

## AQHA Incentive Fund Q&A

***Q: Why is the program ending?***

A: The Incentive Fund began in 1985 and grew dramatically over the next two decades. The program relied solely on fees collected from stallion and foal nominations, and with a large number of horses nominated each year, the program thrived.

For some time, though, fewer and fewer horses have been nominated to the Incentive Fund, shrinking the available funds. The addition of multiple new classes dramatically increased the number of points earned each year. As nominations have since decreased, less money is added to the fund. However, a large number of horses continue to show and earn even more points. The result is a decline in point value.

These factors led to much discussion among AQHA staff, the creation of multiple task forces and deliberation within the AQHA Show Committee to look at ways to change the Incentive Fund program and take it back to its glory days.

While changes have been rolled out since 2012, ultimately a lack of participation led to the AQHA Executive Committee at its July 2017 meeting to terminate the program.

***Q: When will the last payout be made?***

A: We are looking closely at the financial reports for the Incentive Fund and will make a decision about that very soon. Preliminary examination indicates it will likely pay through the 2020 show season.

***Q: Is the 20-point cap going away?***

A: The point cap of one plus the average number of points earned will remain in place. *(Note: For 2016 points, the point cap equaled 20 points.)*

***Q: Can I get a refund?***

A: Stallion nominators for the 2017 breeding season have an option to receive a refund.

- Refunds must be requested by September 30, 2017.
- If a refund is requested, the resulting 2018 foals will not be eligible for nomination.
- If a stallion nominator opts for a refund, they will need to notify any outside mare owners that their foals are not eligible for nomination. AQHA will also notify the mare owners once a stallion breeding report is filed.

2017 foal nominations can also be refunded.

- Refunds must be requested by September 30, 2017. The person requesting refund must still be the record owner of the foal.
- If a 2017 foal nomination is canceled, the foal will not receive payments for any points earned in the future.
- The foal's registration certificate will need to be returned to have the Incentive Fund enrollment confirmation removed. The replacement certificate will be done for free.

***Q: Can I get a refund for my other horses?***

A: Nomination payments for stallions or foals made prior to 2017 cannot be refunded. Those funds have already been distributed for payout years.

The payouts will continue for the next few years until the funds are all paid out. Any Incentive Fund points a horse earns will be paid out accordingly until the funds are gone.

***Q: Can I nominate a stallion for the 2018 breeding season?***

A: No, effective immediately, AQHA is no longer accepting stallion nominations.

***Q: Can I nominate a 2018 foal into the Incentive Fund?***

A: Yes, provided the sire remains nominated in the Incentive Fund. *(Note: Stallion nominations for the 2017 breeding season have the option for a refund.)*

***Q: Why should I nominate my 2017 and 2018 foals?***

A: Not all should. With the program ending soon, there are some horses/disciplines that it does not make sense to nominate.

- 2017 foals have the potential to be paid for points earned in 2018, 2019 and 2020.
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***Q: When do I need to make a decision about having my nomination fee refunded for my horse's 2017 nomination?***

A: AQHA needs to receive the request by September 30, 2017.

This deadline is important so that proper notifications can be made about stallions withdrawing from the program. It will also help determine a more solid end date for the final payout year.

***Q: How do I get a refund?***

A: Contact Brianna Charles at 806-378-4535 or [bcharles@aqha.org](mailto:bcharles@aqha.org)