

**Show Committee Report  
2021 Convention  
San Antonio, Texas**

**GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. Offer longe line and trail in hand for yearlings, two-year-old and three-year-old classes for international affiliates, excluding Canada.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

2. Amend Rule SHW467.1, "Optional trail course obstacles include but are not limited to: Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick-bottom boxes will be used. **When a water hazard/box is used, it shall remain dry at all times in all divisions.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

3. Create a task force to discuss AQHA-approved virtual shows for international affiliates, not including Canada, with the recommendation to include the Show Committee Chair or their designee, the General Show Subcommittee Chair or their designee, a representative from the Judge's Committee, at least one member of AQHA staff to provide input regarding programming, and 4-5 international members. A written report should be provided back to the General Show Subcommittee not later than 2022 Convention.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

4. Approve recommendations from the Equestrians With Disabilities Task Force, which include:
  - a. One-horse, one-rider rule applies to Equestrians With Disabilities riders.\*\*
  - b. Adjust Equestrians With Disabilities rules to be similar to only allow a horse to be shown once, in each class.\*\*
  - c. Equestrians With Disabilities exhibitors may use both hands with any type of bridle.
  - d. AQHA staff, in conjunction with the Chair of the Task Force, Tom McBeath, to include three patterns for each class in the AQHA Rulebook.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

**SHOW FORMAT AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE**

5. Amend Rule SHW127.1, "Show officials are defined as any person performing the duties of a show manager, ring steward or show secretary. Show officials, with the exception of ring stewards, must have a current AQHA individual membership. Any reputable person may act in the capacity of a show official who can furnish proof that he/she is capable through ability or experience. ~~No show official or member of their immediate family, any children or other relatives living in the same household of either or both of the married persons, or any person owning or leasing the grounds on which a show is being held whose ownership could influence the outcome of any show held on such property, shall enter or exhibit horses in any AQHA-approved open or amateur show at which he/she is officiating, nor may any horse owned by such person be entered and exhibited.~~ **None of the following persons may enter or exhibit horses, nor may any horse owned by any of the following persons**

be entered and exhibited, in any AQHA-approved open or amateur show: (a) any show official for such particular AQHA-approved open or amateur show at which he/she is a show official; (b) any member of the immediate family [as defined in SHW220.1] of a show official, if such immediate family member is also living in the same household; or (c) the owner or tenant of the grounds on which such particular AQHA-approved open or amateur show is being held and whose ownership could influence the outcome of such show. Youth events and alliance shows, where it is acceptable by the rules of the alliance, are excluded from coverage under this rule.”

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

6. Create a task force to investigate all alliance rules and/or associations and possible AQHA rules to support mounted shooting with AQHA as the governing body.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

7. Continue the study of the AQHA Show Calendar by the Show and Format Subcommittee.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

8. Show and Format Subcommittee compile statistics and data to support the study of multi-breed concurrent classes. A report with their findings, information about the pilot program that was discussed, and the exploration of benefits and negatives will be resubmitted at the 2022 Convention.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

## LEVELING AND AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Amend Rule SHW251.9, “Level eligibility will be effective January 1 of each year and the exhibitor or horse will remain eligible for that level for the entire calendar year, regardless of the number of points earned during the year. For classes leveled by competitors (Youth, Amateur and Open Halter and Cattle classes), competitors placing in the top ~~two~~ three in the Level 3 classes at the AQHYA, Open/Amateur or Select world shows any of the World Shows are not eligible for Level 2 for the subsequent five years in that class within that division, regardless of points earned in the past three years.”\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

10. Exclude 2020 points from leveling range calculations due to COVID-19 impact on sanctioned show participation. From this point forward, the 3-year leveling point ranges will exclude 2020 from the equation and points from 2021 will be reviewed at the 2022 Convention.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

11. Create a task force for development of a Green Non-Pro division for exhibitors.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

12. Add Level 2 to the world show's weanling halter classes in Amateur.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

13. Amend Rule SHW117, "An amateur division and/or Select Amateur division may be approved separately or in conjunction with an AQHA-approved show for all ages and/or a youth show, provided at least four AQHA-approved amateur and/or select amateur performance events are offered.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

14. Remove Rule SHW230 from the AQHA Rulebook, "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 AQHA's Competition 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 AQHA's Competition Department the names and exact dates of the two shows, as well as the horse's name and AQHA registration number that they will exhibit. [SHW230.1] Only one such permit will be granted for a rider for a given horse, and no AQHA points will be awarded. [SHW230.2] 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. Failure to properly obtain permit prior to showing may result in revocation of amateur status and/or other penalties.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

15. Amend Rule SHW245.8, "Level 1 exhibitors, in Amateur or Youth, may participate on a non-owned horse in Level 1 Amateur or Level 1 Youth classes. The recorded owner retains the ability to show the same horse in any class other than the same class as the Level 1 exhibitor. At the discretion of show management, this option is may or may not be available to competitors at the top 10 show circuits. The top 10 show circuits can be found at aqha.com. They are determined by the number of entries in the previous year. ~~For the top 10 shows (provided the show accepts permits a Level 1 amateur or Level 1 youth member may apply for up to 10 permits allowing them to compete with one permit per show on a non-owned horse in Level 1 classes only. Points earned by Level 1, whether using permits or not, will count toward the point cap per class for Level 1 eligibility. Applications for permits shall be directed to the AQHA Competition 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. Exhibitors must have a current amateur or youth membership to participate. All Level 1 rules still apply whether using permits or not.~~

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

16. Amend Rule SHW 245.3.5, "When determining eligibility for a level in a particular class, an individual may not have exceeded the point cap described in SHW245.1 for that particular class. In addition, at the time of application for Level 1 an individual may not have competed on an NCEA equestrian team on a scholarship, or ride as a starting exhibitor, ~~in a particular class,~~ **excluded by discipline (Western – Horsemanship/Reining and English – Equitation/Equitation over fences). Exhibitors are ineligible to return to Level 1 by discipline until 10 years after final year of competition on a NCEA equestrian team.**

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

17. Compile all leveling rules into one digital document.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

18. Amend Rules SHW251.7 and SHW251.8, "SHW251.7 Horses in their first year of senior competition will automatically be eligible for Level 2 unless the horse places in the top ~~two~~ **three** in a Level 3 class at the Open World Show. In this instance, the horse is not eligible for Level 2 for the subsequent five years in that class, regardless of points earned during the calculation period. SHW251.8 Horses placing in the top ~~two~~ **three** in the Level 3 classes at the Open World Shows are not eligible for Level 2 for the subsequent five years in that class, regardless of points earned in the past three years."\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

## **WESTERN & TIMED EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE**

19. Create a task force to study the feasibility of adding an open ladies' breakaway class to the AQHA show docket to be reported back at the 2022 Convention.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

20. Amend SHW375.2, "The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand. ~~unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth. It is preferable that~~ The exhibitor's hand shall not be on the ~~snap or~~ chain portion of the lead. ~~continuously.~~ The excess lead should never be tightly coiled, rolled or folded. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position."

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

21. Amend rule SHW564.1 Part Four – Drive the cow back down the fence (original side) past the middle marker and continue until the judge blows the whistle to show completion. **While boxing the cow at the opposite end, if the rider loses control and allows the cow to cross the center line, the judge will whistle the end of the run. The rider will receive off pattern penalty (OP) for the run.**

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

22. Amend SHW417.6 ~~Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.~~ **Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.**

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

23. Allow as permitted equipment a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

24. Any equipment and/or bit considered legal in an AQHA-approved class may be used on any horse for training purposes on show grounds, whether or not the horse will be shown in the class in which the equipment and/or bit is legal; for example, equipment and/or bits legal for barrel racing classes may be used on horses of other disciplines for training on the showgrounds.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

25. Modify SHW437.1 (Three (3) points): ~~Obviously looking down to check leads.~~  
SHW437.2 (Five (5) points): **Obviously looking down to check leads.**

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

## **ENGLISH & DRESSAGE SUBCOMMITTEE**

26. Amend Rules SHW621.2.1, SHW621.2.2 and SHW621.2.3, "Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score":

- a. SHW621.2.1, "(Three (3) points)  
Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides  
Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn  
Tick or hit of cone  
Obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals  
**Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail.**
- b. SHW621.2.2, "(Five (5) points)  
Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet-(3 meters) of designated location  
Missing a diagonal ~~up to~~ **for more than** 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail  
Incorrect lead or break of gait at the canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)  
Complete loss of contact between rider's hand and the horse's mouth  
Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides  
Loss of iron Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation
- c. SHW621.2.3 (Ten (10) points)  
Loss of rein

~~Missing a diagonal for more than 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail~~  
Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work  
Holding saddle with either hand  
Spurring or use of the of crop in front of girth  
Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

27. With respect to agenda item 53, it is recommended to amend Rules SHW621.2.1 and SHW621.2.2, "Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied for each occurrence and will be deduct-ed from the final score":

a. SHW621.2.1, "(Three (3) points)

Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides

Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn

Tick or hit of cone

~~Obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals~~

**Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail.**

b. SHW621.2.2, "(Five (5) points)

Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 10 feet-(3 meters) of designated location

**Obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals.**

~~Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides in the pattern or on the rail~~

Incorrect lead or break of gait at the canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)

Complete loss of contact between rider's hand and the horse's mouth

Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides

Loss of iron Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

28. Create a task force to consider adding a new EVENTING Rule, SHW686, "**An AQHA-approved event. AQHA will recognize these levels of eventing competition starting with the Beginner Novice Level, continuing through Novice Level, Training Level, Preliminary Level, Intermediate Level and Advance Level.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

29. Create a task force to consider adding a new EVENTING Rule, SHW686.1, "**Eventing will be offered and approved through USEA-licensed competitions holding an AQHA-approved class.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

30. Create a task force to consider adding a new EVENTING Rule, SHW686.2, "**Show approval as well as horse and exhibitor eligibility requirements must be met.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

31. Create a task force to consider adding a new EVENTING Rule, SHW686.3, "**A one-time license of \$85 for the horse must be recorded with AQHA prior to the competition.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

32. Create a task force to consider adding a new POINTS Rule, SHW687, "**The final penalty score will be converted into a point value. Points will be awarded in each division and recorded on the horse's records. AQHA points can be earned starting at Beginner Novice Level going through Advanced Levels. The points are listed on the horse's record and count for awards such as Register of Merit and year-end high-points. AQHA recognizes high-points (first through 10<sup>th</sup>) for open, amateur and youth divisions for each level.**"

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

## **WORLD SHOW SUBCOMMITTEE**

33. Continue the 3-year-old Western Pleasure class at the World Show as a stakes class.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

34. Create a task force to investigate the impact of changing the current 5-judge system (loss of high & low placings, average of 3 median placings) to a 4-judge system (loss of low placings only) for World Show halter classes.

**Executive Committee Action:** Deny

35. Offer an optional jackpot at the Youth World to serve as a self-funding scholarship opportunity. Staff to review and implement specific details to include the percent of payback given to the scholarship, the payback scale (to be consistent with other scholarship formats) and the 501c5 and 501c3 implications.\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

36. Table offering Level 2 Select amateur core classes at the Open and Amateur world shows for one year while the ROI is evaluated.

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

## **HALTER SUBCOMMITTEE**

37. With respect to agenda item number 83, it is recommended to amend Rule SHW567.6, "Exhibitors may qualify and show more than one horse in ranch conformation classes. Not allowing these horses to be shown by other exhibitors will make them ineligible for the all-around which will also affect the overall all-around results for other exhibitors. Open

exhibitors cannot show another youth or amateur horse; however, a youth or amateur exhibitor can show other youth, amateur or open horses. The preference is for another family member to show the additional horse(s). ~~This guideline is similar to SHW369.4 for other halter classes. For additional rules concerning halter not addressed in ranch conformation see SHW350 HALTER CLASSES.~~\*\*

**Executive Committee Action:** Approved

\*\*Denotes programming and ROI consideration