



WCHA

Breeder's Championship Futurity

September 23-24, Springfield, IL

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WCHA BREEDER'S CHAMPIONSHIP FUTURITY RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- **Membership:** All owners, exhibitors and stallion owners must be members in good standing of WCHA for the classes in which entered and paid all required entries for class.
- **Open & Non-pro Weanling Classes Will Be Split into Junior and Senior Divisions:** Splits to be determined by the foaling dates of "fully paid entries". Senior Weanlings are those with foaling dates between January 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016. Junior Weanlings are those with foaling dates of March 1, 2016 and later. Weanlings entered in the color classes will need to be shown again in a separate class so that both Junior and Senior divisions can compete together. The yearling color classes will run concurrent within the corresponding open class.
- **Draws:** Based on foaling dates, youngest horses enter the arena first.
- **No Substitutions, No Refunds.** Horses can be sold at any time and still remain eligible, new owners and exhibitors must hold WCHA membership. Registration papers may be compared to each entry to verify markings. By entering a futurity class, owners are subject to random drug testing with any positive test cause for disqualification and all fees forfeited.
- **Color Classes:** Each entry must present their respective breed association registration to show in a color class.
 - Example: Palomino entry must have corresponding registry with PHBA and dual registered horses must provide 2 sets of papers.
- All horses must be registered with respective breed association. No pending papers will be accepted. Please send copy of registration papers with your final payment.
- **Non-pro Eligibility:** Exhibitor has not shown, sold a horse for a third party, judged, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration, including commissions, nor received compensation for instructing another person in riding, driving, training or showing a horse, for two years previous to application for Non-pro membership. Payment of entry fees and/or expenses by anyone other than the Non-pro, his/her immediate family, or a corporation, partnership or other business entity in which the Non-pro and/or a member of his/her immediate family are the sole and only owner, shall be considered remuneration. A Non-pro cannot be an approved horse show judge for any association or have judged an open, 4-H or breed show for the past 60 months. **By signing the attached form each Non-pro exhibitor declares that they are in full compliance of WCHA Non-pro requirements. Violations will be grounds for forfeiture of all prizes, prize monies and of all fees paid and possible suspension from the association.**

WCHA BREEDER'S CHAMPIONSHIP FUTURITY GUIDELINES

- A judge may not judge his or her parents, children, spouse, and spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or his or her spouse. A judge may not judge anyone that lives in the judge's household or an employee or employer. If a judge cannot exercise an objective opinion free from bias, prejudice or outside influence because of any above or below mentioned relationships, then in the case of multiple judges he/she must remove themselves from the event/class in which the individual(s) presenting the conflict is exhibiting or not use that horse in his placings. Should there only be one judge then the individual presenting the conflict shall not be allowed to exhibit in the competition.
- A Judge may not judge a horse that is owned by or exhibited by anyone from whom he or she has received a salary, commission or any kind of remuneration for selling or buying any horse for that individual, whether or not a horse is concerned in the transaction, has been in the employ, or has represented such individual in any capacity for remuneration, **within three months from the date of the subject show.** Specific examples of disqualification to include, but not limited to:
 - Remuneration for riding; training; exhibiting; schooling, including instructing exhibitor on subject horse; or driving subject horse, etc.
 - Remuneration for ancillary services is not subject to disqualification. Specific examples to include, but not limited to: hauling fees; breeding fees and service charges; veterinary services; insurance fees; Sale Company commissions and related fees paid to the Sale Company, etc.
 - All questions regarding qualification or disqualification should be addressed to the Chairman of the Judging and Education Committee who will research in consultation with the other members of the Committee or Executive Committee as appropriate and provide guidance. All questions should be raised well in advance of the competition event to be judged.
 - Should a conflict not be identified in advance of the competition, the judge should notify the show representative or show management of the non-compliance at the first opportunity and in all cases prior to the class being placed.
 - The exhibitor will be counted as an entry; however, the horse shall not be placed in the class or **in the case of multiple judges not be placed under that judge.**
 - The judge in conflict must report the conflict on his/her card.
 - Show management will notify the Chairman of the Judging and Education Committee of the non-compliance. The Judging and Education Committee will investigate the matter and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee who will review the recommendation and take appropriate actions, including disciplinary action.
 - **All parties involved including, but not limited to, the owner; exhibitor; and judge will be held accountable in the event of non-compliance and subject to appropriate actions as determined by the Executive Committee, including disciplinary action.**

A judge shall not exhibit at any WCHA event in which he or she is the officiating judge or member of the officiating judges' panel without the express approval of the Chairman of the Judging and Education Committee as well as the approval of the Executive Committee. At the approval of the Chairman of the Judging and Education Committee, a judge shall be permitted to substitute for the unplanned absence of another scheduled judge in order to permit the show management to continue with the event.

- Judges must at all times act in the best interest of the WCHA and the welfare of the horse.
- **Cell Phones: Once the competition starts at any WCHA sanctioned event a judge's cell phone must be turned off. During breaks judges are not allowed to call or text without a ring steward present that is fully aware of any text content or phone conversation. It is advised to make family members aware that you will not be available for calls and to give them the number of show management in case of emergency. Any communication with an owner, exhibitor, trainer or other judges via cell phones at any time during the competition, including off time between competitions, is strictly prohibited and all parties involved are subject to disciplinary action that may include loss of judge's credentials.**
- Final interpretation and determination of qualification or disqualification will be up to the sole discretion of the WCHA Breeders' Futurity Committee and the WCHA Executive Committee.

Judging

When judging, every horse in the class should be assessed in alignment to the standard. The single most important duty is to compare each individual based on which is the most balanced and eye appealing, possessing the highest number of positive traits in balance.

Rules and Regulations and Judging Procedure

- It is the responsibility of all WCHA participants to know and abide by all the Rules as published.
- **No coaching from the sidelines, trainers must not sit or stand near the arena railing in a manner that may appear to be assisting, or having influence of any entry within the class, violation of this rule is grounds for disqualification and all fees forfeited.**
- Weanling Classes: Use of a lip chain or lip cord is not allowed
- Yearling Classes:
- Stallions: Use of a lip chain or lip cord is allowed for the WCHA Futurity classes. For the AQHA classes, only the lip cord is allowed.
- Yearling Mares and Geldings: Lip chains & lip cords are allowed for Non-Pro exhibitors only in the WCHA Futurity classes. For the AQHA classes, no lip cord or lip chain is allowed.
 - Only the exhibitor and the horse are to be allowed to enter the alleyway according to the established draw for working order. There will be no trainers, parents or grooms with the exhibitor or horse once the exhibitor breaks the plane of the alleyway.
 - Drug Testing is Permissible and all exhibitors must comply. Failure to comply or failure of a drug test will result in forfeiture of placement, awards and prize monies as well as subject exhibitor, owners and handler

to discipline up to and including suspension or loss of WCHA membership.

- Each exhibitor and horse must complete the prescribed pattern or it can be cause for disqualification. The pattern is as follows: 1.) horses will walk to the judge one at a time, 2.) as the horse approaches, the judge(s) will step to the right (the left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away 3.) at the cone, the horse will continue trotting and turn to the left (while at the trot) and continue in a straight line after the 90 degree turn until reaching the next cone.
 - After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge(s). The judge(s) shall inspect each horse from the sides, front and rear. All mares and stallions will be inspected for parrot mouth or monkey mouth by each judge or an authorized gate inspector. All stallions 2 years of age and older will be inspected to confirm the presence of two testicles. Parrot mouth, monkey mouth and crypt orchids are grounds for disqualification.
- < Incorrect Pattern – all exhibitors in the Open division and Non-Pro division that do not complete the prescribed pattern correctly may be disqualified. Reasonable consideration will be given to Non-pros before making a disqualification decision.
- **Setting Up for Inspection** – All exhibitors in the Open division and Non-Pro division that do not get their conformation horse set up and standing still long enough to allow the judge(s) to look at all 4 sides of the horse shall be disqualified. Reasonable consideration will be given to Non-pros before making a disqualification decision.
 - **Loose Horse** – any exhibitor may continue showing if:
 - at the judge'(s) discretion the situation is safe and prudent
 - loose horse is caught with minimal disruption
 - receiving assistance from only individuals in the ring
 - **Disruptive Horse** – any horse that is disruptive upon determination of the judge(s) may be excused if thought to be a danger to the exhibitor, other exhibitors or other horses. If a horse causes another horse to get loose, the loose horse may continue to show without penalty as long as it is caught without further and lengthy disruption.
 - Obvious Lameness – consistently observable head bobbing at a trot under all circumstances. Upon determination of lameness, that individual shall be disqualified. If a horse is determined to track with an uncharacteristic lameness, that individual shall be disqualified.
 - Judges must line-up horses in order of preliminary final order for a final inspection prior to the final placing of the class. All horses must be called out and placed individually for final placing.
 - The judge(s) must give oral reasons in a least one class, but not limited to just one set of oral reasons, at a WCHA sanctioned event justifying the placings of the class. The decision as to which class and how many classes the judge(s) will give oral reasons on will be at the discretion of the Breeders' Futurity Committee and the WCHA Judging and Education Committee.
 - **Judges will be made aware that the draw in weanling classes is based on foaling dates, youngest horses first.**

Judges Complaints

- All complaints regarding a WCHA judge must be filed within one week (7) days of the infraction or the last day of the show/event in question, whichever date is latest (postmarked or hand delivered)
- All complaints must be in writing and filed with the WCHA accompanied by a money order, cashier's check, or personal check in the amount of \$100 (See requirements for filing in the footnotes below).
- A thorough review and investigation of the complaint will be conducted by the Judging and Education Committee. The Judging and Education Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee who will hold a hearing if appropriate (such hearing can be by teleconference, at the discretion of the Executive Committee), complete a review of the recommendation by the Judging and Education Committee and take appropriate actions. If said judge is found to be in violation of a WCHA rule or that the judge has engaged in conduct which is inconsistent with the privilege and honor of being designated a WCHA judge, disciplinary action shall be effective immediately regardless of any appeal which may be exercised. A judge shall be notified in writing of the action being taken by the WCHA. The decision will be final, and binding. An appeal may be filed in writing with the Chairman of the Judging and Education Committee within two weeks (14 days) of the date of the letter notifying the judge of the disciplinary action.

Judges Grievance

A judge or judges must file a grievance against an exhibitor/owner/member in writing within one week (7 days) after the infraction occurs.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to surface, investigate and address complaints beyond (7) days.

Any grievance against an exhibitor/owner/member must be filed with the Chairman of the WCHA Judging and Education Committee without a filing fee.

A thorough review and investigation of the complaint will be conducted by the Judging and Education Committee. The Judging and Education Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee who will hold a hearing if appropriate (such hearing can be by teleconference, at the discretion of the Executive Committee), complete a review of the recommendation by the Judging and Education Committee and take appropriate actions.

- **Purse Distribution:** The WCHA Breeder's Committee reserves the right to determine what amount of the stallion nomination fees will be allocated to each futurity class depending on money supplemented from sponsorships and the number of entries in each class. A futurity class with less than three horses may be cancelled with all fees refunded. The WCHA Breeder's Committee will have final word on interpretation of the rules and reserves the right to make changes if the need arises.

All decisions made by the WCHA & WCHA Breeder's Futurity Committee will supersede all written rules or procedures.

- *I hereby release WCHA and their respective directors, officers, members, volunteers, employees and lessors of premises from all liability, claims, losses or damages arising from injury, death and/or property damages occurring as a result of participation in the activities, (and participant's family, heirs, agents, representatives). Participant has read this document and other rules of the futurity program, fully understands the terms and by signing hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions set forth.*

Participant's Signature: (Required) _____ Date: _____

- Printed Name and relationship to owner if different than Participant: _____