



## 2022 NUTRENA AQHA LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

RULES AND REGULATIONS .....	4
Effective Date and Repeal .....	4
SHOW DATES, LOCATIONS, & CONTACT INFORMATION.....	4
Nutrena AQHA East Level 1 Championships.....	4
Nutrena AQHA West Level 1 Championships & AzQHA Pinnacle Circuit .....	4
FACILITY SHIPPING ADDRESS .....	4
Level 1 East: .....	4
Level 1 West: .....	4
SCHEDULE & SHOW SERVICES .....	5
VENDORS.....	5
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES .....	5
AQHA PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY.....	5
ARRIVAL & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS .....	5
Nutrena East Level 1 Arrival Information .....	5
Nutrena West Level 1 Arrival Information .....	5
Health Requirements.....	5
FACILITY INFORMATION.....	6
RV Parking.....	6
Golf Carts .....	6
Show Office Hours .....	6
Feed & Bedding .....	6
First Aid.....	6
Dogs & Pet Management.....	7
HOST HOTELS .....	7
SHOW RECORDS.....	7

OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS ..... 7

ELIGIBILITY..... 7

    Membership Requirements..... 7

    General Eligibility Information..... 7

    Level 1 Eligibility ..... 7

    Rookie Eligibility..... 8

    Walk-Trot Eligibility ..... 8

ENTERING..... 8

    Entry Information ..... 8

    Entry Fees ..... 9

    Late Entries ..... 9

    Entry Changes ..... 9

PAYOUT INFORMATION ..... 9

    Payout Procedures..... 9

    Payout Scale..... 10

    Payout Checks..... 10

CANCELLATION / REFUNDS..... 10

SUBSTITUTIONS..... 10

CLASS OFFERINGS ..... 10

    Level 1 West ..... 10

STALLING ..... 11

    Level 1 East ..... 11

    Level 1 West ..... 11

CLASS AWARDS ..... 11

ALL-AROUND AWARDS ..... 11

    Level 1 All-Around - Amateur, Select, Youth 13-&-Under, Youth 14-18..... 11

    All-Around Award Tabulations (Champion, Reserve, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards) ..... 12

HIGH POINT AWARDS..... 12

    Rookie High Point – Youth and Amateur..... 12

    Walk-Trot High Point – Youth and Amateur ..... 12

    High Point Rookie & Walk-Trot Awards (Champion Award Only) ..... 12

OVERALL HIGHEST-PLACING AQHA RANCHING HERITAGE-BRED HORSE ..... 12

JUDGING / MONITORING PROCEDURES ..... 13

    General Judging/Monitoring Procedures ..... 13

    Placed Events ..... 13

    Timed Events ..... 13

    Scored Events ..... 13

    Conflict of Interest..... 13

Lameness .....	14
Monitoring System & Reviews.....	14
CLASS ROUTINE .....	14
General Procedures .....	14
Splits .....	15
Conflicts .....	16
Back Number Placement .....	16
RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES .....	16
Barrel Racing / Pole Bending / Stake Race .....	16
Halter / Performance Halter .....	17
Hunt Seat Equitation .....	17
Hunter Hack.....	18
Hunter Under Saddle .....	18
Ranch Riding .....	18
Reining .....	18
Showmanship .....	18
Trail .....	18
Western Horsemanship .....	18
Western Pleasure .....	18
Western Riding .....	18
Working Hunter / Equitation Over Fences .....	18
DRUG TESTING / TAILS / PROHIBITED APPLIANCES.....	19
General Information .....	19
ANIMAL WELFARE .....	19
AQHA IV BAG RULE .....	19
ATTIRE .....	20
LIABILITY / RISKS .....	20

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Effective Date and Repeal**

These rules become effective January 1, 2022, for the conduct of the Nutrena AQHA West and Nutrena AQHA East Level 1 Championships of 2022 (hereinafter known as “Level 1 Championships” unless otherwise stated). The Level 1 Championships shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the AQHA Official Handbook, this Handbook, WestWorld of Scottsdale, and the World Equestrian Center 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 Nutrena AQHA Level 1 Championships will follow all regulations of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, Public Law 91-540 or as amended.
- Upon entry, every exhibitor, owner, trainer, person in care, custody, or control of a horse, and all other Level 1 Championship Show participants (collectively “Participants”) accept the facility and grounds, including but not limited to, the arenas, barns, stalls, and alleyways on an “as is” basis.
- All Participants agree to obey the decisions/instructions of (1) AQHA representatives; (2) World Equestrian Center officials; (3) WestWorld of Scottsdale officials; and (3) local, state, and federal officials.

## **SHOW DATES, LOCATIONS, & CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Nutrena AQHA East Level 1 Championships**

April 27-May 1, 2022 – World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, Ohio

#### Show Secretary:

Chris Cecil Darnell

Email: [worldshow@aqha.org](mailto:worldshow@aqha.org)

Phone: 330-697-6353

### **Nutrena AQHA West Level 1 Championships & AzQHA Pinnacle Circuit**

May 18-22, 2022 – WestWorld of Scottsdale in Scottsdale, Arizona

#### Show Secretary:

Shawn Martin

Email: [Pinnaclecircuit@gmail.com](mailto:Pinnaclecircuit@gmail.com)

Phone: 623-217-3879

Website: <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/>

## **FACILITY SHIPPING ADDRESS**

### **Level 1 East:**

World Equestrian Center

Level 1 Championships: Your Name (Your Contact Number)

4095 OH 730

Wilmington, OH 45177

### **Level 1 West:**

WestWorld of Scottsdale

Level 1 Championships: Your Name (Your Contact Number)

16601 N Pima Rd

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

*\*AQHA and AzQHA claim no responsibility for any/all packages delivered to the Nutrena AQHA Level 1 Championships.*

## **SCHEDULE & SHOW SERVICES**

The 2022 Nutrena AQHA Level 1 Championships tentative schedules for both East & West are listed on the AQHA website.

- Nutrena AQHA East Level 1 tentative schedule can be found [here](#).
- Nutrena AQHA West Level 1 & AzQHA Pinnacle Circuit tentative arena schedule can be found [here](#).

## **VENDORS**

Only approved vendors are allowed to sell product or services during the Nutrena Level 1 Championships. No one, including exhibitors, may sell products or services from their stall area.

For more information on how to become a vendor or to learn more about the vendors at the show click the links below:

Level 1 East - [Sponsor and Vendor Information - AQHA](#)

Level 1 West - <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/vendors/>

## **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Level 1 East - [Sponsor and Vendor Information - AQHA](#)

Level 1 West - <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/sponsors/>

## **AQHA PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY**

- AQHA prohibits competitors, spectators, and visitors at the Association's Championship Shows from taking photography or videography footage intended for commercial distribution and use through publications, websites, social networking sites, or any other similar media. **Any such prohibited use is expressly forbidden without prior written consent from show management.**
- The Championship Shows' official photographer, videographer and The American Quarter Horse Journal are the only parties permitted to provide others with competition photos or videos – whether for payment or for free. Anyone, other than credentialed official sources, who provides or intends to use photos or video footage in violation of this Policy can be ejected from the event and/or indefinitely banned from Championship Shows and AQHA-approved shows.
- Media representatives were issued credentials prior to the show upon the completion of an application process. To view the AQHA Photography and Videography Policy, visit the media resources section of [www.aqha.com/level1championships](http://www.aqha.com/level1championships).

## **ARRIVAL & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

### **Nutrena East Level 1 Arrival Information**

Sponsor early arrival is Monday, April 25 at 4 p.m. Local time

All others move in Tuesday, April 26 at 8 a.m. Local time

### **Nutrena West Level 1 Arrival Information**

Move in Monday, May 16 at Noon

### **Health Requirements**

All horses must have the following to enter the grounds:

- Proof of a current negative Coggins test (within 12 months)
- A 30-day certificate of veterinary inspection
- Proof of mandatory vaccinations
- All health papers and Coggins results should indicate the horse's registered name.
- The health papers, Coggins results and copies of original registration certificates can be provided digitally
- All horses (whether entered or not) and livestock that enter the grounds are subject to examination by AQHA officials/designated representatives and/or state officials (collectively "officials") for determining whether such animals are, have been infected/exposed, or are likely to be infected with an infectious or contagious disease. If after such examination, officials have reason to believe that an animal's health

condition places other animals at risk, such officials, at their sole discretion, may quarantine such animal (and others that may have been infected/exposed) or, if appropriate, require that such animals be transported off the grounds. All participants agree to fully cooperate with the officials and abide by 9 their decisions/instructions, failing to do so shall be grounds for the participant's immediate expulsion from the grounds, disciplinary action by AQHA and/or possible action by local/state/federal officials/agencies.

- In case of outbreak of any contagious or infectious disease among the horses, neither AQHA, The American Quarter Horse Journal, corporate sponsor, show sponsor, class sponsor, nor Kiser Arena Specialists, World Equestrian Center, WestWorld of Scottsdale, Arizona Quarter Horse Association, or Elite Stall Mats will be liable for any damage or loss that may occur to any person or horse.

Horses who fail to arrive with appropriate equestrian forms and paperwork cannot unload onto show grounds. Please have your paperwork ready to show upon arrival.

## **FACILITY INFORMATION**

### **RV Parking**

#### **Level 1 East** –

Limited RV spaces are available at the facility. Sponsors will receive 1 guaranteed priority RV space per Sponsorship. All other on-site RV spaces are available for purchase online at <https://www.aqha.com/east>, and will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In the event RV spaces sell out, a waiting list will be published to complete. As spots become available, AQHA will contact people on the waiting list on a first-come, first-serve basis.

RV space pricing:

- Full hookup (electric, water, & sewage) - \$300 flat rate
- Partial hookup (electric & water) - \$250 flat rate

#### **Level 1 West** –

- RV spaces are available to reserve by calling West World at 480-312-6802. RV spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- For more information on RV space or RV rentals, visit <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/rv-reservations/>

### **Golf Carts**

**Level 1 East** – Golf cart information will be posted soon at <https://www.aqha.com/east-level-1-resources>

**Level 1 West** – Information can be found at <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/golf-carts/>

### **Show Office Hours**

**Level 1 East** – The Show office will be open daily 1 hour prior to the first class to approximately 6:00 p.m. daily. For days that end before 5:00 p.m., the show office will close 1 hour after the start of the last class.

**Level 1 West** – The Show office will be open daily 1 hour prior to the first class to approximately 6:00 p.m. daily. For days that end before 5:00 p.m., the show office will close 1 hour after the start of the last class.

### **Feed & Bedding**

**Level 1 East** – Additional feed & bedding can be purchased at the show office upon arrival.

**Level 1 West** – Order by calling 480-312-6814

### **First Aid**

Emergency medical technicians will be available to provide first aid assistance

## **Dogs & Pet Management**

- No dogs will be permitted on the grounds during the show except those under leash control of the owner. Any dog running free will be impounded and removed from the grounds. No dogs are allowed in the commercial exhibit area or show arenas. Dogs are prohibited in the warmup arenas and makeup areas while classes are showing.
- Owners must assume all liability for pets brought to the show.
- Proof of current rabies must be available upon request.

## **HOST HOTELS**

Level 1 East - <https://www.aqha.com/east-level-1-resources>

Level 1 West - <https://pinnaclecircuit.com/hotels-2022/>

## **SHOW RECORDS**

- No official AQHA points will be earned by participation in the Level 1 Championships
- Placing in the top ten, Reserve Level 1 Champions and Level 1 Champions will be recognized on the permanent record of the respective horse.

## **OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

- It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse to show in either Walk-Trot, Rookie, or Level 1 classes.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Membership Requirements**

- Exhibitors must be a current AQHA member in good standing with AQHA at the time of entry through the end of the show.
- If a membership expires prior to the Level 1 Championships, the membership can be renewed at the time of the show

### **General Eligibility Information**

- Eligibility is determined on a class-by-class basis
- Eligibility is based on the exhibitor and horse's eligibility as of January 1, 2021. To check eligibility, visit <https://www.aqha.com/find-your-level>
- A horse/exhibitor may compete in a Level 1, Rookie, or Walk-Trot class at only one Nutrena Level 1 Championship in a year.
  - For example, if the horse and/or exhibitor competes in the 2022 Nutrena West AQHA Level 1 Championship in ranch riding, they cannot then compete in ranch riding at any other Nutrena Level 1 Championship; however, they may still show in any other class (showmanship, halter, reining, etc.) at a different Nutrena Level 1 Championship show.
- Stallions are prohibited from competing in Level 1, Rookie, & Walk-Trot classes.
- Horses may not cross-enter age divisions within the same class type. i.e., a horse may not be shown in the Select Western Pleasure and Amateur Western Pleasure.

### **Level 1 Eligibility**

- **SWH245.3** To be eligible for Level 1 competition, an individual may **NOT**:
  - Have exceeded the point cap for that class as of January 1, 2021.
  - 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 Championship 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 a total of \$5,000 or more in cash with any equine organization or association by class including earning reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources
- Competed on an NCEA equestrian team on a scholarship, or ride as a starting exhibitor, in a particular discipline within the last 10 years.
- Have been an accredited horse show judge or has trained professionally
- **SHW246** If an exhibitor wins a class at the Level 1 Championships, he/she is no longer eligible to compete in that class type at any future Level 1 Championships; however, if an exhibitor is Level 1 eligible, he/she may continue to show in that class in Level 1 competition.
  - For example, if an exhibitor is a Level 1 Champion in Amateur 2-Year-Old Mares, they are no longer to compete in any Level 1 Amateur halter class at future Level 1 Championship events.

### **Rookie Eligibility**

- AQHA Rookie eligibility will be based off the previous year's points and earnings (2021)
- 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.
- **SHW252.1** For a horse and exhibitor to be eligible in a rookie level class, the exhibitor must have earned fewer than ten (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, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources. The horse must have earned fewer than fifty (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, including earnings reported by Q Data, Equistat and other verifiable resources. The point and earnings limit does not apply to horses in over fence classes. Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- Rookie classes will be held as all-age amateur and all-age youth classes.
- Rookie classes will be held separately from Level 1 classes. If the horse/exhibitor are eligible, they may show in both the Rookie & Level 1 divisions.

### **Walk-Trot Eligibility**

- Riders entered in a walk/trot class cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class.
- Exhibitor must be Level 1 eligible based on the 2021 year to enter walk/trot; eligibility is determined by class.

## **ENTERING**

### **Entry Information**

- An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary.
- Entry forms will open February 1 for both shows. The entry deadline is March 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Central time.

#### **Level 1 East**

- Entries will be taken online only
- Entry forms may be found at [www.aqha.com/east](http://www.aqha.com/east)

#### **Level 1 West**

- Entries will be taken online via [www.horseshowtracker.com](http://www.horseshowtracker.com) and by pdf
- PDF entry forms may be found at [www.aqha.com/west](http://www.aqha.com/west) and [www.PinnacleCircuit.com](http://www.PinnacleCircuit.com)



## Entry Fees

**New for 2022! Exhibitors will no longer have to pay office or drug testing fees!**

Level 1 Division Entry Fee	\$125/class
Level 1 Optional Jackpot Fee	\$75/class – <b>100% Payback!</b>
Rookie Division Entry Fee	\$75/class
Rookie Optional Jackpot Fee	\$50/class – <b>100% Payback!</b>
Walk-Trot Division Entry Fee	\$75/class
Walk-Trot Optional Jackpot Fee	\$50/class – <b>100% Payback!</b>
NSBA Entry Fees, all divisions	\$50/class
Trail/Fence Obstacle Fees	\$35/class

## Late Entries

- Entries received between March 15 at 5:01 p.m. Central and up to April 1st, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Central will incur a \$150 late fee per horse.

## Entry Changes

- After April 1 at 5:00 p.m. Central, only class adds & changes may be made to existing entries on horses who were entered by the April 1 deadline. Unentered horses will not be able to enter after the April 1 late entry deadline.
- All adds/changes must be made by 12:00 p.m. (noon) local time the day prior to the class. No adds or changes will be accepted after 12:00 p.m. (noon) local time the day prior to the class.
- Any add/changes made after April 1 at 5:00 p.m. Central will incur the \$150 late entry penalty.

## PAYOUT INFORMATION

### Payout Procedures

- **All corresponding class jackpots will be 100% payback.**
- Regular class entry fees will not include a class payout. **Only those who enter the jackpot will be eligible to receive a payout.**
- Payouts for the jackpot portion of classes will be figured by the number of horses which have entered the optional jackpot. All monies will be paid according to the class placings of only the horses that entered the jackpot.
- If you earn prize money, the United States Internal Revenue Service regulations require AQHA to withhold 24% for domestic and 30% for international of any earnings, unless AQHA has a current W-9 form on file.
- All payouts will be issued to the exhibitor.
- Upon AQHA's receiving drug testing results, if a horse had won money at the show, that exhibitor will be required to return said money to AQHA without protest.
- The following chart illustrates the percentages paid for the jackpot.

## Payout Scale

NUTRENA AQHA LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS PAYOUT SCALE (JACKPOTS)															
	NUMBER OF PAID ENTRIES														
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-19	20-23	24-27	28-31	32-35	36-40	41-44	45-49	50+
# OF PLACES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
% PAID	100%	60%	45%	40%	34%	32%	28%	26%	26%	25%	25%	25%	23%	23%	23%
		40%	35%	30%	27%	22%	22%	22%	19%	18%	17%	16%	16%	15%	14%
			20%	20%	20%	19%	17%	14%	13%	13%	12%	11%	11%	10.5%	10.5%
				10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	9.5%	9%	9%	9%	9%
					9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8.5%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
						8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
							6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
								5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
									4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
										3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
											3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
												2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
													2%	2%	2%
														1.5%	1.5%
															1%

## Payout Checks

- All payout checks will be made to the exhibitor.
- In the event there is a discrepancy in eligibility or class placings, exhibitors will have until 10 a.m. local time the day following the class to protest the results. After the protest period expires, no changes will be made to the placings or payouts.
- Level 1 East will receive payouts checks from AQHA. Level 1 West payouts will be sent from Arizona Quarter Horse Association.
- All payout checks will be mailed to winning exhibitors after the show.

## CANCELLATION / REFUNDS

- A full refund will only be given if requested prior to the April 1 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, obstacle and entry fees will be refunded.
- Illness, accidents or other incidents concerning people will not be eligible for refund.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

- Should a horse entered in a 2022 Nutrena Level 1 Championship die, the exhibitor may substitute and participate with another horse. The appropriate show office must be notified by noon the day prior to the class and be provided a written statement reporting the death of the horse, along with the original registration certificate that should 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.

## CLASS OFFERINGS

### Level 1 West

- Level 1 Amateur & Level 1 Youth Halter offerings will consist of the following:
  - 2-Year-Old and Under Halter Mares/Geldings
  - 3-Year-Old and Over Halter Mares/Geldings
- Rookie Classes
  - Hunter Hack, Equitation Over Fences and Working Hunter classes will not be offered in

## **STALLING**

### **Level 1 East**

- Stalls are \$225 each. Each stall includes 5 bags of shavings.
- Grounds fees for non-stalled horses are \$50/horse.
- Splitting of tack stalls must be done on your own.
- Please list only ONE PERSON'S NAME as the stalling agent to ensure everyone in your group is stalled together.

### **Level 1 West**

- Stalls are \$200 each, shavings not included. Reserve your stalls on [www.ezhorseshows.com](http://www.ezhorseshows.com).
- Grounds fees for non-stalled horses are \$50/horse.

## **CLASS AWARDS**

### **Level 1 Division Class Awards**

*Awards are subject to change*

Champion

- Gold trophy
- Champion belt buckle
- Neck wreath
- Champion patch

Reserve Champion

- Silver trophy
- Justin Boots certificate
- Reserve champion ribbon
- Reserve champion Patch

Bronze Champion

- Bronze trophy
- Wrangler jeans certificate
- Bronze champion ribbon
- Bronze champion patch

4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Place

- Ribbon
- Top ten patch

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Place

- Finalist medallion
- Finalist patch

### **Rookie & Walk-Trot Awards**

*Awards are subject to change*

Champion

- Acrylic trophy
- Champion belt buckle
- Neck wreath
- Champion patch

Reserve Champion

- Acrylic trophy
- Reserve champion ribbon
- Reserve champion patch

Bronze Champion

- Acrylic trophy
- Bronze champion ribbon
- Bronze champion patch

4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Place

- Ribbon
- Top ten patch

11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Place

- Finalist medallion
- Finalist patch

## **ALL-AROUND AWARDS**

### **Level 1 All-Around - Amateur, Select, Youth 13-&-Under, Youth 14-18**

*Champion*

- All-Around Champion Trophy
- Champion All-Around Belt Buckle

*Reserve All-Around*

- Reserve All-Around Trophy
- Reserve All-Around Belt Buckle

*Bronze All-Around*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place All-Around Acrylic Trophy

### **All-Around Award Tabulations (Champion, Reserve, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Awards)**

- All-Around honors will be presented to a Level 1 Amateur, Level 1 Select Amateur, Level 1 Youth 13-&-Under and Level 1 Youth 14-18.
  - To be eligible for all-around honors, a horse/exhibitor combination must compete in at least three total classes in three or more unique categories.
    - Category I – Halter/Performance Halter
    - Category II – Reining, Western Riding, Trail
    - Category III – Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Stake Race
    - Category IV – Hunter Hack
    - Category V – Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Ranch Riding
    - Category VII – Showmanship, Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Equitation over Fences
  - Scoring for all-around honors shall be on a nine-point system as follows:
    - Example: In a class of nine or more horses, the first-place horse receives nine credits, second gets eight credits, and so on down through ninth place.
    - In a class of less than nine, credits will be awarded based on the number in the class.
    - No credits will be awarded to a disqualified horse, regardless of the number in the class.
    - In case a tie occurs in the All-Around calculations, the horse in the Level 1 Amateur, Level 1 Select Amateur, Level 1 Youth 13-&-Under, and Level 1 Youth 14-18 will be the one who:
      1. Earned credits in the greatest number of events
      2. The horse/contestant winning over the greatest number of horses
      3. Earned the most credits in performance events
  - Halter is not required; however, points earned will count towards All-Around awards.
  - Walk/Trot and Rookie classes do not count towards All-Around awards.

### **HIGH POINT AWARDS**

#### **Rookie High Point – Youth and Amateur**

##### *Champion*

- High Point Trophy

#### **Walk-Trot High Point – Youth and Amateur**

##### *Champion*

- High Point Trophy

#### **High Point Rookie & Walk-Trot Awards (Champion Award Only)**

- The high point rookie and walk-trot awards will be given to the highest scoring Rookie and Walk-Trot horse/exhibitor combination per division. Scoring will be on a nine-point system as referenced above.
  - To be eligible for Rookie, the horse/exhibitor combination must compete in at least three Rookie classes at the show and be Rookie eligible.
  - Walk/Trot classes do not count towards Rookie High-Point awards.
  - All Walk/Trot classes will count towards High-Point tabulations.

### **OVERALL HIGHEST-PLACING AQHA RANCHING HERITAGE-BRED HORSE**

The overall highest-placing AQHA Ranching Heritage-Bred Horse in the Youth division and in the Amateur division will receive the following:

- Owner receives \$250 and a trophy
- Breeder receives \$250

No formal entry is required; horse must be bred by an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder and must be in the current

owner's name.

## **JUDGING / MONITORING PROCEDURES**

### **General Judging/Monitoring Procedures**

- All AQHA events will be judged according to the rules listed in the AQHA Official Handbook. No other publication will supersede the rules of the AQHA Official Handbook or the Nutrena Level 1 Championships Handbook, including the show program.
- There will be three judges for all classes, and their placings or scores will be combined.
- Judges will score each class independently and will place up to 15 places.
- In placed classes, judges' individual score/placing cards will be given to show management for tabulation.
- 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, except as directed by show management.
- 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.
- A contestant will be disqualified and immediately excused for abuse of a horse.

### **Placed Events**

- If the ties cannot be broken by totaling judges' placings, it will be done using a tie-breaker judge. Judge no. 1 is the first tiebreaker. If judge no. 1 did not use any of the tied horses, then judge no. 2 becomes the tie-breaker judge. If judge no. 2 did not use any of the tied horses, then judge no. 3 becomes the tie breaker. This judge's placing will be used to break the tie. This method, and only this method, will be used to break all ties in placed events.
- Please refer to the chart below for numerical scores in placed classes only:

1. 120	6. 55	11. 15
2. 105	7. 45	12. 10
3. 91	8. 36	13. 6
4. 78	9. 28	14. 3
5. 66	10. 21	15. 1

### **Timed Events**

- Any horse receiving no time on its first run is eliminated.
- If there is a tie for the Level 1 Championship, the tie will be run off until there is a winner.
- If there is a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place, ties will be broken by a coin flip.

### **Scored Events**

- If the ties cannot be broken by totaling judges' placings, it will be done by using a tie- breaker judge. Judge no. 1 is the first tiebreaker. If judge no. 1 did not use any of the tied horses, then judge no. 2 becomes the tie-breaker judge. If judge no. 2 did not use any of the tied horses, then judge no. 3 becomes the tie breaker, etc. until the judge is found that used at least one of the tied horses. This judge's placing will be used to break the tie. This method, and only this method, will be used to break all ties in scored events.
- If there is a tie for the Level 1 Championship, the tie will be worked off.
- If there is a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place, ties will be broken by a coin flip.

### **Conflict of Interest**

A Nutrena Level 1 Championships judge may not judge a horse if:

- he/she was the owner, trainer, agent in any capacity or conditioner of that horse within the previous three months.
- he/she has received a salary, commission, or any kind of remuneration for selling or buying a horse for the owner

or exhibitor for the horse in question within the previous three months.

- he/she, in any capacity and regardless of whether a horse was involved in the transaction, has been in the employ or has represented the owner or exhibitor of the horse in question within the previous three months.

### **Lameness**

- Judges are to inspect each horse in all classes for possible lameness.
  - In both performance and halter 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 AQHA Official Handbook of being obviously lame, the horse will not be excused and will remain in the arena.
  - Judge(s) rulings regarding lameness are official and are not subject to review.

### **Monitoring System & Reviews**

- A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented not only as an aid to assist the judges, but also to provide the exhibitors with a fair and accurate score or time. A run will not be reviewed if, after giving back the penalty points in question, the exhibitor's score would not be enough to place in the top ten.
- The monitor system will be used to review any lack of concurrence in scores or times when major penalties, disqualifications, zero scores, OP's (off patterns), "no times" are involved (hereafter "Major Penalties; see specific classes), or 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. The judge may only add or subtract the penalty value to the score.
- All penalty reviews will take place during the next drag, break, 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 or times 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**

#### **General Procedures**

- The American Quarter Horse Association and the show management reserve the right to change the order of classes before or during the show. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be aware of changes and check with the show office for changes.
- Exhibitors must have their horses in place in the make-up arena 15 minutes before the class in which they are entered begins.
- Working orders will be posted for all classes, including non-individual working classes, such as halter, western pleasure, and hunter under saddle and all exhibitors must enter the arena at the direction of show officials in the drawn order.
- When an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by management or by officials of the Nutrena Level 1 Championships, that decision is final.
- Any horse not matching its registration certificate may be prohibited from participation without recourse of any nature.
- An exhibitor may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible.
- Announcements regarding the progress of the preceding class will be given over the PA system in the stall areas. Barn calls are a courtesy and will be made for each class. Regardless of the circumstances, it is the exhibitor's ultimate responsibility to report to their class on time.
- 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 Nutrena Level 1 Championships

- Any exhibitor or rider who refuses to obey the requests of the judge, ring steward, equipment judge, or any 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, the offending individual and his entire exhibit may be removed from the grounds.
  - When an exhibitor or horse is disqualified from showing by the management or by officials of the Nutrena Level 1 Championships, the decision is final.
- Any horse qualified for the finals may only be excused from said finals by show management or the official show veterinarian and will be subject to drug and tail testing. Failure to comply will result in possible disciplinary action.
- Any horse scratched from finals will be considered a finalist and eligible for any prizes and the notation will be added on the horse's record.
- If a horse is disqualified or receives a no time in the finals or scratches before the finals due to lameness, he/she will still be considered a finalist and eligible for awards. In the finals, if a horse is excused due to lameness, he/she will not be considered a finalist and will not be eligible for awards.
- Horses placing first through tenth in the finals will receive the top ten awards and the achievement will be recorded on the horse's record. All remaining placings in the class will be considered as finalists, and such will be recorded on the horse's record. If a horse is disqualified or receives a no time in the finals (unless excused due to lameness, abuse, or unsportsmanlike conduct), it will still be considered a finalist and eligible for awards.
  - In scored and placed classes, all horses enter the finals with a clean slate. No score or placing is carried over from the preliminaries. A qualified run must be made in the finals for the horse to be eligible for a top ten placing. A score of zero or a disqualification will still be considered a finalist.
  - In barrel racing, pole bending and stakes race, all horses enter the finals with a clean slate. No times are carried over from the preliminaries. An official time must be made in the finals for the horse to be eligible for a top ten placing. A no-time or a disqualification will still be considered a finalist.

## **Splits**

### **0-99 Entries**

- Will place the top 10, plus 11-15 finalists

### **100-119 Entries**

- **Halter:** Will decide onsite how best to handle class
- **Horsemanship/Hunt Seat Equitation:** The class will be split in half, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 30 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will advance to do railwork and receive awards.
- **Showmanship:** The class will be split in half, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 30 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will then receive awards.
- **All Scored Classes:** The class will be split in half, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each split will be taken to the semi-finals. These 30 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 will then receive awards, including ties.
- **Western Pleasure/Hunter Under Saddle:** Splits and semi-finals will be used, as necessary.

### **120-160 Entries**

- **Halter:** Will decide onsite how best to handle class
- **Horsemanship/Hunt Seat Equitation:** The class will be split in half, and the top 20 exhibitors (plus ties) from each section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 40 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will advance to do railwork and receive awards.
- **Showmanship:** The class will be split in half, and the top 20 exhibitors (plus ties) from each



section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 40 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will then receive awards.

- **All Scored Classes:** The class will be split in half, and the top 20 exhibitors (plus ties) from each split will be taken to the semi-finals. These 40 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 will then receive awards, including ties.
- **Western Pleasure/Hunter Under Saddle:** Splits and semi-finals will be used, as necessary.

### **161+ Entries**

- **Halter:** Will decide onsite how best to handle class
- **Horsemanship/Hunt Seat Equitation:** The class will be split in thirds, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 45 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will advance to do railwork and receive awards.
- **Showmanship:** The class will be split in thirds, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each section will be taken to the semi-finals. These 45 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 (plus ties) will then receive awards.
- **All Scored Classes:** The class will be split in thirds, and the top 15 exhibitors (plus ties) from each split will be taken to the semi-finals. These 45 exhibitors (plus ties) will immediately perform the pattern again. The top 15 will then receive awards, including ties.
- **Western Pleasure/Hunter Under Saddle:** Splits and semi-finals will be used, as necessary.

### **Conflicts**

In the event that a horse or exhibitor is entered in two or more classes in separate arenas that have a potential to be showing at the same time, the Paddock Coordinator and back gate staff must be notified by filing a Class Conflict Form with each arena at least one class prior to the conflict. Paddock Coordinators will make every effort to help exhibitors show in the classes they have entered.

- In order to avoid conflicts or holding arenas, horses may be moved up or down in the draw to accommodate both classes. The Paddock Coordinators will determine how the draw will be adjusted to resolve conflicts.
- It is the exhibitor's responsibility to notify the Paddock Coordinator at each arena and complete Class Conflict Forms. Class Conflict Forms are available at all arenas.
- Rail classes will take priority over pattern classes.
- In the event there is a conflict, but the Paddock Coordinator is not notified prior to an exhibitor's draw and the draw is called a scratch by the Paddock Coordinator, the run will remain a scratch.
- Refunds may not be given in the event of a conflict.

### **Back Number Placement**

- An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary that must be worn according to the following positions in each class. Any horse entering the arena without a number will be disqualified.
- The proper placement of the back numbers is defined below:
  - In halter and showmanship, the correct number must be worn on the exhibitor's back.
  - In western performance classes and English classes on the flat, each exhibitor will have two numbers which must be placed on each side of the saddle or saddle pad.
  - In working hunter, equitation over fences and hunter hack classes, it is optional to wear the correct number on the back or on each side of the saddle or saddle pad.

### **RULES FOR SPECIFIC CLASSES**

#### **Barrel Racing / Pole Bending / Stake Race**

- In all barrel and poles classes, the following disqualifications will be monitored:
  - Failure to follow 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.

### **Halter / Performance Halter**

- A horse cannot be shown in both halter and performance halter. The exhibitor/owner must choose between the two.
- **NEW FOR 2022!** A horse is eligible to be shown in performance halter so long as that horse is entered in a performance class in any age division OR has a Performance or Racing ROM. Showmanship is not considered a performance class.
  - If a horse does not have a Performance or Racing ROM, horses must enter and legitimately compete in a Level 1 or Rookie class. Walk-Trot classes do not fulfill the performance class requirement for Performance Halter eligibility.
  - Register of Merits must be earned by **April 1, 2022**, to be eligible for the Performance Halter if not showing in a riding class.
- In all halter classes, horses will walk to the three judges one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judges will step to their right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall of the arena. After trotting, the horses will line up per the ring steward's instructions.
- In halter, exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by January 1 of the show year, except in performance halter, where the youth can be any age 18 or under.
- Please refer to halter equipment rules SHW355.
- Mares and geldings 1 year of age and older may be shown with a safety lead or lip cord in open, amateur, and youth divisions. Lip chains of any other type are prohibited. All other leads that do not meet the definition of an allowed safety lead or lip cord are prohibited.
- The following horses may not be allowed to be shown with a safety lead or lip cord:
  - 355.3.1 weanlings
  - 355.3.2 any horses shown in a performance halter class
  - 355.3.3 any horse shown in a ranch horse conformation class
- Manners of horses:
  - A well-mannered horse is defined as a horse that is under control by the exhibitor while tracking and standing for inspection such that it may be exhibited safely and viewed safely by the judge. The horse should stand reasonably still and flat-footed.
  - At their discretion, the judge may fault a horse that is poorly mannered, including, but not limited to, biting, rearing, striking or bucking, but does not disrupt or endanger other horses or exhibitors around them, and is able to be inspected by the judge.
  - A horse that is excessively unruly or poor mannered (see Rule SHW362.4 of the AQHA Official Handbook), not clearly under the control of the exhibitor, and/or disruptive to the point that the safety of other horses or exhibitors or the judge is jeopardized, should be disqualified and excused from the class.
  - 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.
  - Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control by the handler will automatically be disqualified and excused.
    - If a particular horse exhibits poor mannerisms (i.e., rearing, kicking, backing or falling into others, etc.) causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horse(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused.
  - The decision of the judge(s) and/or ring steward(s) will be final.
  - Any horse that has fallen will automatically be disqualified and excused. A horse is considered having fallen when on his or her side with four feet extended in the same direction.

### **Hunt Seat Equitation**

- Zero (0) scores, five (5) point, ten (10) point penalties, and DQ's may be monitored.

### **Hunter Hack**

- Each judge will score the pattern work from 1-100 during the pattern or fence work.
- The top 15 scoring exhibitors, including ties, will be invited back to perform on the rail. All exhibitors invited back to work on the rail will work in one heat, no matter the number returning. There will be no splits or cuts for rail work.

### **Hunter Under Saddle**

- An exhibitor who fails to take the prescribed gait when called may be penalized at the judges' discretion.
- Judges may ask horses to hand gallop.

### **Ranch Riding**

- Three (3) point, five (5) point, ten (10) point penalties, and OP (Off Pattern) 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.

### **Showmanship**

- Showmanship is a **placed** class.
- Zero (0) scores, five (5) point, ten (10) point penalties, and DQ's may be monitored.

### **Trail**

- Trail is a scored class.
- Zero (0) scores, three (3) point and five (5) point penalties will be monitored.
- Only two refusals are permitted at any obstacle in the trail class. After two refusals, the contestant must go to the next obstacle.

### **Western Horsemanship**

- Zero (0) scores, five (5) point, ten (10) point penalties, and DQ's may be monitored.

### **Western Pleasure**

- An exhibitor who fails to take the prescribed gait when called may be penalized at the judges' discretion.
- At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk or the lope.

### **Western Riding**

- Zero (0) scores, three (3) point and five (5) point penalties will be monitored.

### **Working Hunter / Equitation Over Fences**

- In all working hunter classes, the following will be monitored:
  - A total of three disobediences, which can include any of the following: refusal, stop, run out or extra circle.
  - Jumping an obstacle before it is reset.
  - Bolting from the arena.
  - Off course.

- Deliberately addressing an obstacle.
- Failure to trot a small circle on a loose rein for soundness.
- Equitation over fences is a **placed** class.

## **DRUG TESTING / TAILS / PROHIBITED APPLIANCES**

### **General Information**

- All horses are subject to drug testing under the provisions of Rule VIO253 of the 2022 AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

### **ANIMAL WELFARE**

- Please refer to the AQHA Official Handbook (<https://www.aqha.com/aqha-rulebook>) regarding animal welfare rules.
- Refer to rule VIO100 thru VIO240, as 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.
- **Square poles are strictly prohibited for use at any time on the grounds.**

### **AQHA IV BAG RULE**

- AQHA's Nutrena Level 1 Championship shows attract numerous visitors, as well as corporate and community sponsors who look forward to touring the stall areas and seeing the show's equine athletes. As such, in order to preserve the integrity of the show and the public's positive perception of same, some hard and fast rules must be imposed as they relate to all disciplines. Toward that end, AQHA has adopted the following policy regarding the intravenous use of fluids that has become almost commonplace in the stall area of many shows.
- In short, we want to encourage people to tour the barn area as well as enjoy the competition itself. Our goal is that people leave with a long, lasting positive memory of horses that are happy, healthy, well cared for and perfectly capable of competing at the event. IV bags hanging in stalls do not give this impression. We appreciate your help and understanding on this matter.
- The following rules apply with respect to the administration of any fluids and/or medications to a horse on show grounds via IV bags:
  - 1) IV administration must be for the legitimate treatment of illness or injury.
  - 2) IVs may only be administered in a specific stall area designated by AQHA or the AzQHA. The IV may not be administered in any other area on the show grounds including, but not limited to, rented stalls, barns, trailers, etc. The only exception to this rule shall be IV administration to a horse that, because of a legitimate illness or injury, is unable to be led to the specific stall area designated by AQHA or AzQHA (note: see #4 below).
  - 3) The IV must be administered by a veterinarian who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state in which the show is held. If the person in the care, custody, and control of a horse ("Authorized Party") desires the Official Show veterinarian to administer the IV, the Authorized Party shall be required to sign a general release and waiver of liability releasing AQHA and the Official Show veterinarian from any liability associated with the IV administration.
  - 4) With respect to any IV administration on show grounds (see #2 above), a written IV Administration Report available from AQHA or show management must be completed in its entirety and filed with the Official Show veterinarian who shall acknowledge receipt by his/her signature and date. Such report must include:
    - a) Diagnosis of illness/injury, reason for administration, and name of administering and/or prescribing veterinarian.
    - b) Identification of the fluid and/or medication (the name, amount, strength/concentration); (c) Date and approximate time of anticipated IV administration.
    - c) Identification of the horse: name, age, sex, color, and entry number.
    - d) Signature of veterinarian to administer the medication; and
    - e) Signature of veterinarian prescribing the IV administration. If by prescription, a copy of the

prescription must be attached to the IV Administration Report.

- 5) If the Official Show veterinarian, in his/her sole discretion, determines that a proposed IV administration is not for the legitimate treatment of illness or injury, the horse may still receive the IV administration in the specific areas referenced in #2 above. However, should an IV be administered in such case, the horse must be withdrawn from any classes to occur within 24 hours of the IV administration.
- 6) Failure to abide by these rules shall subject a responsible party, as defined by AQHA rules and regulations, to disciplinary action including but not limited to requirement that the responsible party immediately remove the horse in question from show grounds.
- 7) The above rules are in addition to AQHA's drug rules contained in the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules & Regulations which also must be strictly adhered to.

## **ATTIRE**

- A hard hat and full harness are mandatory requirements while jumping over fences anywhere on the grounds. PLEASE REFER TO RULE SHW320.2 of the 2022 AQHA Official Handbook, WHICH STATES: "It is mandatory for riders in all hunter, jumper and equitation over fence classes, including hunter hack, where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the competition ground to wear properly fastened protective headgear that meets ASTM/SEI standards or equivalent international standards for equestrian use. The helmet must also be properly fitted with harness secured. It is mandatory that all youth wear an ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness during all English classes including flat and over fence classes. It is recommended that Amateurs wear an ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness in all English classes."
- AQHA rules cover the required apparel for each class. Keep in mind this is a unique equine event that will most likely appeal to spectators; therefore, exhibitors are urged to be neat and clean at all times.

## **LIABILITY / RISKS**

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.