID)
 - 3) Rod Lowe (OR)
 - 4) Robert Gutke (UT)
 - 5) Ed McNelis (ID)
 - 6) Ryan Robicheaux (LA)
 - 7) Jorge Haddad Mestre (TX)
 - 8) Jacob Magee (LA)
 - 9) Lance Robinson (UT)
 - 10) Mark Herron (TX)
 - 11) Dino Perez (CA)
 - 12) Cheryl Pevehouse (OK)
 - 13) Norma Alvarez (NM)
 - 14) Bill Robbins (CA)

* First-time nominees of the Champions Selection Committee shall be designated as the alternatives. **Executive Committee Action: Approved**

3. Endorse the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund's proposal to create a funding mechanism for its stipends to disabled riders.
Executive Committee Action: Approved

4. Recommend that the Champion Selection Criteria regarding small, medium, and large breeders remain as it is.
Executive Committee Action: Approved

5. Approve recommendation of the Challenge Task Force to the Racing Council, outlined in the following details. During discussion, a motion to modify the enrollment fee tier from "stakes winners and graded stakes winners" to "stakes-placed and graded stakes-placed" did not pass.

• **Challenge Enrollment Structure:**
Current Challenge Enrollment:

Weanlings	\$300
Yearlings	\$600
2-year-olds	\$2,500 (Jan 1 - Mar 15)
2-year-olds	\$8,000 (Mar 16 - Dec 3)
3-year-olds & up	\$20,000

Proposed Challenge Enrollment:

The Challenge Task Force believes that the significant late payments, although serving their purpose as a deterrent for waiting, are overly punitive to late-developing horses and older horses with less of a career remaining.

After reviewing the available information, the Challenge Task Force is recommending the following matrix for enrollment that still aims to serve as a deterrent for waiting to enroll; however, provide some relief for the unraced or less accomplished horse.

Age/Condition	Unraced/ Maidens	Non-Stakes Winners	Stakes Winners	Graded Stake Winners
Weanlings	\$300	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yearlings	\$600	N/A	N/A	N/A
2yo (Jan 1 – Mar 15)	\$2,500	\$7,500	N/A	N/A
2yo (Mar 16 – Dec 31)	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$20,000
3-year-olds	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
4-year-olds	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$20,000
5-year-olds & up	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000

• **Reintroduction of a Bonus Challenge Program**

After thorough deliberation, the Challenge Task Force is also bringing forward a recommendation to reintroduce the Bonus Challenge program in 2022. The Challenge Task Force believes that these Bonus races are important to smaller jurisdictions to assist in offsetting some of the economic disruption brought forward by COVID-19 and that these races help promote and provide visibility to the Challenge Program in smaller jurisdictions. The bonus program will be revived under the following stipulations:

- A total of \$75,000 in funds will be available from the AQHA Challenge Program to qualifying races. No more than 10 total races will be contested so tracks will be

encouraged to make their best application with a maximum contribution of \$7,500 from the AQHA Challenge Program.

- In order to be considered a qualifying race, the following conditions must be met:
 - o The race must be hosted by a track that does not host a Regional Challenge Race
 - o Conditions must be pre-approved by the AQHA and must allow for any Challenge-enrolled horse to compete
 - o Hair testing will be required per AQHA Challenge policy.
- **Notation of Challenge eligible horses:** Staff will work with TJIS and internally at AQHA in the endeavor to add a notation in the Equibase/InCompass/Track Manager feed that notes AQHA Challenge eligible horse via a symbol next to the horse's name.

Executive Committee Action: Approved

**Racing Council
2021 AQHA Convention
San Antonio, Texas**

1. Approve the minutes of the previous Racing Council meeting.
2. Approve the recommendations of the Graded Stakes Subcommittee, except for their recommendation to change the Champion of Champions to Restricted Grade 1. The Champion of Champions will remain a Grade 1, giving the Graded Stakes Committee the opportunity to consider the implementation of the new conditions (that were just introduced) for the 2021 running when considering the race's Grade in next year's meeting.
3. Approve the Racing Committee action items:
 - a. 11 Champions Selection Committee members and 3 alternates.
 - b. Endorse the Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund proposal to the racing jurisdictions to fund the stipends they offer disabled riders.
 - c. Leave the Champions Selection Criteria for Breeders as is and close the Task Force.
 - d. Accept the Challenge Task Force's proposal as outlined in the Racing Committee minutes.
4. The following individuals were selected for nomination to the 2021 Champions Selection Committee. In accordance with Committee guidelines, geographic balance was considered in choosing the 10 committee members, with the remaining nominees to serve as alternates.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ross Brigden (Canada)b. Mindy McArthur (TX)c. Carol Cooper (CA)d. Fred Helmuth (IL)e. Ron Bullock (TX)f. Lowell Neumayer (NM)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">g. Walt Wiggins (NM)h. Chris Duke (IN)i. Lloyd Yother (AZ)j. Frank Merrill (TX)
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5. Recommend the Champions Selection Committee meeting return to the historical two-day format.
6. Recommend that staff review opportunities to broaden the access to all Quarter Horse Races via the Q-Racing platform or explore other opportunities with Roberts Communications.
7. Hold the 2021 Summer Council Meeting in Ruidoso, NM on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

**AQHA Graded Stakes Subcommittee
2021 Convention, San Antonio**

1. Upgrade the following races to a Grade 3 from no grade:
 - a. Canterbury Distaff Challenge
 - b. Easy Date Stakes – motion approved to waive the three-year recommendation for grade eligibility due to the race's long history as a graded restricted race, plus satisfactory quality points as an open stakes in 2020

2. Downgrade the following race to no grade from a Grade 3:
 - a. Sunland Park Winter Juvenile Invitational

3. Upgrade the following race to an RG1 from an RG2:
 - a. LQHBA Sale Futurity

4. Upgrade the following race to an RG2 from an RG3:
 - a. TQHA Sires' Cup Futurity
 - b. Boyd Morris Memorial Handicap

5. Upgrade the following races to an RG3 from no grade:
 - a. Jack Brooks Stakes
 - b. Neville Stakes

6. Advise Los Alamitos Race Course that the Champion of Champions (G1) may be considered a restricted stakes beginning in 2021 under the race's current conditions, allowing track management a chance to respond. Feedback from Los Alamitos will be presented to the Graded Stakes Committee and the Racing Council to determine final recommendation to the Executive Committee.

7. In 2020, the Graded Stakes Committee reevaluated the grades for the following stakes, and lowered them from RG1 to RG3 due to a significant purse decrease. Consequently, the GSC has decided to reserve allocation on the 2021 and 2022 grades until more information can be garnered on the 2021 runnings of the following races:
 - a. Namehimastreaker New Mexico Classic Championship – \$175,000 purse in 2019 to \$30,000 in 2020
 - b. New Mexico Fillies & Mares Championship - \$145,000 in 2019 to \$30,000 in 2020

8. Adjust the following grades for 2021:

- a. Jess Burner Memorial Handicap – motion approved to downgrade to an RG2 from an RG1 due to purse decrease from \$100,000 to \$40,000 in 2021.
 - b. LQHBA Sale Futurity – motion approved to upgrade to an RG1 from an RG2.

9. Recommend notification to the racetracks in regard to the following race, which will warrant future consideration for an upgraded status with improvement in the corresponding points and/or purse guidelines:
 - a. Two Rivers (purse)

10. The following issues were discussed and recommendations were made:
 - a. Adjust the graded stakes points tiers for the Restricted 2 Year Old Division to:
 - i. Grade 1: 40+ points
 - ii. Grade 2: 20-39.9 points
 - iii. Grade 3: 10-19.9 points (no change)
 - b. Adjust the graded stakes purse tiers for the Open Distance Division to:
 - i. Grade 1: \$75,000
 - ii. Grade 2: \$50,000 (no change)
 - iii. Grade 3: \$30,000 (no change)

11. Confirm with the Racing Council that in extending the Graded Stakes Committee terms that only the 2017 committee members will be replaced in 2021, thus providing Jorge Haddad Mestre one more year on the Graded Stakes Committee and therefore eligible for re-election as chair, as preferred by the Committee.

12. Adjourn.