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# AQHA LEVEL I CHAMPIONSHIPS

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## 2019 HANDBOOK

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# 2019 HANDBOOK FOR THE AQHA CENTRAL, AQHA WEST, NUTRENA EAST and AQHA CATTLE LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### Effective Date and Repeal

These rules become effective January 1, 2019, for the conduct of the AQHA Central, AQHA West, Nutrena East, and AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championships of 2019 (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, Oklahoma State Fair Rules and Regulations, South Point Rules and Regulations, World Equestrian Center Rules and Regulations and Lazy E 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.

- AQHA Central Level 1 Championship will be held April 10-13 at the State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (move-in will be Tuesday, April 9 at 8am)
  - Show Secretary: Heidi Lane, 301 S Neilson Ave, Pueblo, CO 81001  
Email: [heidi.horseshows@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.horseshows@gmail.com), 719-562-0186 phone 719-320-6355
- AQHA West Level 1 Championship will be held September 25-29 at the South Point Arena & Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada (Barn B move-in Monday, September 23 at 8 am, Barn A move-in at Noon)
  - Show Secretary: Heidi Lane, 301 S Neilson Ave, Pueblo, CO 81001  
Email: [heidi.horseshows@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.horseshows@gmail.com), fax 719-562-0186 phone 719-320-6355
- Nutrena East Level 1 Championship will be held May 1-5 at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, Ohio (move-in Tuesday, April 30 at 8 am / show sponsors welcome Monday, April 29 at 4pm)
  - Show Secretary: Chris Cecil Darnell, 111 Sharon Copley Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281  
Email: [ccdarnell@aol.com](mailto:ccdarnell@aol.com), fax 330-666-1150 phone 330-697-6353
- AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championship will be held June 18-23 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK (move-in will be Sunday, June 16 at 8 am)
  - Show Secretary: Heidi Lane, AQHA, 1600 Quarter Horse Dr, Amarillo, TX 79104  
Email [hlane@aqha.org](mailto:hlane@aqha.org), fax 806-349-6412 phone: 806-378-4338

**The Central, West and East Level 1 Championship shows will offer AQHA’s core and over-fence classes, with the AQHA Level 1 Cattle Show offering cattle classes and ranch riding.**

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

## WALK/TROT, ROOKIE AND LEVEL 1 COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY

- Eligibility is determined on a class-by-class basis (i.e. you may be eligible for some classes but not others)
- Walk/Trot eligibility – Riders entered in a walk/trot class cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class. Exhibitor must be Level 1 eligible to enter walk/trot; eligibility is determined by class.
- Rookie eligibility is based on the exhibitor and horse’s eligibility as of January 1, 2019
  - 2019 Rookie eligibility print-outs for EXHIBITORS and HORSES are required  
[www.aqha.com/services/leveling](http://www.aqha.com/services/leveling)
- Level 1 eligibility is based on the exhibitor’s eligibility as of January 1, 2018
  - 2018 Level 1 eligibility print-out for EXHIBITORS is required [www.aqha.com/services/leveling](http://www.aqha.com/services/leveling)

*NOTE: An exhibitor can continue to show in Level 1 classes for which he/she won at a Level 1 Championship show, if Level 1 eligible otherwise; however, he/she is no longer eligible to compete in that class at any future Level 1 Championships. ([AQHA Rule SHW245.3](#) regarding Level 1 eligibility)*

## LEVEL 1 ELIGIBILITY (2018)

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

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

If a competitor won a Level 1 Championship, he/she cannot show in that same class at future Level 1 Championships.

- However, that exhibitor can continue to show in that class at AQHA shows (excluding the Level 1 Championships) until he/she meets the point level.
- The exhibitor being mentioned can also still show at the Level 1 Championship in any other class(es) for which he/she is still Level 1 eligible
- Eligibility is from January 1 – December 31. On January 1, 2018, if that exhibitor is Level 1 eligible, they are eligible to compete at the 2019 Level 1 Championship of their choice in the Level 1 classes for which they are eligible.

## COMPETING AS A ROOKIE EXHIBITOR

- To be eligible to enter any of the 2019 Level 1 Championships, a Rookie exhibitor must:
  - Be Rookie eligible in the class they wish to enter as of January 1, 2019
  - Be an AQHA member at the time of entry and at the time of the show

## ROOKIE ELIGIBILITY (2019)

- Rookie eligibility is based on lifetime achievements (in open, amateur and/or youth Divisions) of exhibitor and horse.
- For an exhibitor to be Rookie eligible:
  - That exhibitor must have earned fewer than 10 lifetime points in that class in any division; open, amateur or youth.
  - The exhibitor may also not have won \$5,000 or more in any equine organization or association by class.
- For a horse to be Rookie eligible:
  - The horse must have earned fewer than 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.
  - The point and earnings limit does not apply to horses in over fence classes.
- Eligibility is from January 1 – December 31. On January 1, 2019, if that exhibitor and horse are Rookie eligible, that team is eligible to compete at the 2019 Level 1 Championship of their choice in the Rookie classes for which they are eligible.
- Ownership of the horse is not required to participate in Rookie level classes.
- Rookie classes will be held as all-age amateur and all-age youth classes.
- Rookie classes will be held separately from Level 1 classes and, if the horse/exhibitor are eligible, may show in both.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

- It is not required that the exhibitor own the horse.
- The horse must be a registered American Quarter Horse and the exhibitor must be a current amateur or youth member in good standing with AQHA. If a membership will expire prior to the Level 1 Championships, the membership can be renewed at the time of the show.
- An exhibitor may show up to three horses in individual working events, so long as they are properly eligible.
- A horse/exhibitor may compete in a Level 1/Rookie/Walk Trot amateur or Level 1/Rookie/Walk Trot youth class at only one Level 1 championship in a year. For example, if the horse and/or exhibitor competes in the 2019 AQHA Central Level 1 Championship in ranch riding, they cannot then compete in ranch riding at any other Level 1 Championships. However, if that horse/exhibitor competes in ranch riding at the AQHA Central Level 1 Championship, they can show in any other class (showmanship, halter, reining, etc.) at a different Level 1 Championship.
- All horses are subject to drug testing under the provisions of Rule VIO253 of the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook.
- Because stallions are not allowed in Level 1, Rookie or Walk Trot classes, they will be prohibited from the show grounds.
- An entry number will be assigned to every horse by the show secretary.
- A horse cannot be shown in both halter and performance halter. The exhibitor/owner must choose between the two.
  - A horse is eligible to be shown in performance halter so long as that horse:
    - Has earned a Racing ROM;
    - Has earned a Performance ROM prior to January 2010;
    - Has earned a Performance ROM after January 2010 so long as their record reflects they have earned at least five or more AQHA performance points in riding classes (except in showmanship).

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

- Should a horse entered in a 2019 Level 1 Championship die, the exhibitor owning the horse may substitute and participate with another horse in showmanship, horsemanship, hunt seat equitation and equitation over fences. The appropriate show office must be notified by noon the day prior to the appropriate class and be provided a written statement reporting the death of the horse, along with the original registration certificate that can be marked to indicate the horse is deceased.
- Exhibitors who enter in any class not listed in the bullet point above, may participate with another horse if the original horse dies before the entry deadline, so long as the appropriate show office is notified by noon the day prior to the appropriate class and is provided a written statement reporting the death of the horse, along with the original registration certificate that can be marked to indicate the horse is deceased.
- If a horse becomes severely injured or disabled, a substitute will 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.

## **ATTIRE**

- A hard hat and full harness are mandatory requirements at all times while jumping over fences anywhere on the grounds. PLEASE REFER TO RULE SHW320.2 of the 2019 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; however, 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.

#### **HEALTH (CVI) /COGGINS (EIA)**

- AQHA Central Level 1 Championship will be held April 10-13 at the State Fair Park in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (move-in will be Tuesday, April 9 at 8am)
  - Coggins dated within 12 months
  - Health papers dated within 30 days
- AQHA West Level 1 Championship will be held September 25-29 at the South Point Arena & Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada (Barn B move-in Monday, September 23 at 8 am, Barn A move-in at Noon)
  - Coggins dated within 6 months
  - Health papers dated within 30 days
- Nutrena East Level 1 Championship will be held May 1-5 at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, Ohio (move-in Tuesday, April 30 at 8am / show sponsors welcome Monday, April 29 at 4pm)
  - Coggins dated within 12 months
  - Health papers dated within 30 days
- AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championship will be held June 18-23 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK (move-in will be Sunday, June 16 at 8 am)
  - Coggins dated within 12 months
  - Health papers dated within 30 days

#### **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.

#### **LATE FEE POLICY**

- Entries received after deadline date (March 15, 2019) and up to 2 weeks prior to the show's start date:
  - \$150 flat late fee per horse/rider combination plus normal entry fees, drug and office charges
- Until noon the day prior to the class, only for horse/rider combinations already entered in the show:
  - Double the class entry fee (\$130 for Level 1 classes; \$110 for Rookie and Walk Trot classes)

2019 AQHA LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS CLASSES					
		AQHA West	AQHA Central	Nutrena East	Cattle Events
<b>Level 1 youth (all-age classes)</b>	Yearling mares	X	X	X	
	Yearling geldings	X	X	X	
	2-year-old mares	X	X	X	
	2-year-old geldings	X	X	X	
	3-year-old mares	X	X	X	
	3-year-old geldings	X	X	X	
	Aged mares	X	X	X	
	Aged geldings	X	X	X	
	Performance halter mares	X	X	X	
	Performance halter geldings	X	X	X	
	Working hunter	X	X	X	
	Equitation over fences	X	X	X	
	Hunter hack	X	X	X	
	Barrel racing	X	X	X	
	Pole bending	X	X	X	
	Stake race	X	X	X	
	Ranch riding	X	X	X	X
	Reining	X	X	X	
	Cutting				X
	Boxing				X
	Working cow horse				X
	Heading				X
	Heeling				X
	Tie-down roping				X
Breakaway roping				X	
<b>Level 1 (13-&amp;-under, 14-18)</b>	Showmanship	X	X	X	
	Horsemanship	X	X	X	
	Western pleasure	X	X	X	
	Hunt seat equitation	X	X	X	
	Hunter under saddle	X	X	X	
	Western riding	X	X	X	
	Trail	X	X	X	
<b>Level 1 amateur (all-age classes)</b>	Yearling mares	X	X	X	
	Yearling geldings	X	X	X	
	2-year-old mares	X	X	X	
	2-year-old geldings	X	X	X	
	3-year-old mares	X	X	X	
	3-year-old geldings	X	X	X	
	Aged mares	X	X	X	
	Aged geldings	X	X	X	
	Performance halter mares	X	X	X	
	Performance halter geldings	X	X	X	
	Working hunter	X	X	X	
	Equitation over fences	X	X	X	
	Hunter hack	X	X	X	
	Barrel racing	X	X	X	
	Pole bending	X	X	X	
	Stake race	X	X	X	
	Reining	X	X	X	
	Cutting				X
	Boxing				X
	Working cow horse				X
Heading				X	
Heeling				X	
Tie-down roping				X	
Breakaway roping				X	
<b>Level 1 (amateur, Select)</b>	Showmanship	X	X	X	
	Horsemanship	X	X	X	
	Western pleasure	X	X	X	
	Hunt seat equitation	X	X	X	
	Hunter under saddle	X	X	X	
	Western riding	X	X	X	
	Trail	X	X	X	
	Ranch riding	X	X	X	X
<b>Rookie youth/amateur (all-age classes)</b>	Showmanship	X	X	X	
	Western Pleasure	X	X	X	
	Horsemanship	X	X	X	
	Hunter Under Saddle	X	X	X	
	Hunt Seat Equitation	X	X	X	
	Trail	X	X	X	
	Western Riding	X	X	X	
	Ranch Riding	X	X	X	X
	Reining	X	X	X	
	Working hunter	X	X	X	
Equitation over fences	X	X	X		
Hunter hack	X	X	X		
<b>Walk/Trot youth/amateur (all-age classes)</b>	Western Pleasure	X	X	X	
	Horsemanship	X	X	X	
	Hunter Under Saddle	X	X	X	
	Hunt Seat Equitation	X	X	X	
	Trail	X	X	X	

## **ENTERING/STALLING THE AQHA CENTRAL LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Heidi Lane is the contact person for which entries must be received no later than March 15, 2019 (see entry and stall forms for more information)
- ***Rookie and Walk/Trot fees (Youth and Amateur):***
  - Riders entered in a walk/trot class cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class
  - The entry fee for Rookie and Walk Trot classes will be \$55 per class
    - **If entering any Level 1 class, you must also pay the Level 1 class fees**
  - Optional jackpot fee - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- ***Level 1 fees (Youth and Amateur):***
  - The entry fee for Level 1 classes will be \$65 per class
    - **If entering any Rookie or Walk/Trot class, you must also pay the Rookie/Walk Trot class fees**
  - Optional jackpot - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- ***Stalling:***
  - Stall (whether horse or tack) is \$130
  - You may bring your own feed and bedding or obtain it from the fairgrounds supplier.
    - Oklahoma City Feed and Bedding 405-948-6786
    - [OKC Feed & Bedding Webpage and Advanced Bedding Order Form](#)
    - Sawdust is prohibited as bedding; however, wood chips and shavings are acceptable

## **ENTERING/STALLING THE AQHA WEST LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Heidi Lane is the contact person for which entries must be received no later than August 30, 2019 (see entry and stall forms for more information)
- ***Rookie and Walk/Trot fees (Youth and Amateur):***
  - Riders entered in a walk/trot class cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class
  - The entry fee for Rookie and Walk Trot classes will be \$55 per class
    - **If entering any Level 1 class, you must also pay the Level 1 class fees**
  - Optional jackpot fee - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- ***Level 1 fees (Youth and Amateur):***
  - The entry fee for Level 1 classes will be \$65 per class
    - **If entering any Rookie or Walk/Trot class, you must also pay the Rookie/Walk Trot class fees**
  - Optional jackpot - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- ***Stalling:***
  - Stall (whether horse or tack) is \$200
    - Stall fee includes 4 bags of shavings and 2 mats
  - Shavings can be purchased on site
  - Timothy and alfalfa hay are also available at the South Point Feed Store

## **ENTERING/STALLING THE NUTRENA EAST LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Chris Darnell is the contact person which entries be received no later than March 15, 2019 (see entry and stall forms for contact and more information)
- **Rookie and Walk/Trot fees (Youth and Amateur):**
  - Riders entered in a walk/trot class cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class
  - The entry fee for Rookie and Walk Trot classes will be \$55 per class
    - **If entering any Level 1 class, you must also pay the Level 1 class fees**
  - Optional jackpot fee - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- **Level 1 fees (Youth and Amateur):**
  - The entry fee for Level 1 classes will be \$65 per class
    - **If entering any Rookie or Walk/Trot class, you must also pay the Rookie/Walk Trot class fees**
  - Optional jackpot - \$50 per class (100% paid back, mailed after the show)
  - Drug Fee - \$35 per horse
  - Office fee - \$35 per horse/exhibitor
  - Trail obstacle fee - \$10 per class
  - Over fence fee - \$10 per class
- **Stalling:**
  - Stall (whether horse or tack) is \$155
    - Stall fee includes 5 bags of shavings
  - Shavings can be purchased on site



## **ASSUMPTION OF RISK / INDEMNITY**

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

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

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

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

## **AWARDS**

### **HIGH POINT ROOKIE AWARDS**

- The high point rookie awards will be given to the highest scoring Rookie Youth exhibitor and the highest scoring Rookie Amateur exhibitor.
  - To be eligible, 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 High-Point awards.

### **ENGLISH AND WESTERN HIGH-POINT AWARDS; CHAMPION**

- The English and western high-point awards will be given to the highest-scoring youth 13-&-under, youth 14-18, amateur and Select amateur who did not place in the top three in the all-around competition and who competed in at least three of the classes listed below:
  - High-Point Western: halter; trail; horsemanship; reining; ranch riding; showmanship; western riding; western pleasure; barrel racing; pole bending; stake race
  - High-Point English: halter; hunter hack; hunter under saddle; hunt seat equitation; equitation over fences; showmanship; working hunter
- Walk/Trot classes do not count towards High-Point awards.

## **HALTER CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

- A Level 1 Youth and Level 1 Amateur Halter Champion of Champions and Reserve Halter Champion of Champions will be named.
  - In youth, the winners of each halter class (ten classes – yearling geldings, 2-yr-old geldings, 3-yr-old geldings, aged geldings and performance halter geldings; yearling fillies, 2-yr-old fillies, 3-yr-old fillies, aged mares and performance halter mares) will be brought back to be judged in one class, where the judges will name the Champion of Champions in Level 1 Youth.
  - In amateur, the winners of each halter class (ten classes – yearling geldings, 2-yr-old geldings, 3-yr-old geldings, aged geldings and performance halter geldings; yearling fillies, 2-yr-old fillies, 3-yr-old fillies, aged mares and performance halter mares) will be brought back to be judged in one class, where the judges will name the Champion of Champions in Level 1 Amateur.

## **ALL-AROUND AWARDS TABULATIONS**

- 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.
  - If the exhibitor is 50 years of age or older by the entry deadline and intends to show in any class that is not designated as a Select class, that person must inform the show office if he/she will be competing as an Amateur or as a Select Amateur for All-Around calculations. If the exhibitor does not declare whether he/she will compete for the Amateur or Select All-Around award, any points earned in those classes will be considered as Amateur All-Around points.
  - To be eligible for all-around honors, a horse/exhibitor combination must compete in at least three total classes in three or more different categories.
    - Category I – Halter/Performance Halter
    - Category II – Reining, Western Riding, Trail, Ranch Riding, Working Cow Horse, Boxing
    - Category III – Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Stake Race, Team Penning, Ranch Sorting
    - Category IV – Working Hunter, Hunter Hack
    - Category V – Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle
    - Category VI – Tie-Down Roping, Breakaway Roping, Heading, Heeling, Cutting
    - Category VII – Showmanship, Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Equitation over Fences
  - Scoring for all-around honors shall be as follows:
    - Horses placing in the top nine will be given a credit for each horse placing below them, plus one credit (not to exceed nine credits) for first place.
      - 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.
      - No credits will be awarded to a disqualified horse, regardless of the number in the class. However, when less than nine are placed, even though more than nine entered the class, credits will be awarded on the basis of the number exhibited in the class.
      - In case a tie occurs, the horse in the Level 1 Amateur, Level 1 Select Amateur and/or the Level 1 Youth All-Around 13 & under and Level 1 Youth All-Around 14-18 will be the one who:
        1. Earned credits in the greatest number of events
        2. The horse or 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 classes do not count towards All-Around awards.

**Awards - Please be aware awards are subject to change**

**Individual Level 1 Class Awards / Youth and Amateur**

Champion

- o Gold trophy
- o ARC belt buckle
- o Neck wreath
- o Top ten patch

Reserve Champion

- o Silver trophy
- o Justin Boot Certificate
- o Reserve champion ribbon
- o Top ten patch

Bronze Champion

- o Bronze trophy
- o Wrangler Jeans Certificate
- o Bronze championship ribbon
- o Top Ten patch

4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

- o Ribbon
- o Top ten patch

11 – 15<sup>th</sup>

- o Medallion

**Individual Rookie and Walk/Trot Class Awards**

**Youth and Amateur**

Champion

- o Acrylic Trophy
- o ARC belt buckle
- o Neck wreath
- o Top ten patch

Reserve Champion

- o Acrylic trophy
- o Reserve champion ribbon
- o Top ten patch

Bronze Champion Rookie

- o Acrylic trophy
- o Bronze champion ribbon
- o Top ten patch

4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

- o Ribbon
- o Top ten patch

11 – 15<sup>th</sup>

- o Medallion

**All-Around Awards**

All-Around Amateur

- All-Around Select Amateur
- All-Around Youth 13 & Under
- All-Around Youth 14-18

- o Trophy
- o ARC belt buckle
- o Saddle Pad

Reserve All-Around Exhibitors (4)

- o Trophy
- o ARC belt buckle
- o Saddle Pad

Bronze All-Around Exhibitors (4)

- o Trophy

**Halter Awards**

**Youth and Amateur**

Champion of Champions

- o Trophy
- o Neck ribbon

Reserve Champion of Champions

- o Trophy
- o Neck ribbon

**High Point Western Awards (4)**

- o Saddle Pad

**High Point English Awards (4)**

- o Saddle Pad

**High Point Rookie Awards (2)**

- o Trophy
- o Saddle Pad

## 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 Level 1 Championships Handbook, including the show program.
- Judges shall examine and check for lameness in all horses brought into any class.
  - 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.
- There will be three judges for all classes, and their placings will be combined.
- Judges will score each class independently and will place through 15 places.
- In placed classes, judges' individual score or placing cards will be given to show management for tabulation.
- Ties:
  - Placed 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 tie-breaker; 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; 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 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.
  - 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 tie-breaker; 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; 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.
    - All ties will be broken by totaling the judges' scores.
- A monitoring system involving penalty reviews will be implemented not only as an aid to assist the judges, but also in an effort to provide the exhibitors with a fair and accurate score or 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, "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.
- 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.

#### **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.
- **CUTTING**
  - Three (3) and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.
- **HALTER/PERFORMANCE HALTER**
  - 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.
  - The following horses may not be shown with an allowed lip cord;
    - weanlings;
    - mares of any age;
    - geldings of any age;
    - any horse shown in a performance halter class, and;
  - 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 of AQHA's 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**
- The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
    - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
    - Knocking over a cone.
    - Working on the wrong side of the cones.
    - Turning the wrong way.
  - Each judge will score the pattern work from 1-100 points.
    - 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 HACK**
- Each judge will score the pattern work from 1-100 points.
    - 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**
- Zero (0) scores, three (3) point and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.
  - Incomplete maneuvers or exhibitors that may eliminate a maneuver 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.
  - The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
    - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
    - Knocking over a cone.
    - Working on the wrong side of the cones.
- **TIE-DOWN/BREAKAWAY/HEADING/HEELING**
- In tie-down roping, the roper may throw only two loops and must be done so within a one-minute time limit.
    - The one-minute time limit is from the time the calf leaves the chute until the roper signals the time is complete. Although the time limit stops when the roper signals the

tie is complete, the horse will continue to be judged until the rider has mounted the horse and ridden forward.

- Breakaway roping will be placed by the fastest time.
- Zero, two, three and five point penalties may be monitored:
  - Any attempt by a contestant to position his horse behind the barrier, enabling the contestant to rope the animal without attempting to leave the box.
  - In breakaway, that the loop passes over the head of the calf.
  - In breakaway, a contestant that breaks the rope from the horn by hand or touches the rope or string after the catch is made.
  - In heading/heeling, the rope not being wrapped around the saddle horn at least one complete turn.
    - Under no circumstances will the run content or any two point penalties or one point penalties be adjusted.
- In the heeling class, any head catch made by the header must be a legal catch. Legal catches are both horns, half-head and around the neck.
- Anyone with a current AQHA membership riding a registered American Quarter Horse may assist in heading and/or heeling.

➤ **TRAIL**

- 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**

- The following severe faults of performance may be monitored:
  - Omission or addition of maneuvers.
  - Knocking over a cone.
  - Working on the wrong side of the cones.
  - Turning the wrong way.
- Each judge will score the pattern work from 1-100 points.
  - The top 15 placing 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.

➤ **WESTERN PLEASURE**

- An exhibitor who fails to take the prescribed gait when called may be penalized at the judges' discretion.
- Judges may ask horses to lengthen their stride at the lope.

➤ **WESTERN RIDING**

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

➤ **WORKING COW HORSE/BOXING**

- All exhibitors will complete their reined work and will immediately follow with working the cow.
  - The judges may, at their discretion, award new cattle to enable the contestant to show his or her horse's ability on the cow.
    - Horses should keep working until the judge blows the whistle. If exhibitor quits working before the judge blows the whistle, a score of 0 will be given.
  - All horses must be shown in the same bit, snaffle, hackamore and reins in the cow work that was used in the reined work.
- One score will be tabulated from the reined work and one score will be tabulated from the cow work. A total score will then be tabulated from both work scores.

- Any rework will be of the cow portion only.
- Monitoring rules for reining will be used for the reined work. In the cow work, zero (0) scores, two (2), three (3) and five (5) point penalties may be monitored.

➤ **WORKING HUNTER**

- 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.

**WARM-UP ARENA GUIDELINES**

- Prohibited devices may be not be used anywhere on the grounds.
- When riding as practice or in competition anywhere on the grounds, please keep in mind Rule SHW305.8 of the 2019 AQHA Official Handbook pertaining to the use of a curb strap: “When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge [or AQHA steward], be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord.”

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY OF THE LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

AQHA may film and/or photograph all owners, trainers and exhibitors, together with all horses participating in the various events of the championships, to compile AQHA publicity footage, instructional films, a telecast or live Webcast of the event, etc., as it determines. Furthermore, from time to time, AQHA receives requests from various sources for permission to film and/or photograph the championships to be used in the development of instructional and promotional materials. This includes class performances. The majority of this material is developed by university extension programs as judging materials and is used for comparative purposes. By participating, owners, trainers and exhibitors agree that no compensation shall be due from AQHA, Nutrena or any other party for the publication and/or broadcast of their likeness, picture, name, etc. Please refer to Rule GEN111 of the AQHA Official Handbook.

Exhibitor understands, agrees and acknowledges that official AQHA Level 1 Championships videographers and photographers and mass media approved by AQHA have full access to the AQHA Central Level 1 Championship, AQHA West Level 1 Championship, the Nutrena AQHA East Level 1 Championship and the AQHA Cattle Level 1 Championship at any time. This includes the use of lights, flashes and other photo and video equipment. All exhibitors understand, agree and acknowledge that they should be prepared for the possibility of official photographers, videographers and/or approved mass media taping and/or taking pictures of warm-ups, competition, etc.

**AQHA PHOTOGRAPHY AND 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.** For purposes of the AQHA Photography and Videography policy, “photography or videography footage” includes footage of subjects on Championship Show grounds, including but not limited to, footage taken in competition arenas, warm-up pens, barns or stalls. Unless approved in writing by show management, professional photography equipment, cameras with lenses longer than four 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. The Championship 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 credentialed official sources, who provides or**



intends to use photos or video footage in violation of the AQHA Photography and Videography Policy, can be ejected from the event and/or indefinitely banned from Championship Shows and AQHA-approved shows. Read the entire AQHA Photography and Videography Policy at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com).

**Level 1 Championships Official Photographer**

Shane Rux Photography  
 835 Keene Rd., B, Clearwater, FL 33755  
 (877) 226-8122  
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[www.shaneruxphoto.com](http://www.shaneruxphoto.com)

**Level 1 Championships Official Videographer**

To be announced

**JACKPOT PAYOUT**

- Payouts for the jackpot portion of classes will be figured by the number of horses which have entered the optional jackpot and will be paid according to the class placings of the horses that entered the jackpot and at the percentages listed below.
- Jackpot monies will mailed after the show.
- Upon AQHA's receiving drug testing results, if a horse had won money at the show, that owner will be required to return said money to AQHA without protest.
- In roping, the jackpot will be paid on the fastest time.
- The following charts are the schedules of jackpot payout.

**Non-Cattle Classes**

# Shown	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9 <sup>th</sup>	10th
1-2	100.0%									
3-6	60.0%	40.0%								
7-10	50.0%	30.0%	20.0%							
11-15	40.0%	30.0%	20.0%	10.0%						
16-21	32.0%	25.0%	19.0%	13.0%	11.0%					
22-27	29.0%	23.0%	18.0%	12.0%	10.0%	8.0%				
28-32	28.0%	22.0%	17.0%	11.0%	9.0%	7.0%	6.0%			
33-37	27.0%	21.0%	16.0%	10.0%	9.0%	7.0%	6.0%	4.0%		
38-43	26.0%	20.0%	14.5%	10.0%	8.5%	6.5%	5.5%	3.5%	3.0%	2.5%
44-50	25.0%	18.0%	13.0%	10.0%	8.5%	7.0%	6.0%	5.0%	4.0%	3.5%
50+	20.0%	16.0%	14.0%	11.0%	9.0%	8.0%	7.0%	6.0%	5.0%	4.0%

**Cattle Classes**

# Shown	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1-4	100.0%									
5-8	60.0%	40.0%								
9-13	50.0%	30.0%	20.0%							
14-19	40.0%	30.0%	20.0%	10.0%						
20-26	32.0%	25.0%	19.0%	13.0%	11.0%					
27-31	29.0%	23.0%	18.0%	12.0%	10.0%	8.0%				
32-37	28.0%	22.0%	17.0%	11.0%	9.0%	7.0%	6.0%			
38-43	27.0%	21.0%	16.0%	10.0%	9.0%	7.0%	6.0%	4.0%		
44-50	25.0%	18.0%	13.0%	10.0%	8.5%	7.0%	6.0%	5.0%	4.0%	3.5%
50+	24.0%	17.0%	13.0%	10.0%	8.0%	7.5%	7.0%	6.0%	4.5%	3.0%