

2016 AQHA Rulebook Show Updates

SHW108.3.3 allow two existing special events per year per state may apply to be double judged and must have affiliate approval. Special events must be in good standing, for three consecutive years. Additional shows or points cannot be added to existing events.

SHW108.3.4 AQHA state/provincial affiliates may request two special events by category, per state/province.

SHW112. CLASSES. In scored classes which are leveled, the Level 2 and Level 3 classes must run concurrently. Show management continues to have the option of running any placed classes separately which are leveled. Show management also has the option of running the rookie and Level 1 classes concurrent or separate.

SHW240.3 during the term of the showing lease, only the lessee and lessee's IMMEDIATE FAMILY may show the horse. The lessee's trainer may also show the horse during the term, but only in open division events During the term of the lease, the horse may be shown by other eligible exhibitors in the Open Division events only;

SHW240.4 the term of the lease must be for a minimum one year period, and the lease must be to an individual only. If the lease is terminated for any reason before the minimum one year period, the horse can only be shown in the Open Division until the term of the lease is complete; Except as provided by the International Lease for World Championship Show rules;

SHW 245.3 When determining eligibility for a level in a particular class, an individual/ horse may not have exceeded the point cap described in SHW245.1 for that particular class. In addition, at the time of application for level 1 an individual may not have earned a superior award in a particular class in any equine organization or association with a membership of more than 7,500 members (including AQHA): placed in the top 10 at any AQHA World Championship Show in a particular class; won a world, reserve world, national or reserve national championship title in a particular class (excluding level 1 class) in any equine organization or association with a membership of more than 7,500 members; 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; or won a total of \$5,000 in cash and prizes with any equine organization or association. If an exhibitor wins a class at the Level 1 Championships he/she is no longer eligible to compete in that class at any future Level 1 Championships; however, if an exhibitor is Level 1 eligible he/she may continue to show in that class in Level 1 competition. If an exhibitor has not reached any of the above achievements but has pointed out of level 1, the exhibitor can only return to level 1 in that particular class if the exhibitor has not earned any points in that class for 10 consecutive years and must meet eligibility requirements per Rule SHW245.3.

SHW260. POINTS

SHW260.8 Points in the amateur and youth divisions are to be compiled on a one horse - one amateur or one youth basis and will count toward any award so long as the amateur or youth ownership requirements are met as outlined. In the event the horse is sold, a new start will be made by the new exhibitor, except when a horse is repurchased or otherwise reacquired by the seller, in which event previously earned points will be reinstated except for World Show qualification.

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW307.9 Fenders may not be connected by string or any other material

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW311.9 Half Chaps, must be smooth brown or black leather

SHW370. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

SHW372.1 A minimum gauge link of 4.0 mm is required.

SHW370. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

SHW 378.1 Minor Faults, that have a deduction of 5 points, include:

- Break of gait at walk or trot for up to two strides
- Over or under turning up to 1/8 of a turn
- Ticking or hitting cone
- Sliding a pivot foot
- Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot or set-up and replacing it in the same place

SHW 378.2 Major Faults that have a deduction of 10 points, include:

- Not performing the gait or not stopping within 10 feet of designated area
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Splitting the cone (Cone between the horse and handler)
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn
- Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation
- Over/under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn

SHW 378.3 Severe Faults have a deduction of 20 points. Severe faults avoid disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault. They include:

- Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank, holding chain or two hands on shank
- Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor

SHW 379 Disqualifications (Should not be placed) include:

- Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses, or judge
- Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
- Failure to display correct number
- Willful abuse
- Never performing specific gait
- Excessive schooling or training; use of artificial aids
- Knocking over the cone or going off pattern
- Illegal equipment
- Over or under turning by more than 1/4 turn

SHW400. PERFORMANCE CLASSES

SHW400.4 In a leveled class that is run concurrent [Level 2 and Level 3], an exhibitor may show a maximum of four horses. If less than two entries in Level 2, entries will be combined with Level 3.

SHW401. LEVEL 1 WESTERN PLEASURE

SHW401.3.3 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW450. LEVEL 1 WESTERN RIDING

SHW450.4.3 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW451. WESTERN RIDING

SHW454.2 One (1) point

hitting or rolling log

out of lead more than one stride either side of the center point and between the markers

splitting the log (log between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope

hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change

break of gait at the walk or jog up to two strides

non-simultaneous lead change (front to hind or hind to front)

SHW460. LEVEL 1 TRAIL

SHW460.4.3 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW480. REINING

SHW482.1 The following will result in a score of 0:

Use of more than index or first finger between reins;

Use of two hands (exception in junior, snaffle bit, or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands;

Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT

Failure to complete pattern as written:

Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order;

The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to

Backing more than two strides

Turning more than 90 degrees

Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion.

Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;

Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;

Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena;

Overspins of more than 1/4 turn;

Fall to the ground by horse or rider

when going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line;

SHW480. REINING

SHW487.1 In a pattern requiring a run-around, there will be a one half (1/2) point penalty for failure to remain a minimum of 10 feet from either side of the center of the arena; for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion.

SHW505. WORKING COW HORSE

SHW505.6 The judge may blow his/her whistle at any time during the work. One whistle to terminate the work, two whistles to award a new cow. If the judge awards a new cow, the exhibitor has the option to refuse the new cow by continuing to work. If the exhibitor intends to accept the new cow, he or she must pull up immediately. If at any time a judge feels that the contestant is out of control endangering themselves and/or their horse, the judge may terminate the work, and a score of zero will be given. In the case of an emergency (Such as a person falling into the arena or part of the arena falling apart) the judge may blow two whistles for a second time. At this point, the contestant has no option to continue and must receive a new cow. Contestant must pull up immediately or a score of zero will be given. Judging ends when the whistle blows. A score of zero will be given if the work is not complete at that point.

SHW555. ALL-AROUND VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE

Points earned in the limited cow work classes do count for the title of All-Around Versatility Ranch Horse for amateur and youth.

SHW564. LIMITED RANCH COW WORK AMATEUR/ YOUTH

SHW564.1 Content. Exhibitors in the limited ranch cow work cannot compete in both the ranch cow work and limited cow work class. An exhibitor is eligible to compete in limited ranch cow work if they have never shown three or more times down the fence in any judged class. Any amateur or select rider may fall back one time to the limited ranch cow work.

SHW600. LEVEL 1 HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

SHW600.2.3 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW616. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT

SHW618.4 Iron should be on the ball of the foot. Iron or stirrup leather may not be connected by string or any other material to the girth

SHW625. HUNTER HACK

SHW625.1 Horses are first required to jump two fences, two feet three inches (68.5 cm) to three feet (90 cm). Show management has the option to allow a third fence; however, if the jumps are set on a line, they are recommended to be in increments of 12 feet (3.5 meters) but adjusted to no less than two strides. A ground line is recommended for each jump.

SHW630. LEVEL 1 WORKING HUNTER

SHW630.2.5 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW636. WORKING HUNTER

SHW637.2 The top element of all fences must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown. It is recommended, but not required, to use FEI approved safety cups of breakable pins in the schooling/warm up ring and on all fences in the show arena.

SHW655. LEVEL 1 JUMPING

SHW655.2.3 Accuracy of eligibility is the responsibility of the owner or exhibitor.

SHW755 WALK/TROT CLASSES. Level 1 walk/trot classes can be held in western pleasure, western horsemanship, trail, hunter under saddle and hunt seat equitation. Walk/trot classes are available, at the discretion of show management, at any approved show in Level 1 youth and Level 1 amateur classes.

SHW755.1 The Level 1 walk/trot classes can only be held as an all-age class and cannot be split out into youth age groups or select. Only one horse/rider combination is allowed per class. If a horse/rider combination was entered into a Level 1 walk/trot class that horse/rider combination could not show in the corresponding loping/cantering class at that show. However, that combination can switch back and forth between the different shows.

SHW755.2 There is no year-end high-point and is not a World Show class but points will be tracked and ROM and Superior certificates will be presented based on adding all of the points earned in the Level 1 walk/trot classes together. Incentive Fund money will not be awarded. Level 1 walk/trot points do not count for Performance Halter qualification.

SHW755.3 The same rules apply in Level 1 walk/trot classes as apply in the corresponding class, except loping/cantering is prohibited in both pattern and rail work.

SHW755.4 Faults:

- Exhibitors going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.
- Scored according to severity include:
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation.

SHW813. YEAR-END HIGH-POINT HORSE - OPEN, AMATEUR, YOUTH

SHW813.1 Two or more AQHA trophies will be granted in the event of a tie in the Level 3 open, amateur and youth divisions. In the event of a tie for any corporate sponsored award, the winner will be:

- a) Horse or contestant with the greatest number of wins
- b) Horse of contestant winning over the greatest number of horses
- c) Winner will be the exhibitor earning the final point the earliest in the year