



For Immediate Release:

Q-Ribbon February 2012

Deadlines to Remember

Prior to March 1, AQHA should receive your July show application(s) and any corrections to your April show(s).

AQHA Official Handbook

From time to time, there are rule changes implemented in the middle of the year, such as the halter lip-chain rules last year. Because of this, the electronic handbook on AQHA's website will be known as the "official" handbook. You can find it on www.aqha.com. There are also free applications for iPhones, Blackberries and Androids available from the app store. The 2012 handbook is being updated through the smartphones at this time. It should be available to you soon.

Rule clarification

448(d) Halter Equipment

(2) Allowed Lip Chains may only be used as set forth in subsections 3 and 4 below. All other types of chains that do not meet the definition of an Allowed Lip Chain are prohibited.

(3) Effective immediately, stallions 1 year of age and older may be shown with an Allowed Lip Chain in open and amateur divisions.

(4) Effective August 1, 2011, the following horses may be shown with an Allowed Lip Chain in amateur and youth divisions:

- (i) Mares 1 year of age and older; and
- (ii) Geldings 1 year of age and older.

(5) Effective immediately, the following horses may not be shown with an Allowed Lip Chain:

- (i) Weanlings;
- (ii) any horse shown in a Performance Halter class; and
- (iii) any horse shown in a Versatility Ranch Horse conformation class.
- (iv) mares, geldings in open division

Halter Classes 407(r), 408(c) and 409(b)

As of January 2012, shows are required to hold halter classes as separate aged classes. Please review the following new rules.

An **open** division may be approved, provided a minimum of five halter classes for stallions, a minimum of five halter classes for mares, a minimum of five halter classes for geldings and one performance class limited to registered American Quarter Horses are offered. The halter classes must include individual classes for yearlings, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and older, and performance halter for American Quarter Horses.

To have an approved **amateur** halter division, the following halter classes must be offered by show management. Novice Halter may be offered as an approved and pointed class at any AQHA approved show. Stallions may not be shown in Novice Halter classes.

Yearling Stallions	Yearling mares	Yearling geldings
2-Year-Old Stallions	2-Year-Old Mares	2-Year-Old Geldings
3-Year-Old Stallions	3-Year-Old Mares	3-Year-Old Geldings
4-Year-Old and Older Stallions	4-Year-Old and Older Mares	4-Year-Old and Older Geldings
Performance Halter Stallions	Performance Halter Mares	Performance Halter Geldings

To have an approved **youth** halter division, the following halter classes must be offered by show management:

Yearling Mares	Yearling Geldings
2-Year-Old Mares	2-Year-Old Geldings
3-Year-Old Mares	3-Year-Old Geldings
Aged Mares	Aged Geldings
Performance Halter Mares	Performance Halter Geldings

For all divisions: Show management will have the option of combining age groups into 2-and-under and 3-and-over with the unanimous consent of all exhibitors to be affected. Classes may be combined only if there are 2 or less entries in at least one of the halter age groups to be combined. Once halter age groups are combined and additional entries are taken, it is mandatory that halter age groups be split to the originally requested classes should 1/2 point or more become available in each age group. The Performance Halter would continue to be offered as a separate class.

Reminders

- Please list only one judge per show number on your show application. This will ensure your judge receives the correct show number, date and confirmation letter from AQHA.
- Your application must be submitted along with necessary approval fee. This will ensure your show is credited with the funds accurately and will ensure your show is processed promptly. A show is not approved until all necessary information and fees are received.
- If you are having a tough time getting judges for your show(s), or judges are not returning your calls, please contact Shelly Spears at AQHA. Shelly can assist with contacting a particular judge or help with finding a judge for your show. Shelly can be contacted by emailing sspears@aqha.org.

How do you get sponsorships? Here are some ideas:

- Don't limit your agreement to money – product and/or advertisements are good
- Session sponsors – Ex: hotels may offer complimentary rooms and/or reduced rates
- Go outside the industry – industry folks are hit all the time
 - Restaurant discounts
 - Vendors – can set up, donate to show
 - Place sponsor signs on horse trailers
 - Use AQHA's economic impact statement to show how much money your show brings to town.
- Title sponsor and sponsorship levels
 - Awards at shows/year-end awards, water at shows
 - Be sure each level is given an appropriate return as they will not all be the same
- Educate exhibitors – explain what the sponsor does for the show so they can support that sponsor

Equestrians With Disabilities

Congratulations to the [EWD-Chisholm Challenge](#) held January 9, 2012, in Fort Worth Texas, the largest AQHA Equestrians With Disabilities show to date, with 81 entries!

AQHA Incentive Fund

In last month's newsletter, we discussed the Incentive Fund forms. Please find the form that all show managers should use at www.aqha.com/resources. The form you would want to use in your office is titled: Incentive Fund Annual License for Show Managers. Please contact Kelly Hess at AQHA if you have any questions regarding Incentive Fund (806)378-4536.

AQHA Show Management Workshops

Is it time to attend a show management workshop? Show personnel need to attend once every five years. Click [here](#) for more information.

Did you miss an issue of the Q-Ribbon Newsletter? Check them out here - [Q-Ribbon Newsletters](#).

As always – please let us know if you have not heard from AQHA regarding your show approval application within 15 days from the date you sent it to us. We are happy to check the status of processing and get you information necessary to proceed with your plans for the show.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Patti' and the second is 'Melynda'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Carter-Pratt
Executive Director of Shows

Melynda Ackley
Director of Competition Administration

“The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change.
The leader adjusts the sails.”
~John Maxwell

AQHA news and information is a service of AQHA publications. For more information on The American Quarter Horse Journal or America's Horse, visit [AQHA Publications](#).

