

**Show Committee  
2011 AQHA Convention  
Grapevine, Texas**

**GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. Revise Incentive fund and form a task force to study.  
**Approved with plan to Executive Committee in July.**
2. In order to be eligible to show in its respective World Show in Performance Halter - or to earn a year-end high-point award in Performance Halter – A horse must have earned 10 performance points during the respective World Show qualifying time period or during the calendar year for high-point, other than showmanship at halter.  
**Approved (Beginning in 2012)**
3. To refer to the international committee to study the concept that for international countries only, that two (2) points be earned in performance events prior to competing in performance halter instead of the current 10 points.  
**Approved concept**
4. To change rule 448 (d) – to allow the use of lip chains in halter classes for youth and amateur divisions.  
**Amended and approved to allow the use of lip chains in halter classes for youth and amateur effective August 1, 2011 (including youth world show, select world show and AQHA world show). However no lip chains of any sort, in any division (open, amateur or youth) will be allowed in classes for weanlings and/or performance halter. Also lip chains are not allowed in any division in the Versatility Ranch Horse conformation class. Stallions one year of age and older in the open division will also be allowed to continue to use a lip chain.**
5. To allow the use of weighted tails.  
**Approved subject to guidelines developed by Show Council with Show Council appointed task force and alliance input.**
6. To approve the concept of allowing awards to be given to individuals who place in the Top 5 in the nation or allowing an exhibitor to purchase a bronze and be referred to the marketing committee for further development.  
**Approved effective immediately.**
7. Allow limited working cow horse to be added as a class for Amateur, Select Amateur and Youth, as well as, Novice Amateur and Novice Youth with the understanding that the class would become a World Show event.  
**Approved based on current NRCHA criteria for “limited”.**

*Limited Classes - work to consist of reining pattern and single cow work (boxing) on the end of the arena. Each contestant upon receiving a cow in the arena shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for 50 seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse*

*and rider to control the cow. Time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer or judge will signal the completion of the 50 seconds with a whistle or horn. Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1 of current show year, may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore. Horses of any age may be shown in the two rein equipment (for one year only) or bridle. Riders cannot have shown down the fence 3 actual runs in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales (this applies to the 5K Non Pro Limited and the Youth Limited classes only). Being entered in a class which includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence regardless if the rider boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. The responsibility for eligibility lies with the competitor. If an individual feels a competitor is not eligible for a class, the burden of proof lies with the person who protests.*

8. To refer to a Speed Event Task force for further consideration, that in barrel racing and poles, adopt the 3-D and 4-D format award points and placings.  
**Approved.**

## **SHOW MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. To take no action regarding the proposed modifications to rules 450(m), (n) and (o). Rules 450(m), (n) and (o) as they currently appear in the 2011 Handbook to remain in effect.

**Discussed from floor by Board of Directors**

**Motion made and carried by a vote of 105 for and 92 against to adopt the following rules (this essentially reverts back to the 2010 rule).**

### **450(m)**

“Provided that a horse is only exhibited once per class, in individual open working events (reining, working cow horse, western riding, barrel racing, pole bending, cowboy mounted shooting, jumping, working hunter, dressage, trail, tie-down roping, dally team roping - heading, dally team roping - heeling, team penning, ranch sorting and cutting), an exhibitor may:

- (1) Exhibit up to two horses in a junior class;
- (2) Exhibit up to two horses in a senior class;
- (3) Exhibit up to three horses in an all-age class as long as two are junior and one is senior; or two are senior and one is junior; or
- (4) Exhibit up to four horses in an all-age class as long as two are junior and two are senior.”

### **450(n)**

In novice youth, youth, novice amateur, select amateur and amateur in individual working events, (reining, working cow horse, western riding, barrel racing, pole bending, cowboy mounted shooting, youth stakes race, jumping, working hunter, dressage, trail, breakaway roping, tie-down roping, dally team roping – heading, dally team roping – heeling, team penning, ranch sorting and cutting) an exhibitor may show up to two horses regardless of sex (except youth, novice youth and novice amateur where stallions may not be exhibited).

### **450(o)**

A select exhibitor, in individual working events may show any combination of two different horses in select and amateur For example, a select exhibitor in individual working events may exhibit both horses in amateur, both horses in

select, or one horse in select and one in amateur. A horse may only be exhibited one time in a class in either select or amateur no matter the exhibitor.

**Approved. Requested Show Council to review policy regarding numbers of horses exhibited at 2011 World Show.**

2. Form a task force with AQHA staff and industry representatives to address the entire show fine system for evaluation and eventual change.

**Approved.**

3. Form a task force relating to dates and calendar roll to assist and work with the AQHA staff.

**Approved.**

4. Change rule 407 (c) To obtain approval, an application for approval form, correctly and entirely completed, must be submitted and postmarked 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*.

**Approved.**

5. Staff to develop, publish and distribute guidelines regarding proper procedure for drug testing at shows.

**Approved.**

#### **WESTERN SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. Change rule 459(a) and make stakes race available in amateur division.

**Tabled for Show Council review.**

2. Change rule 473 (a). The showmanship class shall be judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The showmanship class shall be designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

**Approved**

3. Add green classes to reining with the understanding that this class will be eliminated if the Leveling program is implemented.

**Denied**

4. Allow the use of “two rein” as recognized by our NRCHA alliance into AQHA working cow horse.

**Approved**

*Two Rein Class - open to horses of any age that have not shown in the bridle down the fence in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales, prior to November 16th of the current show year. These horses can be shown only one year in this class. A horse may be shown in the two rein equipment for one year only regardless of the class it is shown in. The rider must use an approved bit in accordance with Rule 5.2 with an approved bosal in accordance with Rule 5.4 and 5.5 underneath the bridle. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Any number of fingers between reins will be permitted. Earnings in this class are counted as bridle earnings for purposes of Merit awards.*

5. Allow novice amateur and novice youth to show two handed with a snaffle bit in any class.

**Approved**

6. Modify rule 465B(f), Western Pleasure, change to read “At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk or lope, one or both ways of the ring.

**Approved**

7. Adopt the proposed Ranch Horse Pleasure class with rules as presented and modifications completed by April Executive Committee meeting.

**Tabled for further explanation and refinement of class rules.**

## **Ranch Horse Pleasure**

### **Purpose**

The Purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure is to promote a well broke, versatile horse for ranch or pleasure riding. The motion, cadence and consistency of this horse will allow it to perform in other events. This is a class that will allow exhibitors of varying degrees and who own various levels/types of horses to enter and be comfortable.

### **Description of the Class**

Horses should work both directions of the rail, reverse to the inside and perform a back. Excessive speed or slowness should be penalized in all gaits The judge is required to ask for an extended jog trot one direction and may or may not ask for an extended lope. The horse should show a relaxed appearance with a bright and attentive attitude without showing a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that demonstrates each gait with a cadence that is free flowing and balanced. The horse should exhibit an attitude that is willing, alert and a pleasure to ride.

### **Walk**

The walk should be a natural free moving stride of reasonable length in keeping with the horse’s conformation. The horse should travel straight forward in a 4 beat cadence with enough rhythm to get from point A to point B in a reasonable amount of time.

**Poor walk:** uneven pace and no cadence. Has no flow and may appear intimidated or appear to march.

**Average Walk:** has free moving, four-beat gait, level top-line and is relaxed.

**Good Walk:** has a free moving, four-beat gait, level top-line and relaxed, bright and attentive.

### **Jog Trot**

The jog trot should be very comfortable to ride and always performed as a consistent, two-beat diagonal gait. The horse's motions should seem effortless. The jog trot should be shown at a moderate speed and void of peggy short-strided motion. The extension of the jog is required one direction.

**Unacceptable Jog Trot:** cannot perform a two-beat gait and has no flow or balance in the motion.

**Poor Jog Trot:** hesitates motion. Does not keep even and balanced motion or has negative characteristics such as walking behind, dragging rear toes or taking uneven length of stride with front and rear legs.

**Good Jog Trot:** is comfortable to ride while having a consistent two-beat gait. The horse guides well and appears to be relaxed.

**Excellent Jog Trot:** effortless and very efficient motion. He has a bright and alert expression and exhibits more lift and self-carriage, shows confidence, yet soft with its motion while being balanced and under control.

### **Extended Trot**

**Poor Extended Trot:** never lengthens stride and may appear to be rough to ride.

**Average Extended Trot:** moves up in its pace and appears to be smooth to ride.

**Excellent Extended Trot:** has obvious lengthening of stride with a slight increase in pace while exerting less effort and appears to be smooth to ride.

### **Lope**

The lope should be performed with a consistent, clean, balanced three-beat gait. The horse should have a pleasant expression and be responsive to its rider and may be shown with light bit contact. The lope should have adequate cadence to allow the horse to move freely and comfortably as if he was in his natural environment. A hand gallop may be asked for and should be a moderate extension of the lope.

**Poor Lope:** does not have a three-beat gait. No flow, rhythm or balance.

**Average Lope:** has a true three-beat gait. He guides well and has a relaxed appearance.

**Good Lope:** has more cadence and a free flowing stride, a strong but smooth motion from behind. Steady top line, relaxed appearance and is responsive to rider's aids. He appears to be comfortable to ride.

**Excellent Lope:** has natural engagement with rhythm and cadence, is relaxed yet alert and confident. This free flowing motion will allow him to excel in many different areas.

### **Back up**

**Poor Back-up:** is resistant and heavy in front. May gap mouth and throw his head or back crooked.

**Average Back-up:** backs straight and quietly with light contact and without hesitation.

**Good Back-up:** displays balance and smooth flowing movements. The horse will back straight with light contact, without gapping his mouth and without hesitation.

## ENGLISH SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Modify rule 480 to adjust the maximum point limits for Dressage to the following:
  - Training Level – 10 points
  - First Level – 25 points
  - Second Level – 30 points
  - Third Level – 35 points
  - Fourth Level – 40 points
  - FEI – No Limits

**Tabled for further input from active participants to make sure graduating point levels are accurate and as uniformly fair as possible.**

2. Continue for a time period of one more year to recognize the highest percentage American Quarter Horse at USDF Regional Championships.

**Approved**

3. Green Working Hunter

- a. The purpose of the Green Working Hunter is to allow a horse to compete on an entry level field with horses of the same level of experience. The green working hunter is the first stepping stone to the more advanced level of competition with seasoned horses. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent. Fence heights shall be 2'6" to 2'9".

- b. Horses Eligible to Compete:

- i. Eligibility are for horses of all ages who have no previous AQHA points in open working hunter, amateur working hunter, youth working hunter amateur equitation over fences, youth equitation over fences, green jumping, open jumping, youth jumping and amateur jumping.
- ii. Horse become eligible for green working hunter for a time period of that calendar year after entering their first any working hunter or jumping class.

**Approved.**

4. Progressive Working Hunter

- a. The purpose of the progressive working hunter is the next step in the progression from the green working hunter to the more advanced level of competition with the seasoned horse. This class should be judged according to the purpose of its intent.
- b. Horses eligible to compete:
  - i. Horses that have shown during previous years in AQHA approved open working hunter, amateur working hunter, youth working hunter, amateur equitation over fences, youth equitation over fences, green jumping, open jumping, youth jumping amateur jumping, but have not won more than 10 points or have exhibited in a class 3' or more in any competition with the exception of points earned in green working hunter.

**Approved.**

5. Add to rule 475B (d) under severe faults add "Lack of contact between rider's hands and bit."

**Approved**

6. Define purposes under the following classes:

- a. Hunter Under Saddle: The purpose of the hunter under saddle horse is to present or exhibit a horse with a bright, alert expression, whose gaits show potential of being a working hunter. Therefore its gaits must be free-flowing, ground covering and athletic.
- b. Working Hunter: The working hunter is a representative of the type of horse used in the hunt field. He should possess manners, jumping ability, style, pace and quality. The working hunter must be able to demonstrate his ability to furnish the rider with a smooth comfortable and safe ride.
- c. Hunter Hack: The purpose of hunter hack is to give horses an opportunity to show their expertise over low fences and on the flat.
- d. Equitation Over Fences: The purpose of this event should be to evaluate amateur and youth rider's correctness and ability over the fences. This class should be judged on the precision of riding ability while executing the jumps.
- e. Equitation on the Flat: The purpose is to evaluate the ability of the hunter rider to perform various maneuvers on his/her horse which provides a base for natural progression to over fence classes.
- f. Jumpers: The jumper's task is to solely jump and his score is based entirely on his performance alone.
- g. Pleasure Driving: The purpose of the class is to evaluate the horse's ability and pleasurable attitude while pulling a cart. The horse should have an engaged trot with more impulsion and a long ground covering stride. Style, conformation and safety are paramount in this class.

**Approved**

7. Adjust working hunter fence heights to: Junior – 2'9" to 3' and Senior – 3' to 3'3".

**Approved**

8. Add wording about the walk in Rule 447(b)(1) [Gaits]. Add the word “forward” in this paragraph. Recommended verbiage: “The horse must move straight, true and forward at the walk.  
**Approved**

## **WORLD SHOW SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. Support recognition of limited riders and refer to the Leveling Program to implement.  
**Amended – approved to recognize “intermediate” riders at 2011 World Show.**
2. Add world show finalist to horse’s record and also be retroactive for past World Shows.  
**Approved**
3. Effective immediately, for scored events only at all World Shows the recommendation is to have a shootout round for the next 15 exhibitors (plus ties) with the top 5 (plus ties) scores in the shootout round advancing to the finals when there are more than 80 entries. Also, an additional \$100 fee to be assessed to the shootout participants with the fee (minus cattle or equipment charges) to be added to the purse in Open, Amateur and Select Amateur. In Youth classes the only additional fee charged to be the cattle or equipment charges.  
**Tabled for further review by Show Council.**
4. At the Select Amateur World Show - line up all halter classes under each judge’s placing, same as it is done at the World Show.  
**Denied**
5. Give every current AQHA member free admission to the appropriate World Show performances.  
**Denied**
6. Create a task force to study and investigate our present qualifying system for the open world show and be able to nominate (buy in) a horse into the AQHA World.  
**Approve Task Force to study with advisement to outline specific guidelines and dollar amount for buy in. To go back to Executive Committee in July for final review.**
7. For staff to investigate a schedule that would allow no more than 48 hours between preliminary and finals of all classes at all world shows.  
**Denied**
8. In working cow horse, add boxing as a world show event for select amateur and youth with no cross entries allowed to stay consistent with Alliance Partner.  
**Tabled for further review with Show Council.**

9. Allow Youth World Show state qualifying adjustment to all unfilled state slots to be used for other classes up to a maximum of six in any class (versus four) as recommended by Youth advisors.  
**Approved (2012 Youth World Show)**
10. If youth World Champion graduates out because of age, then consider inviting reserve world champion to the following Youth World.  
**Approved effective immediately**
11. In qualifiers handbook correct page 11, 12 and reminder to remove “ear plug” restriction on page 16.  
**Approved for 2011 Qualifiers Handbook**

#### **VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. Recommend to Judges Committee to further educate and enforce 478 (h) (4) regarding cutting two head for open/amateur and one designated cow for Novice Amateur/Youth, as well as unnecessary roughness while in or entering into the herd.  
**Approved**
2. Replace Pattern 2 for the Working Ranch Horse with AQHA Working Cow Horse Pattern VI (six).  
**Approved**
3. Allow pleasure pattern signs to be permitted in the pleasure/trail combined class.  
**Approved**
4. Revise Rule 443 (g) – (use of Mecate) to include Versatility Ranch Horse.  
**Approved**
5. Clarify existing rule concerning European countries to allow the circling of cattle instead of roping to include all International countries, except Canada, in the Working Ranch Horse class and also allow traditional attire from that country to be worn.  
**Approved effective immediately**

From the Show Committee agenda on items which “no action” was taken at Convention, the Executive Committee approved the following.

#### GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE

##### 5 PERFORMANCE HALTER RECOMMENDATIONS

(c) Spayed mares may be allowed to show in performance halter.

**Approved effective immediately to allow spayed mares to compete in versatility ranch horse conformation and performance halter but not be eligible for grand or reserve halter champion.**

12. In halter expand the high-point leaders list to include break down by ages.

**Approved for the halter leaders list published in the QH Journal be published as:**

**Open: Three years and under**

**Four years and over**

**Youth and Amateur:**

**Two years and under**

**Three years and over**

#### VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE SUBCOMMITTEE

11. Add rule - Allow the use of “two rein” into the Versatility Ranch Horse class for one calendar year on any age horse that has not previously been shown down the fence in bridle.

**Approved the use of the “two rein” for one calendar year.**

13. Revise Rule 443 (g) – (use of Mecate) to include Versatility Ranch Horse

**Approved the use of the mecate.**