

2026 WQHA SHOW & CONTEST – RULES & REQUIREMENTS

The online version of the Show & Contest Rules & Requirements, as posted on the WQHA website, is the official version of these rules & regulations.

- 1.** It is understood that all shows requesting approval of the Wisconsin Quarter Horse Association must be approved by the American Quarter Horse Association. However, a show may apply for WQHA approval before receiving AQHA approval by marking the show application “AQHA approval pending.” (NOTE: In order to obtain AQHA approval, an “Application for Approval” form, properly completed, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the AQHA Association at least ninety (90) days prior to the first date of the proposed show or contest. Such blank forms and other information may be obtained from the American Quarter Horse Association, Amarillo, Texas 79168).
- 2.** Applications for show approval must be filed with the Show Coordinator by March 1 of the approval year. Applications can consist of either oral or written intentions to hold said shows. Every show must send a representative to the Show Coordination seminar that is held before the start of the show season, or at the discretion of the WQHA board, the shows may be refused approval. All WQHA approved shows will use the approved computer program and back number system. The WQHA will have a 55-show limit for approvals and will limit and discourage the approval of shows being held on weekdays. No current year shows will be held after the last weekend in October. WQHA approved shows may either obtain insurance thru the WQHA insurance provider, or if they choose to use a different carrier provide the WQHA with a Certificate of Liability Insurance.
- 3.** A show flyer for printing in the Newsletter should be sent to the WQHA Newsletter Coordinator by due date. If not received by then, neither the Newsletter Editor, nor the WQHA can be held responsible if the show information does not reach the exhibitors on time. Show management agrees to pay the Newsletters fee for printing a flyer, payment must accompany flyer. Shows run on consecutive days with identical show programs may submit one flyer only and will be charged for printing just one flyer. This does not apply to the same management running shows on different weekends throughout the year.
- 4.** No show will start later than 15 minutes after published starting time. If the starting time is more than 15 minutes later without a valid reason, as determined by the WQHA Board of Directors, show approval for the following year may be withheld.
- 5.** At a show there is to be no longeing in the designated show area and make up arena during show hours, this includes all breaks. Show management may make changes because of weather.
- 6.** At a show there is to be no ponying of horses in the designated show area or makeup arena during show hours, this includes all breaks.
- 7.** If working hunter classes are offered at a show, a scheduled practice time for working hunters only will be provided. No riders on the flat or longeing will be allowed in the pen during this time. There will be no jumping practice during open practice sessions when the pen is open for riders on the flat and people longeing.
- 8.** If pleasure driving is offered at the show, a scheduled warm-up and practice time will be made available for driving horses only. No riders or longeing will be allowed in the arena or pen during the pleasure driving warm-up.
- 9.** All exhibitors and horses must be clear of arenas and pens before tractors and arena maintenance equipment can proceed with work.
- 10.** There is no required order for halter classes.

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- 11.** All WQHA classes must be judged, laid out and operated in accordance with WQHA requirements. The AQHA approved classes must be run according to the rules set forth in the latest edition of the Show and Contest Rules and Regulations of the American Quarter Horse Association. All classes must be on the published show bill to be recognized for WQHA year end points. All WQHA approved classes are eligible as point classes for yearend WQHA awards, providing they are offered to at least 10 judges. WQHA approved classes include all AQHA approved classes, Small Fry Classes and WQHA All Breed Non-Pro Walk/Trot classes. Other All Breed classes are not WQHA approved classes.
- 12.** Each WQHA approved horse show will submit a fee in the amount of \$1.00 (one dollar) per horse show entry to the WQHA, payable within 15 days of the end of the show. This fee is incorporated into the WQHA yearend awards program.
- 13.** Show results and fees received after the 15 day limit but before the 30 days will result in the forfeiture of show date preference for the following year. Failure to forward show results and fees after 30 days will result in not approving the show in succeeding years, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Shows found in violation of this rule will be granted approval only with the estimated total \$1.00 fee paid in advance by March 1 of the approval year. An estimate will be derived from an average of previous year's charges.
- 14.** Sale dates reserved with the WQHA will require a \$25.00 non-refundable fee, payable to the WQHA and forwarded to the Show Coordinator. A full page ad regarding the sale must be published in the Newsletter in order that the date be reserved by the WQHA. Sale Management agrees to pay the Newsletter fee for the full-page ad. No WQHA approved show will be run to conflict with a sale date reserved in this manner.
- 15.** No more than one show or sale will be approved for one date by the WQHA. WQHA shows and sales approved the previous year will have priority over other shows applying for approval, provided they met all WQHA rules the previous year and meet the current show approval policies of the WQHA.
- 16.** It is suggested that judges be from out of state. It is recommended that judges not be from a neighboring state. It is also required that they judge no more than one Wisconsin show per year. In the event of a show emergency, this rule may be waived to accommodate substitute judges.
- 17.** All shows requesting approval must do so with the Show Coordinator by March 1 of the approval year; shows requested after March 1 of the approval year will be considered for the following year's approval with no exceptions. The show calendar will be prepared for publication in the Spring Newsletter.
- 18.** Hardship Clause: Because in any given situation there might arise extenuating circumstances which might be cause to except one or more of these rules in order to grant approval of a show, the committee reserves the right to do so in cases that do not in any manner conflict with the purposes, policies and intent of the WQHA.
- 19.** Suggestions for show grounds, facilities, and class schedules are supplied in the AQHA Show Manager's Guide. New shows applying for WQHA approval may be subject to inspection of same, prior to final approval. Inspection will be conducted by a person(s) appointed by the WQHA Show Coordination Committee.
- 20.** Halter and Performance Classes are point classes for year-end WQHA awards, providing they are offered to at least 10 judges during the current year at approved shows. At the option of each show and where allowed by AQHA rules performance classes may be offered as Junior and Senior divisions and

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eligible for WQHA year-end awards providing they are offered to at least 10 judges during the current year at approved shows, Note: Combined L2 and L3 classes will result in L3 point allocations in alignment with AQHA rules. Whether showing L2 or L3 the class will count towards the WQHA 10 judge minimum requirement.

21. Year-end awards are to be presented to the high point horse in each WQHA approved performance and halter class with a suitable award to the second (reserve) high point in each WQHA approved class. Any first or second place horse that was not shown to at least 10 judges and earned at least 20 WQHA points in that class during the current year at approved shows will receive a lesser year end award.

21A. At show management's option, any number of classes from the full slate of Amateur performance classes may also be offered as Amateur Select ages 50 and over. Management will combine these classes back to an all-age class should there be fewer than 3 entries in the Amateur Select or Amateur Class. In the event a class offered on the show bill as amateur select and amateur are combined at the show, WQHA points will be awarded to the respective age group. Jumping and Team Penning may only be offered as all-age classes. *If the Select Amateur contestant neglects to designate on the official WQHA Show Entry Form indicating which division they will be competing for WQHA year end all around, the points chair will post points to Amateur or Amateur Select according to the exhibitor's age. These points stand once posted.*

Any of the Amateur Performance AQHA approved classes may also be offered at the show management's discretion in the Amateur Select, Novice Amateur and Rookie divisions. The WQHA suggests shows offer classes in these divisions. In the Amateur Halter events, shows may offer the halter classes as Yearlings, 2 year olds, 3 year olds, Aged, and Performance. In the Amateur Division, halter classes will be offered for Stallions, Mares, and Geldings.

21B. In the event a Youth Activity Performance class offered on the show bill as 13 & under and 14-18 are combined at the show, WQHA points will be awarded to the respective age group.

Any of the Youth Performance AQHA approved classes may also be offered at the show management's discretion in the Novice Youth and Rookie divisions. The WQHA suggests shows offer classes in these divisions. In the Youth Halter events, shows may offer the classes as Yearlings, 2 year olds, 3 year olds, Aged, and Performance. In the Youth Division, halter classes will be offered for Mares, and Geldings. Age group limits in Youth Activity events may be set by the show management. In no case, however, shall any contestant be more than 18 years of age. For horse show purposes, the age of an individual on January 1 of that year shall be maintained throughout the entire year. (Example: A youngster who has a birthday in July and is 18 years of age on January 1, 2017 may show throughout the entire year of 2017 as an 18 year old). Youth classes may be offered as 18 & under, or 13 & under and 14 -18.

22. SMALL FRY 10 and Under: The following listed Small Fry classes are suggested classes.

- a. Small Fry Showmanship
- b. Small Fry Trail
- c. Small Fry Western Pleasure
- d. Small Fry Western Horsemanship
- e. Small Fry Hunter Under Saddle
- f. Small Fry Equitation

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The WQHA suggests shows offer classes in the Small Fry division. Rules of ownership for the Small Fry division are the same as any other youth showing in the AQHA approved youth classes. Small Fry classes are point classes for year-end WQHA awards, providing they are offered to at least 10 judges during the current year at approved shows. Year-end awards are to be presented to the high point horse/rider combination in each WQHA approved Small Fry class with a suitable award to the second (reserve) high point in each WQHA approved class. Any first or second place horse that was not shown to at least 10 judges and earned at least 20 WQHA points in that class during the current year at approved shows will receive a lesser year end award. Riders may also show in AQHA halter or showmanship classes, but not any class in which the canter or lope is required.

22A. The WQHA suggests shows offer WQHA All Breed Non-Pro walk/trot classes. Rules of ownership for walk/trot classes are the same as any other youth or amateur showing in the AQHA approved youth or amateur classes. Non-Pro walk/trot classes are point classes for year-end WQHA awards, providing they are offered to at least 10 judges during the current year at approved shows. Year-end awards are to be presented to the high point horse/rider combination in each WQHA approved walk/trot class with a suitable award to the second (reserve) high point in each WQHA approved class. Any first or second place horse that was not shown to at least 10 judges and earned at least 20 WQHA points in that class during the current year at approved shows will receive a lesser year end award. Non-Pro Walk/Trot riders may also show in all AQHA approved classes.

23. Lead Line ages 7 and under: Riders must control the horse at the walk, and back if asked. Handlers are there for safety, lead line handlers should be 18 years of age or older. Halters should be placed under the bridle, handlers are expected to maintain control of their horses at all times. Riders are not required to own their mount to qualify for participation awards. This is not a WQHA approved class—awards are presented if an individual or group is willing to defray the cost.

24. Entries are submitted per show(s) i.e. single, split combined, or multiple judged. Exhibitors have the option to enter all of their classes for the circuit in advance. Entries are to be made at the show office or in some instances pre-entries via the internet may be offered. All scratches must be made at the show office. Failure to scratch at the show office prior to the start of a class will make the exhibitor liable for the entry fee(s).

25. ELIGIBILITY FOR WQHA POINTS AND AWARDS: In order to be eligible to acquire WQHA points, monies or awards, both the owner(s) and exhibitor must be members in good standing of the Association. All members and exhibitors regardless of residence location are eligible to receive points for the year-end awards. In order for a horse to earn said points, all parties listed as owner on the Certificate of Registration must be members of the WQHA. The points for WQHA shows held after the last weekend in October through December will count toward year-end awards in the following year.

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POINTS WILL BE AWARDED ONLY IN WQHA APPROVED SHOWS.

WQHA points will be awarded in each of the listed classes on the following basis:

# of Horses in Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th
1	1								
2	2	1							
3	3	2	1						
4	4	3	2	1					
5	5	4	3	2	1				
6	6	5	4	3	2	1			
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
9-13	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14-18	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
19-23	11	10	9	8	7	6	3	4	3
24-28	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
29-33	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

One point extra in each place, for each five extra horses. The Grand Champion of each sex division will receive at least one point more than any other horse in its sex division. If necessary, additional points will be added to the points the Grand Champion won in its age class to give it this total. The Reserve Champion of each sex division will receive as many points as any horse in its sex division except the Grand Champion. If necessary, additional points will be added to the points the Reserve Champion won in its age class to give it this total.

YEAR-END AWARDS

Points are to be accumulated from the date of the postmark on the envelope in which the current year's dues are received by the membership chairman, or the date of the receipt issued by the membership chairman or his assistant. The membership chairman shall retain all envelopes for proof of dates. Any membership chairman, or the date of the receipt issued by the membership one making dues payments to someone other than the membership chairman does so at his or her own risk, it is up to exhibitor to ensure memberships have been received and recorded.

Year-end awards are to be presented to the high point horse in each WQHA approved performance and halter class with a suitable award to the second (reserve) high point in each WQHA approved class. Any first or second place horse that was not shown to at least 10 judges and earned at least 20 WQHA points in that class during the current year at approved shows will receive a lesser year end award. ~~Year-end awards are to be presented to the high point horse in each WQHA approved performance and~~

~~All data regarding points earned and shows shown, and the high point and reserve high point horse/exhibitor for each WQHA approved class, will be posted on WQHA's website starting in late June and will be updated after each show, with the final results posted within 3 weeks after the WQHA State Show. Any inaccuracies must be reported to the WQHA points chairperson within 2 weeks after the~~

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final results are posted. The points listing can be found at <https://wqha.com/info-forms/points-totals.php>.

Year-end awards are to be presented to:

- High point youth, novice youth and rookie youth horse/rider combination
- High point amateur, amateur select, novice amateur and rookie amateur horse/rider combination
- High Point All age Awards will be presented to the High Point All age Halter Stallion, High Point All age Halter Mare, and High Point All age Halter Gelding with points earned from the open division halter classes
- All-Around Open Champion award will be awarded to the horse winning the most points in halter classes and at least two performance classes during the year. At least 10 points must be won in each class (halter and each of the two performance classes). All performance classes count excluding the Youth Activity and Amateur Classes. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve All-Around Open Champion winning the second most points and meeting the requirements above with a suitable award.
- A WQHA Champion award will be awarded to each horse earning 200 WQHA points, with at least 50 points earned in halter classes, at least 50 points earned in one AQHA approved performance event, and at least 25 points in another AQHA approved performance event, excluding youth activity, amateur, and novice classes. Points earned in previous years will count toward this award. Only one WQHA 200 Point Champion award will be awarded to each horse. Points will not begin to accumulate until a horse becomes a yearling.
- A year-end All-Around Amateur Champion award will be awarded to the Amateur horse and rider combination winning the most points in at least three amateur classes during the year. At least 10 points must be won in each class. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve All-Around Amateur Champion winning the second most points in at least three amateur classes during the year with a suitable award.
- A year-end All-Around Select Amateur Champion award will be awarded to the Select Amateur rider and horse combination winning the most points in at least three amateur select classes during the year. At least 10 points must be won in each class. Any points won in Amateur classes that do not have a corresponding Select Amateur class listed on the show bill (i.e. halter, hunter classes, ranch classes, reining and so forth) will be added to the Amateur Select rider and horse combination point total. These classes will count towards the three class minimum if at least 10 points are won in the class. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve All-Around Select Amateur Champion winning the second most points and meeting the requirements above with a suitable award. *(If the Select Amateur contestant neglects to designate on the official WQHA Show Entry Form indicating which division they will be competing for WQHA year end all around, the points chair will post points to Amateur or Amateur Select according to the exhibitor's age. These point stand once posted.)*
- A WQHA Champion award will be awarded to each Amateur horse and rider combination earning 200 WQHA points in amateur classes, with at least 50 points earned in halter classes, at least 50 points earned in one AQHA approved performance event, and at least 25 points earned

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in another AQHA approved performance event. These points began to accumulate on January 1, 1989. Only one 200 point champion award will be awarded to each horse/rider combination.

- A year-end All-Around Youth 14-18 Champion award and an All-Around Youth 13 & under Champion award will be given to the Youth rider and horse combinations winning the most points in at least three Youth 14-18 classes or three Youth 13 & Under classes. At least 10 points must be won in each class. Any points won in Youth All Age classes (i.e. halter, hunter classes, ranch classes, reining and so forth) will be added to the respective age group. Youth All Age classes will count towards the three class minimum if at least 10 points are won in each class. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve All-Around Youth 14-18 and the Reserve All-Around Youth 13 & Under winning the second most points and meeting the requirements above with a suitable award.
- A WQHA Champion award will be awarded to each Youth horse and rider combination earning 300 WQHA points in youth classes, with at least 50 points earned in halter classes, at least 50 points earned in one AQHA approved performance event, and at least 25 points earned in another AQHA performance event. Only one 300 point champion award will be awarded to each horse and rider combination. Novice amateur, rookie amateur and novice youth, rookie youth, and Level 1 Horse Non-Pro and All Breed Non-Pro Walk/Trot points do not transfer to their respective 200/300 point awards. Youth points do not transfer to amateur. Small Fry points do not transfer to Youth. Points will be compiled on a one horse—one youth basis in youth activity events, one horse-one amateur/amateur select in amateur events.
- A year-end Novice All-Around Youth Champion award and Novice All-Around Amateur Champion award will be given to the Novice rider and horse combinations winning the most points in at least three Novice and Level 1 Horse Non-Pro classes. At least 10 points must be won in each class. Only classes designated as Novice or Level 1 Horse Non-Pro will count towards the Novice All-Around Champion awards. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve Novice All-Around Youth Champion and the Reserve Novice All-Around Amateur Champion winning the second most points and meeting the requirements above with a suitable award.
- A year-end Rookie All-Around Youth Champion award and Rookie All-Around Amateur Champion award will be given to the Rookie rider and horse combinations winning the most points in at least three Rookie classes. At least 10 points must be won in each class. Only classes designated as Rookie will count towards the Rookie All-Around Champion awards. The WQHA will also recognize the Reserve Rookie All-Around Youth Champion and the Reserve Rookie All-Around Amateur Champion winning the second most points and meeting the requirements above with a suitable award.
- Wisconsin Bred High Point Open, Amateur and Youth Award. To be eligible for this award, the breeder, as listed on the horse's Certificate of Registration, must be located in Wisconsin.
- High Point Wisconsin Bred Horse award will be awarded to the horse earning the most points in open classes during the year. Points earned in Level 1 classes will not be included.
- High Point Wisconsin Bred Amateur award will be awarded to the horse/rider combination earning the most points in Amateur and Select Amateur classes during the year. Points earned in Non-Pro Walk Trot, Rookie, and Level 1 classes will not be included.

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- High Point Wisconsin Bred Youth award will be awarded to the horse/rider combination earning the most points in Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18 and All Age Youth classes during the year. Points earned in Non-Pro Walk Trot, Rookie and Level 1 classes will not be included.

AQHA Recognition

The WQHA will recognize with a suitable award certificate at the Annual Awards Banquet the following horses earning AQHA Recognition: National High Point Stallion, Mare and Gelding in any halter or performance class earning this title in the current year and owned by a member of the WQHA.

Note: It will be the owner's responsibility to notify the Awards chairman if a horse has earned any of these AQHA awards. A copy of the AQHA show record must accompany said notification.

Revised January 19, 2026