SHW100. AQHA SHOW APPROVAL is a privilege, not a right, granted or rejected at AQHA's discretion on an annual basis according to continuous evaluation of the applicant, including, but not limited to competence of show management, enforcement of AQHA rules, quality of show, and service to AQHA members.

SHW100.1 AQHA reserves the right to approve only the number of shows per calendar year it deems appropriate for the same organization or management.

SHW100.2 An "AQHA-approved event" means an official class of competition or show with results that are accepted by AQHA in its records as official.

SHW100.3 AQHA will issue a statement of official approval of the proposed special event or show, or notify the organization or individual making the application of reasons for not approving a show or special event.

SHW100.4 Lack of approval of any certain class in a proposed show need not invalidate the recognition of the remainder of the show.

SHW100.5 All approved classes must be open to any American Quarter Horse owner meeting age, ownership and eligibility requirements. Membership in AQHA and/or AQHYA for youth competition is the only mandatory membership.

SHW100.6 To compete in an AQHA-approved class, a horse must be entered in the class with show management prior to the start of the class.

SHW100.7 The exhibitor must accurately complete entry forms and assumes responsibility for any errors.

SHW100.8 A horse entered in the wrong class may be transferred to its correct class after the judging program has been printed.

SHW100.9 Any contestant withdrawing from a show after entering shall forfeit any fees and all go-round money which may be credited to him at the time of his withdrawal; except that in case of incapacitating sickness or injury to himself or his horse, or serious illness or death in the contestant's family, all prize monies won by him to that point shall be paid.

SHW100.10 Any AQHA-approved show which fails to pay for services rendered by third parties in connection with the holding of the approved shows (i.e. judges' fees, cattle charges, facilities, insurance or drug testing fees, etc.) or pay premium monies to exhibitors can be denied AQHA approval for present and future shows. The show manager and/or show secretary and sponsoring organization and/or its representatives can be denied privileges of AQHA and suspended from membership.

SHW100.11 Barrels shall not be used as markers in any event except barrel racing.

SHW100.12 Chairs shall not be used as markers in any events.

SHW100.13 In speed events, **it is recommended that drags be conducted before the start and after every seven head; show management may drag more frequently.**

SHW100.14 One of the individuals designated on the show approval application as show manager or show secretary for AQHA-approved shows and special events must have attended an AQHA show management seminar within five years preceding the date of the scheduled show.

SHW100.15 Alliance approved managers and secretaries are not required to attend a show management seminar in order to hold an AQHA alliance event.

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SHW100.17 Show management delinquent and/or habitual in submitting (1) show approval requests, (2) results, (3) incomplete information or (4) failing to submit electronic results will be reviewed by the AQHA Show Council.

SHW100.18 Show management is not allowed to add to the total number of approved shows.

SHW101. NEW/FIRST-TIME SHOW/SPECIAL EVENT which was not approved or held the prior year is considered a new show.

SHW101.1 A letter of request for a new show must be directed to AQHA's Director of Competition Administration and accompanied by a $150 non-refundable processing fee.

SHW101.2 Applicants desiring to hold an AQHA-approved show must obtain prior AQHA approval.

SHW101.3 No new show, including a special event, will be approved if there already exists another show or special event on the same day, within each region's specific mileage calculated by MapQuest's shortest driving distance:

450 miles – Region 1
400 miles – Region 2
350 miles – Regions 3 and 9
200 miles – Regions 4, 5, 6
500 miles – Region 7, 8 and 10

SHW102. APPROVAL FOR A PREVIOUSLY HELD SHOW with priority dates does not carry over from year to year and must annually be obtained for each individual show.

SHW102.1 To obtain approval for a previously held show with priority dates, a show application for approval must be (1) properly completed in its entirety, (2) accompanied by the non-refundable application for approval fee, (3) submitted and received at least 120 days prior to the first date of the proposed show in order to be published in two issues of *The American Quarter Horse Journal,* and (4) accompanied by a list of all classes, whether or not all of the classes are limited to AQHA-registered horses and a proposed schedule of classes.

SHW103. PRIORITY DATES FOR PREVIOUSLY HELD SHOWS. An AQHA-approved show, including a **Level 1** (novice) show sanctioned by the affiliate, having been held the previous year is considered an established show and has priority to reserve identical days per calendar week for the current year until terminated by AQHA. This reservation is called a priority date.

SHW103.1 Shows held on a US federal holiday will retain their priority date for that particular holiday: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

SHW103.2 Shows which move onto a holiday, due to the normal calendar roll, resulting in conflict with an existing holiday show, will be required to move dates.

SHW103.3 Priority dates are a privilege, not a right, and therefore cannot be sold or transferred from one sponsoring body or management to another. Violation of this rule could result in disciplinary action.

SHW103.4 Special events, introductory shows, Versatility Ranch Horse shows and Equestrians with Disability shows do NOT retain priority dates from year to year.

SHW103.5 A show will not retain priority dates in subsequent years if it cancels for reasons other than:

SHW103.5.1 acts of God (fire, flood, blizzard, tornado, hurricane, etc.);

SHW103.5.2 facility conflict (with written verification from facility);

SHW103.5.3 loss of facility beyond show management's control (with written verification from facility);

SHW103.5.4 conflict with AQHA regional events.

SHW103.5.5 outbreak of equine disease or infection.

SHW103.6 A show that changes sponsoring body (the individual or group financially responsible for holding the show) or show name, changes location more than 150 miles, or moves to another state is considered a new show without priority dates.

SHW104. SHOW APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL FEES based on total number of entries from the previous year's event:

$1,500 = 5,000 or more entries
$1,000 = 2,500-4,999 entries
$750 = 1,000-2,499 entries
$500 = Events with 500-999 entries
$250 = Events with 250-499 entries
$150 = Events with 249 and fewer entries
$150 = Introductory Show/Level 1 (Novice) Shows/Rookie Shows
Versatility Ranch/New Special Event or New Show
$50 = Dressage/EWD

SHW105. SHOW APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL LATE FEES determined by date received in AQHA's office:

SHW105.1 Show/Special Event

$200 - 90-119 days prior to show date
$400 - 60-89 days prior to show date
$1,000 - less than 59 days prior to show date and subject to denial

SHW106. Changes in a show application, after filing, may be made after the 120-day deadline specified above, provided AQHA is able to publish changes in one issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* prior to the approved date.

SHW107. DATE AND/OR LOCATION CHANGE REQUESTS must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a $25 non-refundable fee.

SHW108. TYPES OF SHOWS:

SHW108.1 Double Judged/Double Point (DJ/DP*).** This format features one show with two judges judging independently of one another which means top placings could earn two sets of points without having to exhibit twice. Double judged/double point shows are primarily found at major livestock shows where there are a large number of exhibitors. The majority of exhibitors who attend these shows are highly competitive, so expect top-quality exhibitors and American Quarter Horses. Expect to pay two entry fees as each of the two judges' placings will result in separate results and therefore, two full sets of AQHA points.

SHW108.1.1 All major livestock shows and state fairs that meet eligibility requirements will be allowed one double judged-double pointed AQHA-approved show per year.

SHW108.1.2 In multiple judged shows in the timed events only, one judge may oversee/judge the class(es) and sign both set of judge's cards.

SHW108.1.3 If show management wishes to return to original format after having utilized the DJ/DP the following year format they may do so.

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SHW108.1.4 A maximum of two existing affiliate-designated approved shows and existing state shows/fairs operating under the double-judge format may have the option of changing to a three or four judged format provided it does not increase the number of shows in that circuit.

SHW108.1.5 Livestock Shows and Fairs. Some of the largest AQHA approved shows are held during livestock shows and fairs. These collective events, which feature shows for other livestock, offer all levels of competition including youth classes. The number of entries may be high, and you can find seasoned and casual exhibitors.

SHW108.2 Split/Combined (S/C**)** Any two consecutive shows (like a Saturday and Sunday show) can be combined into one show and split over two days. There are two judges and two sets of points but the class is held only once. Expect to pay two entry fees.

SHW108.2.1 Existing split/combined shows have the option of modifying their schedule to allow a four-day show to be held in two days or a two-day show to be held in one day by holding two shows simultaneously.

SHW108.2.2 Any two consecutive shows may be allowed to combine to be one show with classes split over a maximum of two consecutive days with two judges and two sets of points with classes only held once. **Maximum combination of shows in one day will be be up to four shows; no more than four judges are allowed to judge in the ring at one time.**

SHW108.2.3 Show management has the ability to select classes to be held each day under each judge separately and allow other classes to be held in a split combined format under both judges at the same time.

SHW108.3. Special Events (SpEv**)** As the name implies, special events may feature two single events like team penning and ranch sorting, barrel racing and pole bending or roping events like team roping and tie-down roping. Both serious and casual competitors attend special events. A single set of points is awarded at each special event. A maximum of two class types will be allowed per event. AQHA state/provincial affiliates may request two special events by category, per state/province.

SHW108.3.1 allow two existing special events per year per state may apply to be double judged. Special events must be in good standing, held at the same location and same dates for three consecutive years. Additional shows or points cannot be added to existing events and must have affiliate approval.

SHW108.4 Level 1 (Novice) Shows/Rookie (All Nov**)** shows hosted by or approved by AQHA state and provincial affiliates and are usually held as stand-alone events but can be held during an open (non-AQHA-approved) show. A minimum of six **Level 1** (Novice) youth and six **Level 1** (Novice) amateur classes are recommended. An instructional clinic/seminar should be held in conjunction with the show and presented by an AQHA Professional Horseman. The show judge may not serve as a clinician. **Level 1** (Novice) shows may be held over two days and only one set of points are awarded.

SHW108.5 Alliance Shows (AL EV**)** AQHA points can be earned by competing at shows hosted by AQHA alliance partners such as National Cutting Horse Association, National Reining Horse Association, National Reined Cow Horse Association, National Snaffle Bit

Association, Cowboy Mounted Shooting, etc. Approved events award points based on the AQHA system to those exhibitors who enjoy showing in both associations. Exhibitors must meet AQHA ownership and eligibility requirements. A complete list of alliance partners can be found at *aqha.com.*

SHW108.6 Versatility Ranch Horse Competition (VRH**)** demonstrates the versatility of the working ranch horse in five categories – ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch cutting, working ranch horse and ranch conformation. Points will be awarded in each individual class according to the placing received and based on the number of horses competing in the particular class. Points will also be awarded to the overall winners who compete in all five classes based on their cumulative credits from the individual classes. To be eligible for points in the overall VRH competition, one rider/one horse must enter all five classes. Year-end awards will be based on the number of points received in the overall placing. The Versatility Ranch Horse competition promotes the athletic ability and versatility of the horse.

SHW108.7 AQHA Equestrians with Disabilities This competition is open to people with physical or cognitive disabilities that love competing with American Quarter Horses. Classes can be held at AQHA-approved shows and events, US para-equestrian events or can be stand-alone events. **In order to participate in EWD events, an AQHA diagnosis form and AQHA acceptable adaptive equipment form must be completed. A valid AQHA membership number or membership application must be submitted to AQHA. Upon receipt of the forms, an AQHA membership card will be issued with EWD notation.**

SHW108.8 Dressage is a French term meaning "training" and its purpose is to develop the horse's natural athletic ability and willingness to work making him calm, supple and attentive to his rider. Dressage patterns, or "tests," are designed to showcase the horse's ability to demonstrate these strengths through various movements. Competition occurs in a regulation size arena with specific apparel and equipment all regulated by USEF. AQHA-approved dressage classes will only be held concurrent with USEF/USDF-licensed shows which must be AQHA approved. Open, amateur and youth eligibility are based on AQHA criteria.

SHW108.10 INTRODUCTORY SHOWS To increase and enhance new exhibitors' participation and the AQHA show experience, AQHA, in its sole discretion, may waive and/or relax certain AQHA show rules for introductory shows which include AQHA classes in their already scheduled open, all-breed or 4-H shows. Introductory shows do not retain priority date status and points do not count toward World Show qualification or Incentive Fund payout.

SHW108.10.1 Rules which may be relaxed for introductory shows include: date and proximity conflicts with other shows; qualifications and obligations of show officials, or judges application rules for specialized **Level I** (Novice) judges.

SHW108.10.2 Introductory shows shall be allowed to include limited exhibitor eligibility classes for the youth, amateur and open divisions.

SHW108.10.3 Unless expressly waived or relaxed by AQHA, introductory shows will adhere to all show rules.

SHW108.10.4 AQHA reserves the right to require six core classes: western pleasure, showmanship, western horsemanship, hunter under saddle, hunt seat equitation and trail.

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SHW108.10.5 Introductory shows that exceed a 12-hour competition limit may be fined.

SHW108.10.6 Incentive Fund is not to be paid on points earned at introductory shows.

SHW108.10.7 Points earned at introductory shows do not count toward World Show qualification.

SHW108.10.8 an exhibitor who has placed in the top 10 in a class at an AQHA World Show is not eligible to compete at an introductory show in that particular class.

SHW108.10.9 Introductory shows count toward qualifying for the **Level 1** (Novice) championship show.

SHW109. SCHEDULES. Show management has the option of holding some classes the afternoon or evening before their approved show date(s) provided that afternoon or evening not conflict with another existing approved show. For example, at a weekend show, the Saturday show may begin the preceding Friday afternoon and the Sunday show may begin on Saturday afternoon after all Saturday classes are completed.

SHW109.1 Facilities with two or more arenas may begin:

SHW109.1.1 speed events, team penning or ranch sorting even if the current day's show is still in progress any time after 4 p.m.

SHW109.1.2 the next day's classes anytime in the afternoon or evening only if the speed events, team penning or ranch sorting of the current day's show are still in progress

SHW109.1.3 one show before the other is finished with prior permission from AQHA

SHW110. JUDGES must be chosen from AQHA's approved list.

SHW110.1 If a judge is unable to fulfill a judging commitment, the acceptance of a substitute will be at AQHA's option.

SHW110.2 A show is required to state the name of the judge for the show in at least one issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* prior to the scheduled show date. It is also strongly urged to provide the name of the judge on both the entry blank and catalog or premium list.

SHW110.3 It is strongly recommended that the judge work no more than 10 hours in one day. If the hours spent judging are expected to run to an excessive length, show management should consider hiring additional judges.

SHW110.4 An AQHA-approved judge may charge a fee lower than the $200 minimum for Versatility Ranch Horse competitions, **Level 1** (Novice) shows, special events and Equestrians with Disabilities events.

SHW111. SPECIAL EVENTS Organizations or individuals wishing to stage or sponsor special events must obtain AQHA approval for results to be recognized and points to be awarded to the horses that place sufficiently high in that event.

SHW111.1 All rules and regulations pertaining to AQHA-approved shows will be followed at AQHA-approved special events.

SHW112. CLASSES. Show management has the option of running the **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) level and the **Level 3** (open) either as concurrent classes or as totally separate classes. Show management also has the option of running the rookie and **Level 1** (Novice) classes concurrent or separate.

SHW112.1 For classes run concurrently or separately, the points available to the **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) class will be based on the number of **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) entries in the class.

SHW112.2 The number of points available to the Level 3 (open) entries will be the total number of both **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) and **Level 3** (open) entries in the class.

SHW112.3 Approval may be obtained to hold junior and senior classes when applicable, except western pleasure, reining and working cow horse events which may be divided into three classes.

SHW112.4 No 2-year-old may be shown in any performance class prior to July 1 of its 2-year-old year, except in showmanship at halter.

SHW112.5 Jumping, team penning, ranch sorting and all **Level 1** (green) classes are all-age classes only.

SHW112.6 Only junior horses 5 years old and younger may be exhibited in junior classes.

SHW112.7 Only senior horses 6 years old and older may be exhibited in senior classes.

SHW112.8 Junior and senior classes, junior and hackamore/snaffle bit classes or all three classes (senior, junior and snaffle bit/hackamore) may be combined only when there are two or less entries in one or both divisions, or all-age classes split at the direction of the judge and the show management with the unanimous consent of all exhibitors involved in the class (or classes) in question. If a show wishes to combine a junior and senior bit reining class and has a hackamore/snaffle bit reining class, the hackamore/snaffle bit class still will be recognized as an approved class. Entries will be accepted after a class is combined. If classes are combined and additional entries are accepted such that there are now three or more entries in both open classes or youth divisions, classes must be split back the way they were originally offered.

SHW112.9 In all performance classes where each entry performs individually, the order of competition shall be determined by show management drawing lots. Horses entered in any class must be assembled in ample time for judging to start on time and continue without delay. They must remain in readiness until dismissed by the judge. A tardy contestant may be denied competition.

SHW112.10 In all performance classes, horses are to be ridden astride, except in pleasure driving where they will be driven, and in showmanship where they are led with a halter.

SHW112.11 It is mandatory that shows with multiple judges and arenas that offer the option of work at will for trail, western riding and working hunter must group like exhibitors together. Working orders for each group may be worked in a random order. For example, if the caliber of exhibitors and/or horses for **Level 1** (Novice) and 13 and under is similar, they would be worked as one group. Then, if the caliber of exhibitors and/or horses for Select, Junior and 14 to 18 are similar, they would be worked in a different group and could compete on a more difficult course. The same pattern must be used within each group.

SHW112.12 It is mandatory all patterns and courses be posted at least one hour prior to the class commencing.

SHW112.13 The score in the eliminations or go-rounds, and the score of each horse in the finals, or the score in the finals only will determine the final placings; consistency of performance to be recognized as a major factor.

SHW112.14 Any show that does not offer the required halter/performance halter classes in the open division will not have its results recognized.

SHW112.15 AQHA strongly recommends show management pro-

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vide a youth division for exhibitors 18 years of age and under and an amateur division for eligible exhibitors.

SHW113. Specific Class Procedures for Leveled Classes:

SHW113.1 INDIVIDUALLY WORKED CLASSES WITH SUBSEQUENT RAIL WORK – Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Hack

SHW113.1.1 All exhibitors will participate in the pattern portion.

SHW113.1.2 The class will be placed and the judge's top exhibitors will be called back for rail work. **Judge will place a maximum of 15 exhibitors**

SHW113.1.3 **Level 2** (intermediate) entries not initially called back for rail work will stand by to see if separate **Level 2** (intermediate) rail work is necessary.

SHW113.1.4 Providing enough **Level 2** (intermediate) entries are included among the judge's top placings to award all available **Level 2** (intermediate) points, no further rail work is needed.

SHW113.1.5 Should the number of **Level 2** (intermediate) entries in the judge's initial top placings be insufficient to award all available **Level 2** (intermediate) points, the remaining **Level 2** (intermediate) entries will be called back for rail work and the judge will allocate the remaining available points for the **Level 2** (intermediate) class.

SHW113.1.6 If an **Level 2** (intermediate) finals is necessary to distribute all points, at the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be required to only work one way of the arena.

SHW113.2 INDIVIDUAL WORKED CLASSES - Western Riding, Trail, Working Cow, Cutting, Roping, Reining, Working Hunter, Equitation over Fences, Jumping, Showmanship - At show management's discretion, working orders may be in sequence or in blocks and classes will run concurrently. The class will be placed to distribute all available **Level 3** (open) and **Level 2** (intermediate) points.

SHW113.3 RAIL CLASSES SHOWN AS A GROUP - Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Pleasure Driving

SHW113.3.1 All exhibitors will participate on the rail, following which the class will be placed. **Judge will place a maximum of 15 exhibitors**

SHW113.3.2 Providing enough **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive)entries are included among the judge's top placings to award all available **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) points, no further rail work is needed.

SHW113.3.3 Should the number of **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) entries in the judges initial top placings be insufficient to award all available **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) points, the remaining **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) entries will be called back for rail work and the judges will allocate the remaining available points for the **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) class.

SHW113.3.4 If an **Level 2** (intermediate/progressive) finals is necessary to distribute all points, at the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be required to work only one way of the arena.

SHW113.4 HALTER **When a halter class is leveled there are two judging options:**

SHW113.4.1 Option #1. The judge will place a maximum of 15 exhibitors both **Level 2** (intermediate) and **Level 3** (open) and line up placings head to tail, in front of the judge, in the order placed.

SHW113.4.2 The Level 2 (intermediate) entries will then form a separate line to reflect the Level 2 (intermediate) placings for the judge.

SHW113.4.3 Option #2. The judge places a maximum of 15 entries on the Level 3 (open) judges' card. The Level 2 (intermediate) entries are circled on the Level 3 (open) judges' card. Those entries are transferred to the Level 2 (intermediate) judges' card.

SHW113.5 When a class is leveled, the announcer should begin by announcing the Rookie and then the Level 1 (novice) placing's or the Level 2 (intermediate/progressive) and then the Level 3 (open) placing's

SHW114. LEVEL 1 (NOVICE) CLASSES There is no limit to the number of Level 1 (Novice) classes that may be offered; however, showmanship at halter, western horsemanship and hunt seat equitation are strongly recommended for most shows.

SHW114.1 If Level 1 (Novice) classes are applied for, then the corresponding AQHA amateur or youth classes must also be offered.

SHW114.2 The Level 1 (Novice) youth or Level 1 (Novice) amateur class must be held prior to the corresponding amateur or youth class if the same judge is judging the Level 1 (Novice) and corresponding class, with the exception of pattern classes at show management's option.

SHW114.3 All-age Level 1 (Novice) youth classes may be held or Level 1 (Novice) youth classes may be split into age groups. Must be applied for and held as 13 and under and 14-18. All age Level 1 (Novice) amateur classes may be held or Level 1 (Novice) amateur classes may be split into age groups. Must be applied for and held as Level 1 (Novice) amateur and select Level 1 (Novice) amatuer classes.

SHW114.4 Level 1 (Novice) halter may be offered as an approved and pointed class at any AQHA-approved show.

SHW114.5 Stallions may not be exhibited in any youth classes regardless of level. The only exception is for youth ages 14 and older residing in Mexico, South and Central America who may exhibit stallions in youth performance classes if such classes are held in Mexico, South and/or Central America. Additionally, stallions may not be shown in Rookie or Level 1 (novice) amateur classes.

SHW114.6 Level 1 (Novice) halter class winners are only eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion at Level 1 (Novice) shows.

SHW116. OPEN DIVISION APPROVAL. 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 are offered.

SHW116.1 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.

SHW116.2 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.

SHW116.3 Classes may be combined only if there are two or less entries in at least one of the halter age groups to be combined.

SHW116.3.1 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. Performance halter would continue to be offered as a separate class.

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SHW116.3.2 a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion must be selected for each sex in halter classes having three or more entries.

SHW117. AMATEUR DIVISION APPROVAL. An amateur division may be approved separately or in conjunction with an AQHA-approved show for all ages and/or a youth show, provided at least four AQHA-approved amateur performance events are offered.

SHW117.1 At show management's option, any number of performance classes may be offered as Select (ages 50 and over) and the exhibitor has the option of competing in the Select class or the all-age class.

SHW117.1.1 Classes will be combined back to an all-age class should there be less than three entries in the Select or amateur class.

SHW117.1.2 If additional entries are accepted resulting in three or more entries in both the select and amateur classes, classes must be split back the way they were originally offered.

SHW117.2 To have an approved amateur halter division, 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.

SHW117.2.1 a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion must be selected for each sex in amateur halter classes having three or more entries.

SHW117.3 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.

SHW117.3.1 Classes may be combined only if there are two or less entries in at least one of the halter age groups to be combined.

SHW117.3.2 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. Performance halter would continue to be offered as a separate class.

SHW117.4 Show management has the option to offer amateur weanling halter classes in each sex division.

SHW118. YOUTH DIVISION APPROVAL. A youth division may be approved separately or in conjunction with an AQHA-approved show for all ages provided a minimum of four approved youth performance events are offered, two of which must be showmanship at halter and either western pleasure or western horsemanship.

SHW118.1 To have an approved youth halter division, halter classes must include individual classes for yearling, 2-year-old, 3-year-old, and 4-year-old and older American Quarter Horse mares and geldings, as well as performance halter for AQHA registered mares and geldings.

SHW118.1.1 A Grand Champion and Reserve Champion must be selected for each sex in youth halter classes having three or more entries.

SHW118.2 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.

SHW118.2.1 Classes may be combined only if there are two or less entries in at least one of the halter age groups to be combined.

SHW118.2.2 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. Performance halter would continue to be offered as a separate class.

SHW118.3 Show management has the option to offer youth weanling halter classes for both mares and geldings.

SHW118.4 Age group limits in youth events may be set by show management. For horse show purposes, the age of an individual on January 1 of that year shall be maintained throughout the entire year. (Example: A youth who has a birthday in July, and is 18 years of age on January 1, must show throughout the entire year as an 18-year-old.)

SHW118.5 It is recommended large classes be divided into age groups to provide more equal competition. Age divisions however, do not apply to halter classes.

SHW118.5.1 If there is to be one class, undivided, the age group is to be 18 and under.

SHW118.5.2 If there are to be two classes, the age divisions must be (1) 13 and under and (2) 14 – 18.

SHW118.5.3 If there are to be three classes, the age divisions must be (1) 11 and under; (2) 12 – 14; and (3) 15 – 18.

SHW118.5.4 Age groups may be combined at a show, at the direction of the judge and the show management with the unanimous consent of all exhibitors involved in the class only if there are two or less entries in one or both of the age groups to be combined.

SHW118.5.5 The 11-and-under age group may never be combined with the 15-18 age group.

SHW118.5.6 When the 11-and-under and 12-14 age groups are combined, that class shall be reported and shown as 14-and-under.

SHW118.5.7 When the 12-14 and 15-18 age groups are combined that class shall be reported and shown as 12-18.

SHW118.5.8 Age groups may never be split at the show.

SHW118.5.9 Once age groups are combined and additional entries are taken, it is mandatory that age groups be split to the originally requested classes should 1/2 point or more become available in each age group.

SHW119. PERMITS Shows requesting that permits not be used due to safety factors or extenuating circumstances must be granted permission by AQHA prior to show approval.

SHW120. INSPECTIONS/TESTING. If show management or an AQHA affiliate desires to conduct its own inspection, drug or surgical alteration testing, it must obtain written authorization from AQHA and instructions as to procedures and licensed veterinarians.

SHW120.1 At an AQHA-approved show, only state or provincial affiliates or representatives of show management, acting pursuant to AQHA rules or AQHA, may request specimens of urine, saliva, blood or other substance for drug testing, or require payment of drug testing fees as a condition for entry.

SHW120.2 For all AQHA-approved shows held in California, Canada or internationally, show management must collect a $4 show processing fee per horse per show. For all AQHA-approved shows held in the United States, except California, show management must collect a $4 show processing and $1 drug testing fee (total of $5) per horse per show.

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SHW120.3 Show management's failure to mail the fees to AQHA, postmarked within 10 days after the closing day of said show, may result in show approval being denied the following year.

SHW120.4 Show management is exempt from collecting the above drug testing fee if the show in question is held in a state where the state government (not an affiliate): (1) operates an equine drug testing program, (2) collects a drug testing fee from shows held within said state, and (3) reports drug violations to AQHA.

SHW120.5 Drug testing fees charged by an AQHA-approved show are subject to prior approval by AQHA.

SHW120.6 The show manager shall forward to AQHA complete information, in writing, concerning a forbidden drug case or refusal to allow testing.

SHW121. PREMIUM LISTS. Premium lists, show bill or class schedule must be submitted with show approval application.

SMH121.1 Premium lists and entry forms should be printed to ensure uniformity.

SHW121.2 Premium lists must include:

SHW121.2.1 any prize money being offered and the amount for each placing.

SHW121.2.2 any award being given by show management as such may not be added at the show.

SHW121.2.3 a list of show officers and officials

SHW121.2.4 class schedule

SHW121.2.5 exact location of the show

SHW121.2.6 date or dates of the show

SHW121.2.7 closing date for entries

SHW121.2.8 exact date and time of judging.

SHW121.3 A show is not required to award any existing unwon prizes.

SHW122. ENTRIES An exhibitor is not required to enter a particular class or division to be eligible for competition awards. Entering a class(es) shall be the option of the exhibitor.

SHW122.1 A show may not require an exhibitor to enter or pay entry fees for a horse in a halter class for that horse to be eligible to compete in a performance class

SHW122.2 A show may not require an exhibitor to enter or pay entry fees for a horse in a performance class for that horse to be eligible to compete in a halter class.

SHW122.3 In order for a horse to be eligible for an all-around circuit award, show management may, at their discretion, require that such horse be exhibited in specified class(es) and/or categories.

SHW122.4 In order for a horse to be eligible for a circuit award regarding a particular class, show management may not require that such horse be exhibited in class(es) other than the particular class in question.

SHW123. ENTRY FEES may be charged, and if so, must be uniform to all exhibitors in the class, be collected by show management and paid by the entering party, not paid nor reimbursed by a third party, particularly another competitor in the class. All show fees shall be the same to all exhibitors within each respective division: open, youth, amateur, **Level I** (Novice) youth and **Level I** (Novice) amateur, and Rookie.

SHW123.1 Entry fees, if charged, must be specified on the application for show approval.

SHW123.2 Any scheduled class to be held with no entry fee must be so designated on the show application.

SHW123.3 No change in specific entry fee shall be permitted after approval, unless the change can be published in at least one issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* prior to the scheduled date of the show. Violation will be cause for disqualification of the class.

SHW123.4 It is strongly recommended that entry fees for Rookie, **Level I** (Novice) and **Level I** (Green) classes be nominal.

SHW123.5 Show management may offer discounted entry fees to **Level I** (Novice) amateurs or **Level I** (Novice) youth who exhibit in the corresponding amateur or youth class.

SHW123.6 Show management shall maintain detailed written **or electronic** records, sufficient to establish to AQHA's satisfaction, upon request, that each exhibitor's entry fee was paid as required above. Such records shall be preserved for at least one year from the date of the show. Failure to maintain and preserve such record shall be cause for AQHA to disallow the class and refuse show results, or, if previously entered, remove them from AQHA's records.

SHW123.6.1 Failure on the part of show management to maintain or preserve such records as required above shall create the presumption that the requisite fees in question were not paid in accordance with the above rule, with the burden of persuasion on show management and the individual exhibitor to prove otherwise.

SHW123.7 If a horse per SHW904.1 or SHW904.5-6 is entered in a show, its entry fee shall be refunded and it is not to be exhibited.

SHW124. TIES. No class is complete until all ties through point-earning places are broken.

SHW124.1 If a tied contestant, or contestants, is disqualified in the runoff, he/she is not to be placed any lower than the lowest position for which he/she was tied.

SHW124.2 Contestants disqualified during the first run are not considered to be tied for a place even if there were fewer than 10 different entries in the class.

SHW124.3 Refer to the all-around trophy award for breaking ties for the all-around award.

SHW125. RIBBONS. For AQHA-approved amateur, youth, **Rookie/Level I** (Novice) amateur and **Rookie/Level I** (Novice) youth classes, AQHA-approved shows are required to present ribbons or awards through sixth place. The following ribbons are recommended for halter and performance classes:

1st place	blue	7th place	purple
2nd place	red	8th place	brown
3rd place	yellow	9th place	dark gray
4th place	white	10th place	light blue
5th place	pink	Grand Champion	purple
6th place	green	Reserve Champion	purple and white

SHW126. SHOW RESULTS After conclusion of the AQHA-approved show, when AQHA receives all requisite reports from show management and has certified that the show has been conducted according to AQHA rules, show results and show points become official in AQHA's records, and retained on file at AQHA for two calendar years.

SHW126.1 The results of any AQHA-approved show must be provided in its entirety.

SHW126.2 Show management must submit a roster of all horses entered.

SHW126.3 If a horse is disqualified, it is not to be placed, regardless of the number of horses in the class, but counts as an entry in the class.

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SHW126.4 Computerized show results must be used by show management; a sample format may be obtained, by request, from AQHA. Shows failing to submit show results in an accepted electronic format will not receive priority dates for the following year.

SHW126.5 Show management (U.S. and Canada) will be fined at least $50 per day for every day their show results are late after 10 days after the closing day of said show.

SHW127. SHOW OFFICIALS are defined as any person performing the duties of a show manager, steward, ring steward or show secretary. Show officials, with the exception of ring stewards, must have a current AQHA individual membership. Any reputable person may act in the capacity of a show official who can furnish proof that he/she is capable through ability or experience.

SHW127.1 No show official or member of their immediate family, any children or other relatives living in the same household of either or both of the married persons, or any person owning or leasing the grounds on which a show is being held whose ownership could influence the outcome of any show held on such property, shall enter or exhibit horses in any AQHA-approved open or amateur show at which he/she is officiating, nor may any horse owned by such person be entered and exhibited. Youth events and alliance shows, where it is acceptable by the rules of the alliance, are excluded from coverage under this rule.

SHW127.2 Youth who perform show management duties are not eligible to exhibit in that approved show.

SHW127.3 A show official's duties include, but are not limited to (1) contacting or hiring of judges; (2) acceptance of entries or entry fees; (3) having name and/or telephone number listed on the show application as a member of management, in *The American Quarter Horse Journal* or in any publication or show bill as the contact person; and (4) having direction over the show, even though not listed on the application as show management.

SHW128. SHOW MANAGERS shall:

SHW128.1 be the person in charge of the AQHA-approved show, but may not serve as show secretary, ring steward or serve in any other capacity which might interfere with their effectiveness as manager;

SHW128.2 be at least 18 years of age;

SHW128.3 have authority to enforce all rules referring to the show and he/she may excuse any horse or exhibitor from the show or contest prior to or during the judging;

SHW128.4 have jurisdiction over preparing and mailing all entry blanks, premium lists and catalogs and shall enforce the arrival and departure times as shown in the catalog or as advertised;

SHW128.5 be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. In the event an emergency arises and the show manager is unable to fulfill his/her duties, an acting manager should be appointed. The show manager must submit a written explanation to AQHA for his/her absence. The acting show manager must also remain on the show grounds for the duration of the show and must meet the requirements as set forth in this Rulebook;

SHW128.6 at all times extend every effort to satisfy the comfort of the horses, exhibitors, spectators and officials and will be held responsible for maintaining clean and orderly conditions throughout the show;

SHW128.7 be responsible for ensuring humane treatment of horses is adhered to on show grounds through policing of stalling

areas and practice pens at various times throughout the show.

SHW128.8 return cattle injury reports to AQHA;

SHW128.9 receive written or verbal complaints from exhibitors, trainers, owners, show participants and other AQHA members of incidents of cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of horses on show grounds or any other complaints or incidents of rule violations and shall forward such to AQHA;

SHW128.10 upon a report or discovery of inhumane treatment, immediately investigate the incident and report it to AQHA. Show management shall make every effort to obtain the concurrence of any AQHA-approved judge on the grounds or AQHA-authorized personnel, if available. Any verbal or written warning performed by the show manager at a show for inhumane treatment is to be reported in writing to AQHA. If an incident is later reported to AQHA and knowledge is gained that the show manager was present but did not report the incident, this could jeopardize their ability to manage an AQHA-approved show in the future;

SHW128.11 be subject to a review and a possible fine of $100 for every hour or portion thereof past the 15-hour limit for one-day/one-judge shows which should not run more than 15 consecutive hours from the scheduled starting time to the conclusion of the show, including all breaks. Multi-day/one-judge shows, multi-day/multi-judge shows, and multi-judge/one-day shows should not exceed 15 hours per day from the judge's actual starting time to the conclusion of his/her last class.

SHW128.12 post contact information of the show manager or other designated person who can be contacted in case of emergency; i.e. professional horseman, show steward.

SHW129. Show management may:

SHW129.1 immediately expel individuals exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct from show grounds and shall file a written report with AQHA concerning the conduct in question;

SHW129.2 establish ground rules with reference to the amount of time an exhibitor is allowed to begin his performance, dependent on the facilities and conditions. If such ground rules are established, show management should see they are enforced;

SHW129.3 determine if an elimination is necessary, in the interest of successful implementation of the AQHA-approved show, the number of go-rounds to be held and the number of horses to be shown at each performance and to reasonably limit entries when necessitated by time and/or physical constraints of show premises when applied fairly and uniformly by a procedure in which all qualified entries are included in a random draw;

SHW129.4 allow the name of the exhibitor and horse to be announced during any event.

SHW130. SHOW SECRETARY. The show secretary may not hold the position of show manager or ring steward at a show at which he/she serves as show secretary and is responsible for:

SHW130.1 accurately maintaining and recording both entries and show results, including verifying exhibitor eligibility and current membership and horse eligibility;

SHW130.2 maintaining a set of results on file for at least one year from the show;

SHW130.3 the entry fees, office charges, etc., and any fees collected for membership on behalf of AQHA and AQHYA. Cash payments made to the show secretary for these fees must be converted

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to a money order or check before being sent to AQHA;

SHW130.4 ensuring only horses registered with AQHA compete in AQHA-approved shows. The exhibitor must present the registration certificate to show management, unless a photocopy of both sides of the registration certificate is acceptable to show management.

SHW130.5 inspecting the registration certificate (or photocopy of both sides of the registration certificate if photocopy is acceptable to the show management or in the case of the new photo registration certificate only the front will apply) of each horse entered in an approved class. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of future show approval;

SHW130.6 recording entries in the name of the record owner and the horse's complete registered name and number, with the designation of Appendix following its name to be eligible for AQHA points.

SHW131. RING STEWARD. A competent ring steward is required at all AQHA-approved shows for each judge and may not hold the position of show manager or show secretary at a show at which he/she serves as a ring steward and shall:

SHW131.1 wear appropriate western attire which includes pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.), long-sleeve shirt with collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc.) and cowboy boots. Western hat is optional;

SHW131.2 relieve the judge of unnecessary details, assemble the class promptly, keep the judging program on schedule, eliminate long delays between classes and control the conduct of the horses and exhibitors in the ring;

SHW131.3 notify the judge when all horses are present for each class and call his attention to those horses that are absent;

SHW131.4 ensure no person rides more than one horse in any approved performance class, except as allowed under SHW400;

SHW131.5 assist the judge, not advise him/her and shall refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or the exhibitors with the judge;

SHW131.6 not take part, or seem to take part, in any of the judging.

SHW131.7 when not actively engaged in his/her duties, place himself/herself in such a position so as not to interfere with the judging and the view of the spectators.

SHW131.8 not allow exhibitors to crowd up in the ring or arena and, at all times, endeavor to keep the possibilities of an accident at a minimum;

SHW131.9 have charge of the activity in the ring or the arena. He/she should act as mediator between the judge and the exhibitor. The judge should request the ring steward to move and place horses as he/she advises. When the ring or arena size is small and the class entries are large, he/she should survey the situation and take every precaution to keep the horses moving until the judge is ready for them to be judged. He/she has the authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his or her horse for the safety of other horses or spectators;

SHW131.10 have the authority to remove unsportsmanlike exhibitors from the arena;

SHW131.11 be familiar with the procedure of sifting, when the classes are large and the judge requests that he/she line them up for the first sift, the second sift, and so on, until the judge has his/her class ready; and

SHW131.12 where applicable, lineup the class placings the same in every class-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

SHW132. VETERINARIAN. At show management's option, any Licensed Veterinarian may serve as a show veterinarian. If there is more than one veterinarian, one should be delegated as being in charge. Health requirements should be outlined in catalogs and on entry blanks and enforced by the show manager and veterinarian.

SHW133. STEWARDS. Designation as an AQHA Steward is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the Executive Committee according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honor. An individual's conduct as an AQHA Steward must be exemplary and is subject to continual Executive Committee review, with an automatic review after three years of becoming an AQHA Steward. Designation as an AQHA Steward is revocable by the Executive Committee at any time with or without cause and with or without notice and formal hearing.

SHW134: AQHA Steward's responsibilities include:

SHW134.1 monitoring show grounds for inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct;

SHW134.2 answering exhibitors' questions about rules;

SHW134.3 assisting show officials with proper set up of practice jumps and courses;

SHW134.4 investigating complaints of class filling;

SHW134.5 evaluating potentially unsafe conditions related to the show, e.g. poor footing in the warm-up area, and bring to attention of show management to correct;

SHW134.6 issuing warning or removal cards from show ground as warranted according to AQHA rules and/or guidelines;

SHW134.7 timely filing an AQHA Steward's report and evaluation with AQHA; and

SHW134.8 adhering to the AQHA Stewards Code of Ethics.

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