Shows & Professional Horsemen Committee Agenda
2012 AQHA Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada

GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Appoint a Task Force prior to the end of Convention to review equipment and use of equipment on showground and prepare guidelines, including enforcement procedures. The task force shall meet and propose such guidelines in phases with a goal of recommending guidelines to the Animal Welfare Commission in April, July and October of 2012. The core task force will include Don Bell, Clark Bradley, Doug Brown, Charlie Cole, Denny Hassett, Stephanie Lynn, Steve Meadows, Sue Sultze, Nancy Swarm and J.D. Yates.

   Members of the Association of Professional Horsemen met and also discussed the need to be more vigilant and involved as it relates to equipment, training techniques, fines and penalties, communication and education, and licensing/certification. The Professional Horsemen's Council ultimately requested that as these additional topics are addressed by the core task force, if further expertise/input is needed to utilize additional members Jack Brizendine, Lynn Palm and/or Kathy Smallwood. These three will not be members of the core task force but included as deemed necessary.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved and modified with addition of Benny Guitron and Boyd Rice to core task force.
   Show Council Update: The Show Council reviewed the minutes of the above task force and recommended approving the minutes of that task force related to equipment. Animal Welfare Commission to review and finalize.
   Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

2. Approve the following proposal to be **effective immediately** upon approval by the Executive Committee and request Executive Committee consideration of this proposal at its meeting on March 12, 2012.

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RULE 450

To be effective immediately, rescind 450(m)(n)(o)(p) as it appears in the *2012* Handbook and replace it with the following verbiage. This reverts back to the 2011 rule allowing a maximum of three horses in junior, three horses in senior and a maximum (total) of four horses in an all-age class. There is no stipulation on the combination of the junior and/or senior horses in an all age class.

Also recommend the Blue Ribbon Task Force consider whether any modifications to rule 450 (m), (n), (o) or (p) should be made in connection with the implantation of the leveling program.

450. PERFORMANCE CLASSES (2011 rule is as follows)

(m) In open competition, an exhibitor may enter one or more horses in a class, but each horse may have only one rider per class. In individual open working events (reining, working cow horse, western riding, barrel racing, pole bending, jumping, working hunter, trail, tie-down roping, dally team roping - heading, dally team roping - heeling, team penning, ranch sorting and cutting) a rider may:

(1) Exhibit three horses in a junior class.

(2) Exhibit three horses in a senior class.

(3) Exhibit a maximum (total) of four horses in an all-age class.

There is no requirement for the number of junior horses and number of senior horses in an all age class. If a junior class and a senior class are combined due to a lack of entries (may only be combined if there are two or less entries in one or both of the junior and senior classes) (see 450 e) that class will become an all-age class. For all AQHA World Championship shows, an open exhibitor may show a maximum of three junior and three senior horses in individual worked classes. Also an amateur or youth exhibitor may show a maximum of three horses in individual worked classes.

(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, youth stakes race, jumping, working hunter, trail, breakaway roping, tie-down roping, dally team roping – heading, dally team roping – heeling, team penning, ranch sorting and cutting) an exhibitor may show three horses regardless of sex (except youth, novice youth and novice amateur where stallions may not be exhibited).

(o) A select exhibitor, in individual working events may show any combination in select and amateur as long as a maximum of three different horses is exhibited and that horse is only shown one time by any

exhibitor in that class. For example, a select exhibitor in individual working events may exhibit all three horses in the amateur, all three horses in the select, two horses in select and one in amateur or one in select and two in amateur. A horse may only be exhibited one time in a class in either select or amateur no matter the exhibitor.

(p) A select exhibitor, in select amateur or amateur classes, may show up to two different horses in group classes (showmanship at halter, western pleasure, western horsemanship, hunter under saddle, hunter hack, hunt seat equitation, equitation over fences and pleasure driving) as long as one horse is shown in the amateur group class and a different horse is shown in the select group class. Should the classes be combined, the select amateur must choose on which horse to compete.

Executive Committee Action: Approved effective date of March 12, 2012

3. Refer to the Blue Ribbon Task Force to modify rule 450(b) – Jumping, team penning, and ranch sorting are all-age classes only. **All green classes will be held as an all-age class.**

Executive Committee Action: Approved.

4. Modify in all green classes existing rules 453A (e)(2), 454A (f)(2), 460A (d)(2), 465A (d)(2) 466 A (d)(2) -

(e) Horses eligible to compete:

but have not won more than 10 points or more than $1,000 **in any equine organization or association,** in these events as of January 1 of the current show year. Points from all divisions will count and are cumulative in determining eligibility. Novice points will not count.

Executive Committee Action: Approved.

SHOW FORMAT & PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE

1 Approve to change rule - Versatility Ranch Horse 478 (g) (2)– **Six or more obstacles may be used. Of the number used, three are mandatory and ten are optional.** Combinations of two or more obstacles are permissible. If three combinations of two obstacles are used, there must be sufficient distance between one of the combinations to allow the horse to perform two gaits. All obstacles must meet the approval of the judge.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

2. Refer to the Show Council to review rule – Show Approval 407 (o) – Organizations which have held at least five consecutive show dates of the same special event for at least two consecutive years can request that the special event class in succeeding years be double judged.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.
Show Council Update: The Show Council appointed a task force to study and make recommendations regarding procedures for handling all AQHA Special Events, especially as it relates to possibly having double-judged special events. Task force to comprise Jan Bruner, Peg Edmondson, Charlie Cole, Larry Little, Rebecca Halvorson and Ken Banks.
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

3. Approve to change Show Approval Rule 407 (o) – Organizations or individuals wishing to stage or sponsor Special Events (i.e. team pennings, cuttings, reinings, etc.) must obtain the approval of AQHA if the results of such events are to be recognized and points are to be awarded to the horses that place sufficiently high in that event. **Affiliates may apply for or designate up to a maximum of two special events by category (i.e. category III and VI) per year**. Approval does not carry over from year to year but must be obtained for each individual event. All rules and regulations pertaining to AQHA shows will be followed in AQHA Special Events, with the exception of the following:
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

4. Approve to change rule - Barrel Racing 457 (c) - Electronic timers are recommended to be used along with two back up watches used by official timers. If electronic timer fails the average time of the watches will be used to indicate the official time.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

5. Approve to change rule - Barrel Racing 457 (g) – **It is recommended that drags will be conducted before the start of a barrel race and after every seven head.** Show management may drag more frequently.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

6. Modify Rule – Equestrians with Disabilities 483 – Add Supported Riders
Walk Jog Western Pleasure-Supported Rider
Walk Trot Trail-Supported Rider

The exhibitor in a ***supported class*** will have the presence of a leader. Leaders will have contact with the horse using a loose lead attached without a chain to a halter in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse. A lead line must be attached to the halter and not to the bridle. Chains may not be used over or under the nose but may be looped through the bottom halter ring. The supported rider may need the support of one or two side walkers. All supported riders must be able to hold reins. Once the class has started, unauthorized assistance from horse leaders, spotters and side walkers will result in penalties. Side walkers may not give verbal commands or extra physical prompting, except in case of emergency.

Judging in the Equestrians with Disabilities Western Pleasure classes follows AQHA rules (465B). Horses are judged following these guidelines, reversing only at the walk and omitting all extended gaits. Horses should be backed in the line-up, not on the rail. Horses should be worked on the rail for the amount of time necessary to evaluate each gait in each direction, being mindful of the stress on the rider and/or leader-side-walkers. If a judge is concerned that, for example, the amount of trotting is difficult for a rider (or side-walkers) but not sufficient to complete judging, the judge could chose to have the horses walk briefly before resuming the trot and completing the judging. The horses in the EWD supported classes are judged doing their jobs as a pleasure horse in spite of the challenges that may be presented due to the type of support or adaptive equipment that is required. Neither the amount of support and type of adaptive equipment nor the unique characteristics of a specific rider's disability should enter into the judging criteria.

Classes may be split at the discretion of Show Management, consistent with other Equestrian with Disabilities Classes.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

7. Refer to Animal Welfare Commission to add to existing Prohibited Conduct Rule 441 (c)(1), (c)(2) –
A. a period of time shall be defined by a person educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques who would perceive the conduct to be inhumane.
B. the object or BIT shall be removed immediately upon determining that it is inhumane.
Executive Committee Action: Referred to core task force referenced in General Subcommittee # 1 then to Animal Welfare Commission.
Show Council Update: Approve a rule recommended by the task force working with the Animal Welfare Commission stating, "at no time shall a horse be bitted up or under restraint from bridle and bit while in the stall"
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

C. the object or BIT shall be removed only by Show Staff and it is recommended that they be accompanied by a witness.
Executive Committee Action: Referred to core task force referenced in General Subcommittee # 1 then to Animal Welfare Commission.
Show Council Update: Modified the task force's recommendation to state, "the bit shall be removed immediately."
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

8. Add to existing Show Manager rule 434 (a) - Any reputable person may act in the capacity of show manager who can furnish proof that he/she is capable through ability or experience. **A show manager must be at least 18 years of age.** A show manager must have a current year individual AQHA membership recorded solely in their name as specified in rule 101.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

9. Add to existing rule 434 (c) (1) - The show manager shall:

(1) be the person in charge of the American Quarter Horse division of the show, but may not serve as show secretary, ring steward **or serve in any other capacity which might interfere with their effectiveness as manager.**
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

10. Approve all recommendations from the Show Managers Task Force with the following changes.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

11. **To clarify rollover times for speed events will be at the discretion of show management.** Speed events will have the option of roll over times in Youth and Amateur classes, including novice classes, run over the same day. Rollover option must be declared with entries at show office and once declared, decision cannot be changed. Should the open division class occur first, the Youth or Amateur would be allowed to rollover their open time to the appropriate Youth or Amateur class.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

WESTERN & TIMED EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Modify classes rule 450 (r) performance classes – No exhibitor 18 years of age or under may be tied, buckled or fastened in the saddle in any manner or by any means during youth or novice youth competition. **In youth, novice youth and open speed events, exhibitors 18 years of age or under may use a rubber band per foot (maximum width of ¼ inch) during competition, but may not be tied, buckled or fastened by any other means during competition.**
   Executive Committee Action: Approved.

2. Modify Team Penning rule 455(a) (10) - A snaffle bit, **curb bit** or hackamore may be used no matter the age of the horse and may be ridden two handed. Delete "~~A curb bit may be used on any age horse, but must be ridden one handed.~~"
   Executive Committee Action: Referred to core task force referenced in General Subcommittee # 1 then to Animal Welfare Commission.
   Show Council Update: Approve a rule recommended by the task force working with the Animal Welfare Commission stating, "in team penning or ranch sorting, allow the use of two hands when riding in a curb bit."
   Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

3. Delete existing Reining rule 451 (r) - ~~While horse is in motion, rider's hands shall be clear of horse and saddle.~~
   Executive Committee Action: Approved.

4. Add to existing Tie-Down Roping rule 469 – Disqualified (0) score inhumane treatment of the animal being worked such as but not limited to rider hitting or kicking the animal.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved.

5. Add to existing rule 452 (n) – Penalties for working cow horse (0) score horse that has evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area (those areas reasonable to believe the injury may have been caused by the rider or equipment.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.
Show Council Update: To underscore the Council's commitment to Animal Welfare, the Show Council recommends that item #5 of the Show & Professional Horsemen Committee's Western & Timed Event Subcommittee report related to rule 452 (n), be modified and rather than having separate references to this rule appearing throughout the rulebook, to make it a general rule for all classes by adding it to rule 441 Prohibited Conduct to read as follows: "A penalty score of (0) or disqualification will result if a horse has evidence of ~~fresh~~ blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area (those areas reasonable to believe the injury may have been caused by the rider or equipment)."
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

6. Modify Tie-Down Roping rule 469 (f) - If calf is not standing when roper reaches calf, the roper must re-throw calf by hand, crossing any three feet, and tie with not less than one complete wrap and a half hitch**. In Select Amateur classes only the Select roper will not be required to re-throw the calf. In Amateur classes a select amateur exhibitor must re-throw the calf.**
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

7. In Western Riding, add Rookie classes as an exception whereby a penalty score of zero results for four or more simple lead changes and/or failures to change leads.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

8. Refer the proposed Stakes pattern to Speed Event Task Force to modify Stake Race rule 459 (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) and (i)-
The start/finish line is 30 feet (9.15 m) wide and marked by two upright markers (cones or pylons) short enough to not interfere with the timer if one is used. Short pylons or cones are recommended. There are two stakes in this event. The stakes shall be 80 feet (24.38 m) apart. The first stake shall be 21 feet (6.4 m) from the start/finish line and the second stake shall be 101 feet (30.78 m) from the start/finish line if arena size permits. The pattern may be shortened depending upon arena size; however the two stakes must always be placed 80 feet (24.38 m) apart, regardless of the distance between the first stake and the start/finish line.

Exhibitor shall cross the start/finish line and run down the right side or left side of the poles to the second pole making either a right- or left-hand turn. Exhibitor shall not cross between the two poles before making the first turn. Exhibitor shall then run to the first pole and make a turn in the opposite direction. Exhibitors must then run back to the second pole and repeat first turn then run straight back down either the left or right side of the poles (opposite side than when first crossing start line and running to second pole) and cross the start/finish line.

(~~(c) The contestant is allowed a running start and may begin his run from either the left or right side of the first pole. Start by crossing the center line between the upright markers, turn around the second pole, cross over the center line again between the markers, then around the first pole and run back across the finish line.~~
~~(d) The start and finish line is 20 feet (6 meters) wide and marked by two upright markers 10 feet (3 meters) on each side of the center line and short enough so as to not interfere with the timer if one is used. Short pylons or cones are recommended. The first and second poles marking the center line are each 40 feet (12 meters) from the start and finish line, making them a total of 80 feet (24 meters) apart.~~
~~(e) Drags will be conducted every seven head. Show management may drag more frequently.~~
~~(f) Failure of a contestant to cross the start and finish line between the markers shall result in no time.~~
~~(g) Failure of contestant to cross over the center line between the markers before turning the second pole and cross back over the center line after turning the second pole, shall result in no time.~~
~~(h) If an upright marker or pole is knocked down, it shall result in no time. If the original course is altered by a rider intentionally grasping a pole, a five second penalty for each pole grasped will be assessed.~~
~~(i) All horses must start from same end of arena.~~
Executive Committee Action: Refer to Show Council.
Show Council Update: Denied. The Show Council believes the current Stake Race pattern has a purpose and is serving that purpose for AQHA and its exhibitors.
Show Council Action approved by Executive Committee.

9. Add new rule – Limit whip length in Barrel Racing and Pole Bending to two feet excluding over and unders which must be attached to the saddle.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

10. Modify existing Western Equipment rule 443 -
(h) In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of the class. A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, a high cantle and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Horses 5-years-old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Horses 6-years-old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Any horse of any age shown in any novice youth or novice amateur class may be shown two handed with a snaffle bit**/hackamore**. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord. A broken strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

11. Add to existing Western Riding rule 453B (f) - Five (5) points
Use of either hand to instill fear or praise;
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

ENGLISH & DRESSAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. For the International Committee to communicate with countries that wish to participate in dressage events and look into the differences in their point systems in order to recognize dressage in other countries and adapt the point conversion table for European events.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved.

2. Form a Task Force and develop an alliance with the Western Dressage Association as well as building the alliance with USDF/USEF.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved with Task force to investigate alliance and appointed from members of English Subcommittee to include: Daniel Patton, David Connors, Lainie DeBoer and an individual from Western Dressage Association and an individual from United States Hunter Jumper Association (TBD)

3. Allow Dressage to be offered as an AQHA Special Event and must be judged by USDF approved judges.
   Executive Committee Action: Refer to Show Council for further investigation.
   Show Council Update: Denied.
   Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

4. Form a Task Force to develop classes for Hunter - green, progressive, open divisions such as but not limited to:
   (a) pony, small and large horse hunter classes
   (b) Handy Hunter classes.

   And also develop classes for Rookie, Intermediate and regular exhibitors such as but not limited to:
   (a) Short Stirrup
   (b) Youth Medal Equitation on the flat and over fences
   (c) Amateur Medal Equitation on the flat and over fences
   Executive Committee Action: Approved Task force from members of English Subcommittee will include: Daniel Patton, David Connors, Lainie DeBoer and an individual from United States Hunter Jumper Association (TBD) and Colleen McQuay.

5. Modify existing rule 447 - Gaits to include Walk, Trot, Canter and Back for all English classes to reflect the same verbiage as NSBA.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved.

WORLD SHOW SUBCOMMITTEE

1. For purposes of substitutions at the World Shows, in addition to deceased horses add **or for a horse with a debilitating injury or illness with a written statements from two veterinarians.**

   Amateur/Amateur Select/Youth exhibitors that qualify in any Amateur/Amateur Select/Youth class may substitute another horse ("substitute horse") for a deceased horse - **or for a horse with a debilitating injury or illness-** as long as the following elements are met:
   - Review of AQHA official records on (dates listed on each divisions guidelines) must reflect that the substitute horse meets applicable Amateur/Amateur Select/Youth ownership requirements; and
   - The Amateur/Amateur Select/Youth exhibitor submits the following documentation for AQHA's receipt on or before (dates listed on each division's guidelines):
   - **For deceased horse:**
     (Use current guidelines)
   - **For debilitated horses:**
     Written statements from two veterinarians stating severity of debilitating injury or illness, and probability (or maybe lack of probability) of short term recovery.

   Executive Committee Action: Approved with stipulation that statements must be from two AAEP approved veterinarians and with clear definition of "debilitating".
   Show Council Update: Recommends a task force be formed to address a definition of "debilitated." Task force to comprise Ken Banks, Charlie Cole, Suzy Jeane, Tommy Hayes, Mike Martin and David McCarroll.
   Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

2. To implement an all-around award for Youth World Show based on similar criteria used for All Around Amateur and Select All Around Amateur.
   Executive Committee Action: Approve to investigate developing an all-around award and possibly offering scholarships to the top 5. Depending on investigation and feasibility, this would become effective at 2013 World Shows.

3. Approve a “participation qualification” for AQHA World Shows including the open division beginning in 2013 using the same method in previous years for Amateur and Select Amateur.
Executive Committee Action: Referred to Blue Ribbon Task Force and Show Council to ensure proper consideration of Leveling.
Show Council Update: Recommended a participation qualification method for the 2013 World Shows. Details to be finalized.
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

4. Approve the World Shows schedules with minor changes from December task force meeting.
Executive Committee Action: Approved Youth and Select World Show schedules and tabled World Show schedule to finalize world show sale options.
Show Council Update: Approved the World Shows schedules with World Show sale added to middle weekend of World Show.
Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

5. Approve proposal to add hunter derby to World Show and organizer to work with staff for scheduling for the 2012 World Show.
Executive Committee Action: Approved.

6. Add Super Select classes for 70 and older select exhibitors at the Adequan Select World Show for 2013. Recognize first through third placing in each class as is currently done for the intermediate division and holding the classes concurrently with the regular classes.
Executive Committee Action: Approved effective at the 2012 Select World Show and with further review and input from Show Council.
Show Council Update: The Show Council reviewed data and discussed this recommendation. Show Council recommends recognizing the top three 70 & older exhibitors within each class at the Select World Show. The Council asked the Amateur Committee to

monitor the growth of the 70 & older age category at the Select World Show and possibly run separate classes if warranted in the future. In addition, the Show Council recommends recognizing the top three exhibitors age 13 & under within each class at the Youth World Show. Both 70 & older and 13 & under to be effective with the 2012 Select and Youth World Shows.

Show Council action approved by Executive Committee.

7. For Amateur and Select World Show weanlings, waive the **ownership** deadline requirements. Should a weanling sell after entry deadline, ownership may change up to 24 hours prior to class.
Executive Committee Action: Approved with clarification that a weanling cannot be shown at both Select and World Show in amateur division if it is subsequently sold. (effective 2012 Amateur and Select World Shows).

HALTER HORSE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Amend Rule 448 (c) (1) to read as follows:
   ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED AGENDA ITEM:
   Change rule 448 – (c) (1) – Eliminate the excessive white rule and allow all registered American Quarter Horses to enter a Performance Halter class.

   MODIFIED BY SHOW & PROFRESSIONAL HORSEMEN TO RECOMMEND:
   "All horses whose registration certificates are marked with a Parrot Mouth notation (see Rule 205(a)), or cryptorchid notation (rule 205(b)) are ineligible to compete in halter classes. All horses whose registration certificates are marked with excessive white notation (rule 205(h)) are ineligible to compete in halter classes with the exception that horses with excessive white notation on their registration certificate are eligible to compete in Performance Halter classes if their papers also contain the notation "gelding" or "spayed mare"."

   Note: Show & Professional Horsemen recommendation was amended at March 12, 2012, Board of Directors Meeting to read as follows: All horses whose registration certificates are marked with a Parrot Mouth notation (see Rule 205(a)), cryptorchid notation (rule 205(b)) or excessive white notation (rule 205(h)) are ineligible to compete in halter classes. However, mares, stallions and geldings whose registration certificates are marked with excessive white notation are eligible to compete in Performance Halter classes.
   Executive Committee Action: Denied due to conflict with existing rule(s) of registration that were not fully discussed at convention.

AWARDS, RECOGNITION & MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Add year-end high point Halter awards to each age and sex division; yearlings, two-year olds, three-year olds, aged stallions, mares and geldings.
   Executive Committee Action: Denied due to costs.

2. Work with the United States Hunter Jumper Association to establish an AQHA Hunter Jumper High Point Regional Championship award similar to the awards program AQHA has with United States Dressage Federation.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved Task force to be appointed from members of English Subcommittee will include: Daniel Patton, David Connors, Lainie DeBoer and an individual from United States Hunter Jumper Association (TBD) and Colleen McQuay.

3. Create a task force to review and update AQHA awards and achievements.
   Executive Committee Action: Approved Awards Task force appointed from Shows & Professional Horsemen Committee to include: Tom Crowley, Carol Whitaker, Chris Darnell and GiGi Bailey. Staff will include: Dustin Brasier, Patti Pratt, Tom Persechino, Charlie Hemphill and Taylor Waddell.