



IQHA POINT RULES & REGULATIONS

All horses that are eligible through proper registration in AQHA and whose owners and exhibitors are members of IQHA and that are properly entered and shown in AQHA-approved shows that are also approved by IQHA shall be awarded points towards the IQHA Annual Championships in the classes listed below, on the following basis. If a horse's owner is registered with AQHA in a farm name, business name, Corporation, LLC, Trust, Partnership, etc. such title also needs to pay an IQHA membership.

The show season will be considered October 1 - September 30. Points will be calculated for the current year for any shows held during that time period.

State points will be earned on the following scale, this includes AQHA points that are added to the state points (state points plus AQHA points).

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|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 entry | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 entries | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 3 entries | 3.5 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 4 entries | 4.5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| 5 entries | 6 | 4.5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| 6 entries | 7 | 5.5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| 7 entries | 8 | 6.5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 8 entries | 9 | 7.5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| 9 entries | 10 | 8.5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 10-14 entries | 11 | 9 | 7.5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 15-19 entries | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6.5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 20-24 entries | 13 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 5.5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 25-29 entries | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4.5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 30-34 entries | 15 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3.5 | 2 | 1 |
| 35-39 entries | 16 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2.5 | 1 |
| 40-44 entries | 17 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 1.5 |
| 45+ entries | 18 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |

Eligibility:

- Owner(s) & exhibitor(s) of horses shown must be current IQHA members before any points are accumulated toward the IQHA year-end awards.
- For Amateur/Amateur Select/Level 1 Amateur points to count toward IQHA Year End Awards an IQHA Amateur Sponsorship must be paid for the exhibitor, as well as their IQHA membership.
- IQHA lifetime members showing in the amateur division must pay the amateur sponsorship fee annually if intending to show for year-end awards.
- In all divisions the horse must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be eligible for a year-end award in any class. Combined age classes will count as one of 5 minimum required points according to age. Awards are made annually.
- Non-Resident: IQHA shall extend to all non-resident members the same rights and privileges granted Iowa residents including all All-Around and High-Point Horse Awards.

•Memberships: Memberships are accepted at any time during the year, and all memberships expire December 31. Points will be calculated if the membership(s) are current: (example, for a show held in 2023, a 2023 membership is needed; for a show held in 2024 a 2024 membership is needed).

Ownership:

- In the case of a transfer of ownership during the show season from an IQHA member, accumulated points shall be handled as follows:
- OPEN DIVISION: Points in the Open Division are to be counted as long as both owner and rider are current IQHA members. In the event the horse is sold, IQHA points earned prior to sale will continue ONLY if the new owner and all new exhibitors meet IQHA membership requirements.
- AMATEUR/SELECT AMATEUR/LEVEL 1 AMATEUR DIVISION: Points in the Amateur Divisions are to be compiled on a 1 horse/1 amateur exhibitor basis and will count toward any IQHA awards as long as the amateur and ownership requirements are met as outlined by AQHA, and both the owner and rider meet the IQHA membership/sponsorship requirements. In the event the horse is sold, a new start in IQHA points will be made for the new amateur exhibitor, ONLY if the new amateur exhibitor and/or owner meets IQHA membership/sponsorship requirements.
- Purchase: Upon the purchase of a new horse during a show season, IQHA points will not be recorded until AQHA has completed the transfer. The “DATE ISSUED” date noted on a horse’s registration papers is the official date that IQHA (and AQHA) points can be recorded. The date of sale posted on a copy of the transfer (which will be noted as “DATE ACQUIRED” on registration papers) does not qualify as a completed transfer – only “DATE ISSUED” printed on completed registration papers qualifies.
- Transfer: If a horse is transferred during the show season, it is the duty of the IQHA member, whether buyer or seller, to notify the IQHA office that a transfer has been made. Names and addresses of the parties involved and the horse name and registration number should be provided if the horse will be shown at IQHA shows.

Non AQHA Classes:

- IQHA approved classes that are not AQHA classes will have points added as if they earned AQHA points, including the Amateur Walk Trot classes.

Halter:

- Two additional state points will be awarded for each Grand Championship and one additional state point will be awarded for each Reserve Championship, regardless of the number of entries in the class, provided the show secretary forwarded the results and placings of the classes to the IQHA office as required for IQHA show approval. No additional AQHA points will be awarded for Grand & Reserve.

Tie breakers will be determined by:

- First by the individual showing in the largest number of IQHA approved shows
- Second by the most national points earned
- Third by the most wins

IQHA WILL PROVIDE AWARDS FOR THE TOP 4 PLACINGS IN EACH CLASS AS LISTED BELOW:

OPEN HALTER:

- Each age and sex division: Weanling, Yearling, 2 Yr. Old, 3 Yr. Old, Aged and Performance Halter in Mares, Stallions and Geldings must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.

AMATEUR HALTER:

- Each age and sex division: Weanling, Yearling, 2 Yr. Old, 3 Yr. Old, Aged and Performance Halter in Mares, Stallions, and Geldings must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.

OPEN AND AMATEUR PERFORMANCE:

- Awards for any AQHA-approved performance classes and Amateur Walk Trot, providing at least 5 IQHA-approved shows have the class, must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted. If a class is not offered 5 times then 3 judges are required.

- Awards will be presented in the AQHA Level 1 Horse Non-Pro Showmanship, Horsemanship and Equitation, providing at least 5 IQHA-approved shows have the class. Exhibitors must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted. Year-end awards in these Level 1 Horse Non-Pro classes will fall under the open division awards. Amateur exhibitors must have their IQHA amateur sponsorship paid and youth exhibitors must have their IQHYA youth sponsorship paid to be eligible for year-end awards. Level 1 Horse Non-Pro classes will not count toward any IQHA High Point/All Around year-end awards.

THE FOLLOWING ALL AROUND & HIGH POINT AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN ANNUALLY:

- High Point Halter Horse - To include all AQHA-Approved classes. VRH excluded.
- High Point Performance Horse - To include all AQHA-Approved classes. VRH excluded.
- High Point Horse Bred & Foaled in Iowa awarded to the breeder - to include all AQHA-Approved classes. A separate award will be presented for VRH High Point Iowa Bred Horse. Horses must be nominated for this award, see website for nomination form.*
- High Point Level 1 Open Horse (must earn points in 2 or more Level 1 Open classes)
- Open All Around Horse, Reserve Open All Around Horse
- Amateur All Around, Reserve Amateur All Around
- Select Amateur All Around, Reserve Select Amateur All Around
- Level 1 Amateur High Point, Reserve Level Amateur High Point
- Level 1 Amateur Walk-Trot High Point, Reserve Level 1 Amateur Walk-Trot High Point

ALL AROUND & HIGH POINT AWARD CRITERIA:

OPEN ALL AROUND HORSE/RESERVE OPEN ALL AROUND AWARD:

- Owner(s) and Exhibitor(s) must be current IQHA members.
- Must show in Halter and at least two of the AQHA Performance Categories 2-7 (see AQHA handbook rule SHW803.5).
- State points and AQHA national points to count.
- Must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.
- Only the maximum amount of full slate shows (judges) count toward year end all-around/high points. Horses will be awarded their top placings points toward year end all around/high point awards, no matter which show they received their top placings (ie if there are 15 shows/judges with full AQHA classes, only each horse's top 15 shows will count toward the All Around/High Point awards).
- Only AQHA-approved classes to count to Open All Around Award. VRH classes are excluded.

AMATEUR ALL AROUND/RESERVE AMATEUR ALL AROUND AWARD:

- One horse/one rider combination.
- Must show in Halter and at least two of the AQHA Performance categories 2-7 (see AQHA handbook rule SHW803.5).
- State points and AQHA national points to count.
- Must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.
- Only the maximum amount of full slate shows (judges) count toward year end all-around/high points. Exhibitors will be awarded their top placings points toward year end all around/high

point awards, no matter which show they received their top placings (ie if there are 15 shows/ judges with full AQHA classes, only each exhibitor's top 15 shows will count toward the All Around/High Point awards).

- Only AQHA-approved classes count toward the Amateur All Around Award. VRH classes are excluded.
- The same horse/exhibitor combination may only be awarded one All Around Award (Amateur Award or Amateur Select Award), whichever division in which they earned the most points.

AMATEUR SELECT ALL AROUND/RESERVE AMATEUR SELECT ALL AROUND AWARD:

- One horse/one rider combination.
- Must show in Halter and at least two of the AQHA Performance categories 2-7 (see AQHA handbook rule SHW803.5).
- State points and AQHA national points to count.
- Must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.
- Only the maximum amount of full slate shows (judges) count toward year end all-around/high points. Exhibitors will be awarded their top placings points toward year end all around/high point awards, no matter which show they received their top placings (ie if there are 15 shows/ judges with full AQHA classes, only each exhibitor's top 15 shows will count toward the All Around/High Point awards).
- Only AQHA approved classes to count toward the Amateur Select All Around Award. VRH classes are excluded.
- The same horse/exhibitor combination may only be awarded one All Around Award (Amateur Award or Amateur Select Award), whichever division in which they earned the most points

LEVEL 1 AMATEUR HIGH POINT/RESERVE LEVEL 1 AMATEUR HIGH POINT AWARD:

- One horse/one rider combination.
- Must show in a minimum of three of the AQHA Level 1 Amateur classes.
- State points and AQHA national points to count.
- Must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.
- Only the maximum amount of full slate shows (judges) count toward year end all-around/high points. Exhibitors will be awarded their top placings points toward year end all around/high point awards, no matter which show they received their top placings (ie if there are 15 shows/ judges with full AQHA classes, only each exhibitor's top 15 shows will count toward the All Around/High Point awards).
- Only AQHA-approved classes count toward the Level 1 Amateur High Point.

LEVEL 1 AMATEUR WALK TROT HIGH POINT/RESERVE LEVEL 1 AMATEUR WALK TROT HIGH POINT AWARD:

- One horse/one rider combination.
- Must show in a minimum of two of the AQHA Level 1 Amateur Walk Trot classes.
- State points and AQHA national points to count.
- Must show under at least 5 judges throughout the show season to be counted.
- Only AQHA-approved classes count toward the Level 1 Amateur Walk Trot High Point.

VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE & VRH ALL AROUND AWARDS CRITERIA:

- VRH All Around and VRH Reserve All Around Year-End awards will be presented in VRH Open, VRH Amateur, and VRH Amateur Limited divisions.
- VRH All Around and VRH Reserve All Around awards will be determined based on AQHA rules. Iowa points will be assigned on the AQHA VRH All Around placings using the Iowa point basis. Per AQHA Rule SHW555, one horse/rider combination must show in at least one VRH cattle class (either cow work or cutting), at least one non-cattle riding class (ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch reining), and VRH conformation in the same division.

- For VRH All Around and VRH Reserve All Around awards, each horse (Open) or 1 horse/1 rider (Amateur or Limited Amateur) must show to a minimum of 5 judges in each respective division. Ties will be broken by the highest cow work placings.
- For Amateur and Limited Amateur divisions, the 1 horse/ 1 rider combination may only be awarded one VRH All Around OR VRH Reserve All Around division. The award will be given to the division where the most points were earned.
- Year-End individual VRH class awards in all Open, Amateur and Amateur Limited will be presented from 1st to 4th place in the following classes:
- VRH Ranch Riding, VRH Ranch Trail, VRH Ranch Cow Work, VRH Ranch Reining, and VRH Ranch Conformation based on lowa points assigned on lowa point basis and shown in a minimum of 5 judges.
- VRH Ranch Cutting class requirement based on lowa points assigned on lowa point basis and shown in a minimum of 4 judges.

ADDITIONAL RULES/REGULATIONS:

- Beginning with the 2010 show season, to be in compliance with AQHA Rule SHW118.5.4, show management will combine the Amateur and Select Amateur classes into an all-age class when there are less than three (3) entries in Amateur or Select classes.
- Points earned for year-end award purposes will be recorded into the exhibitor's respective age group.
- All placings will be scored according to the total number of entries shown in the combined class.
- In Amateur Walk Trot, exhibitors must be a card-holding Amateur showing a horse that meets AQHA's Amateur ownership requirements in order for their points to count toward year end awards.
- Any AQHA-approved All Level 1 and Introductory Shows also approved by IQHA, state points plus AQHA national points will be awarded.
- For year-end award purposes, L2 and L3 will not be awarded as separate classes, but to only be awarded as one class (example, L2 and L3 Senior Trail are offered at approved shows but year-end awards will only be offered for Senior Trail).
- For year-end award purposes, if an Open class is split into Junior/Senior age divisions for at least 5 judges, awards will be given for both Junior and Senior age divisions. If an Open class is not split by age division for at least 5 judges, the award will be given as an all age Open.

*These point rules are reviewed annually by the IQHA Board of Directors prior to the start of the next show season. In any case that may arise (throughout the current show season) regarding points awarded, their tabulation, or the eligibility of any horse, etc., the ruling of the Board of Directors shall be final.

These rules are subject to change and interpretation by the IQHA Board of Directors.

Revised February 2026 - revisions *indicated in red italics*.