
CHAPTER 22: YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

All AHA program and event deadlines must be met as specified, whether submitted by hand delivery, postal service, fax, e-mail, internet or other electronic means.

YTH 101. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

For membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

1. In addition to a youth newsletter included in *Arabian Horse Life* detailing all upcoming youth events, a member will receive a Membership Card, information on youth programs and activities, and availability of educational material and programs. This membership does not count toward determining AHA Delegates nor does it carry voting rights for AHA.
2. Contact your nearest AHA Member Organization for information on Youth Membership. If your local Member Organization is unknown, write to the Membership Division at AHA.

YTH 102. ARABIAN HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

This contest abides by the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association (NHJTCA) judging contest rules. It is held in conjunction with the U.S. National Championship Horse Show and continues to be one of the most prestigious youth events in the country. Teams will have the chance to evaluate the conformation and quality of some of the finest Arabians. Spectacular awards will be available to all winning participants. Contact the AHA office for program entry forms, Rules and Regulations, and any further information.

YTH 103. HORSE JUDGING & CONTEST JUNIOR DIVISION ELIGIBILITY

Junior divisions to be 4-H and FFA teams or AHA teams.

1. Age. This competition is open to youth who have not passed their 19th birthday prior to **January 1st** of the current year and who have not participated in a collegiate horse judging contest. Junior members can be enrolled in any year of college as long as they have not competed on a college judging team and are eligible in all other ways. Contestants must be bona fide members of a state 4-H or state FFA team or be a member of a team sponsored by an AHA Member Organization.
2. Team Entry. Each state is invited to enter one or two 4-H and one or two FFA teams, and these teams must be recognized by their respective state's 4-H or FFA office. AHA Member Organizations are invited to sponsor and enter one or two teams. Two separate categories will compete in the AHA Junior Division of the contest: (1) AHA Member Organization junior teams, and (2) 4-H and FFA teams. Many states already have state-wide 4-H and FFA judging competitions and select their teams from the winning team or Top Ten individuals. We urge states that do not have state-wide competition for 4-H and FFA to set up such a program for the benefit of their respective organization in order to be able to select their eligible team. A team may be composed of three or four contestants. If four contestants are entered as a team, the three highest scores will constitute that team's total score. Team coaches will verify the eligibility of each contestant as to age, school status, and membership in their respective organization at time of entry.
3. All past high overall individuals in the 4-H/FFA or Junior AHA categories are not eligible to compete in the same category of the Junior Division, but may subsequently compete in another category.
4. All Junior AHA Team contestants must be current members of AHA at the time of the contest.

YTH 104. HORSE JUDGING CONTEST SENIOR DIVISION ELIGIBILITY

Senior division to be collegiate teams and AHA teams combined.

1. Age. This competition is open to both collegiate teams and senior AHA teams. Individuals who are currently enrolled in the college or university they are representing as undergraduate students are eligible. Members in good standing of an AHA Member Organization who have passed their 19th birthday, but whose 23rd birthday was not prior to **January 1st** of the current year, are also eligible to compete. (Res. 5-73)

2. Team Entry. Each college, university, or AHA Member Organization is invited to enter one or two senior teams. A team is to be composed of five contestants. The top four scores constitute that team's total score. Team coaches will verify the eligibility of each contestant as to age and school status, or AHA Member Organization and AHA membership on entry forms.
3. All Senior AHA Team contestants must be current members of AHA at the time of the contest.

YTH 105. HORSE JUDGING CONTEST INELIGIBILITY

A contestant is ineligible to compete who holds an USEF/EC judges card in any division, or is recognized as a judge by any breed association. All past high overall individuals or members of past high overall teams in the Senior Division are not eligible to compete in the contest.

YTH 106. HORSE JUDGING CONTEST GENERAL RULES

1. Entry forms with \$ 100 entry fee must be postmarked/electronic transaction dated no later than **September 22nd** of the current year. Post entry fee, \$125. Team Member Adjustment Fee, \$10.
2. All registered contestants will report to the contest locations promptly at 8:00 a.m.
3. Contestants will be assigned to groups and will remain with their respective groups throughout the contest. During registration, each team must hand in the provided registration card or envelope. The placing cards will be the standard 4-H and FFA judging cards, which list all 24 placings for a class. Detailed instructions will be given on the use of these cards during the registration period.
4. In case of ties, the team or individual having the highest score on combined reasons will be listed first. If the tie still exists, the team or individual having the highest Reasons Score overall will be listed first. Additional tie-breaking classes will be designated by the official judges before scores are tabulated.
5. Official judges will place the classes while the contestants are judging. When all cards have been turned in for tabulation and all oral reasons have been presented by the contestants, the official judges will explain their placings of each class.
6. A judging contest is an examination, and it should be treated as such. Contestants will not be allowed to use or refer to any printed material or electronic devices at any time during the contest. The contestants are allowed to have only blank paper in their notebooks, clipboards, pads, etc. Any violation of this rule may result in immediate disqualification.
7. During the entire judging contest, contestants may not wear pins, badges, lettering, or any article of clothing that will reveal their identity or will identify the state or club that they represent. Matching blazers, articles of clothing, etc., are permissible. No hats will be allowed during this judging contest. Neatness and appropriateness of attire will be taken into consideration.
8. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons; however, their placing card will be returned to them during the time they are giving reasons.
9. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conversation or signals between contestants, or between contestants and other individuals. Failure to abide by this regulation may result in immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant should direct any questions to their group leaders.
10. Classes will be judged according to standards set forth by the current USEF rules for the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Horse. Ten classes will be judged: four Breeding and In-Hand and six performance. Horses will not be handled by contestants. Any class from the USEF Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division may be considered for this contest. In the Breeding and In-Hand classes, all horses are to be judged as sound of limb, mouth, and for breeding. In performance classes, horses are to be judged as they appear (all tack is to be considered legal).
11. Each class will consist of four Arabian or four Half-Arabian Horses. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for judging non-reasons classes and 17 minutes for reasons classes. Contestants will be notified one minute before the time is up. When the final time is called, the contestants will hand their completed scorecard to their group leader immediately. Oral reasons will be required in two Breeding and In-Hand and two performance classes. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons.

12. Members of the top teams in both the Junior 4-H/FFA and Junior AHA categories and members of the top teams in the Senior Division will be awarded ribbons. Various awards, as well as ribbons will be awarded to high teams and high individuals for Breeding and In-Hand judging, performance judging, reasons and overall.
13. The Highest Placing Overall Individual in the 4-H/FFA, the Junior AHA, and the Senior Division will be awarded an appropriate prize, such as a jacket, saddle, or a bronze and a scholarship. (BOD 11/15) The Second Highest Placing Overall Individual in each category will be awarded a ribbon and a scholarship.
14. Each member of the High Overall Team in each category will receive a scholarship. Each member of the second highest team in each division will receive a ribbon.
15. All contestants will have the opportunity to watch the U.S. National Championship Horse Show and visit with the exhibitors. There will be an Awards Breakfast on the morning following the contest. Winners must be present for this and the ceremonies during the afternoon performance of the show that same day.

YTH 107. REGIONAL YOUTH TEAM TOURNAMENT

This program offers youth of each Region the opportunity to compete in shows and rides, develop a feeling of camaraderie, and sportsmanship. Team points are accumulated throughout the year with awards being presented to the high scoring youth team in each Region. Contact the AHA office for program entry forms, Rules and Regulations, and any further information.

1. Entry fee \$10 (US Funds) per team, per section (AHA Recognized or non-AHA Recognized).
2. AHA Recognized Section.
 - a. Points can be accumulated at all USEF recognized/rated classes and Local Competition Member Shows or EC Recognized Show held within the Region.
 - b. Points can be accumulated at all AHA Recognized Competitive and Endurance rides.
 - c. Only AHA Recognized Shows for the Region a team is representing (i.e. shows that qualify for Regional Championships for that Region) will count for points for the Regional Team Tournament (BOD 8/02) No National Shows will be counted. (BOD 8/01)
3. Non-AHA Recognized Section.
 - a. Points can be accumulated at any non-AHA Recognized Show (4-H, schooling, fun shows etc.) held within the Region.
 - b. Points can be accumulated at all non-AHA Recognized Competitive and Endurance rides held within the Region.

YTH 108. ELIGIBILITY

1. Each contestant must be a current AHA youth member in good standing and be a member of a Member Organization in the Region which they represent. Direct AHA members are eligible for their first year of competition only. (BOD 8/03)
2. Each group is invited to enter as many teams as possible by **February 1st** of the current year. (BOD 8/02) (BOD 8/03)
3. Each team is made up of the following:
 - a. Coach. To give assistance to the team and to supply all information needed to the team tournament secretary. It is the coach's responsibility to pre-register the team and assure show results are sent. (Refer to YTH109.)
 - b. Not more than six AHA youth members. (BOD 11/08) Each youth member may hold only one space per team. (BOD 8/04) Note: A team may consist of fewer than six members.

YTH 109. REGIONAL YOUTH TEAM TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Each horse entered must be a registered Arabian, Half-Arabian, or Anglo-Arabian and registration number must accompany team entry.

2. Ownership of horse is not required. Entrants in the equitation/showmanship division need not declare an individual horse. In the event of injury to a horse preventing further competition in the tournament, a substitute may be made if approved by the Regional Youth Team Tournament Secretary and Coach.
3. If a rider becomes ill and is unable to compete in the tournament a substitute can be made if approved by the Tournament Secretary.
4. It is not mandatory that each team compete in each event or that the entire team be present at a show to count points towards the Youth Team Tournament.
5. All teams must be registered with AHA on or before **February 1st** of the calendar show year and their entry fees paid in full. (BOD 8/02)
6. All teams must be registered with AHA between **December 1** of the previous year and May 1 of the tournament year before any points will count. No shows held prior to the registration of the teams will be considered. All points will be tabulated up to **November 30** of the tournament year. (BOD 8/03)
7. All Regional Youth Team Tournament Result forms must meet the deadline of **December 15th**. Any points received after **December 15th** will not be recorded.
8. The team must designate which contestants will be competing in what divisions at time of registration. Each contestant may count points from only two divisions.
9. The following divisions are eligible for the Regional Youth Team Tournament points:
 - a. Halter/Sport Horse In-Hand. (BOD 8/03)
 - b. Showmanship.
 - c. Western Seat Equitation.
 - d. Saddle Seat Equitation.
 - e. Hunter Seat Equitation.
 - f. Dressage Seat Equitation.
 - g. Walk-Trot/Jog Equitation.
 - h. Walk-Trot/Jog Pleasure.
 - i. Western Horsemanship.
 - j. Western Pleasure.
 - k. English Pleasure.
 - l. Country Pleasure.
 - m. Hunter Pleasure.
 - n. Mounted Native Costume.
 - o. Sidesaddle (BOD 8/03)
 - p. Trail or Western Riding.
 - q. Show Hack (English or road).
 - r. Dressage/Western Dressage.
 - s. Sport Horse Under Saddle (BOD 8/03)
 - t. Barrel Racing or Pole Bending.
 - u. Jumper (including Working Hunter, Hunter Hack or Hunter Under Saddle).
 - v. Competitive Trail or Endurance.
 - w. One class from the following: Driving, Reining, one event using cattle, one Gymkhana event other than the above classes.
 - x. Park
10. All six team contestants on the same team may compete in the same class and count points toward the Youth Team Tournament.
11. Each team contestant may compete in unlimited classes per show; however, only the two best classes in the declared division will count for points in the Regional Youth Team Tournament.
12. It is the responsibility of the team coach to send the team's results into the Tournament Secretary within 30 days of the show.
13. The Regional Champion, Reserve Champion, and top six teams will be selected on the basis of points accumulated in shows attended by the team in that tournament year. The highest scoring four shows will be totaled by the Tournament Secretary and used to determine the winner. (Send the results from all shows attended by your team in that calendar year and the highest scoring four will be selected at the end of the tournament)

YTH 110. POINT SYSTEM USED FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH TEAM TOURNAMENT

1. Points will be awarded on the following basis:
 - a. 4 points: 1st place.
 - b. 3 points: 2nd place.
 - c. 2 points: 3rd place.
 - d. 1 point: 4th place.
2. Championship awards received will be on the same basis as above but doubled.
3. Regional Champions from Regional Championship classes recognized by the AHA Board of Directors shall receive the following points:
 - a. 12 points: Champion.
 - b. 10 points: Reserve Champion.
 - c. 8 points: Top Five.
4. Competitive Trail and Endurance Trail Divisions earn 1 point for every 5 miles completed.
5. Competitive Trail and Endurance Trail Divisions points will be awarded on the following basis:
 - a. 25 mile ride
 - 1st = 2 points.
 - 2nd = 1.5 points.
 - 3rd = 1 point.
 - 4th = 5 point.
 - b. 50 mile ride
 - 1st = 4 points.
 - 2nd = 3 points.
 - 3rd = 2 points.
 - 4th = 1 point.
 - c. 75 mile ride
 - 1st = 6 points.
 - 2nd = 4.5 points.
 - 3rd = 3 points.
 - 4th = 1.5 points.
 - d. 100 mile ride
 - 1st = 8 points.
 - 2nd = 6 points.
 - 3rd = 4 points.
 - 4th = 2 points.

YTH 111. SUBMITTING RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL YOUTH TEAM TOURNAMENT

1. A Youth Team Tournament Tally Sheet is to be used for results from each show. This will aid in point calculation and reduce mistakes. The Youth Team Tournament Coach will return the tally sheets to the Regional Youth Team Tournament Secretary. The Regional Youth Team Tournament Secretary will then forward tabulated copies of each tally sheet to the AHA Youth Department after each show for verification of the team's participation.
2. Regional Youth Team Tournament Secretaries must submit the Regional Youth Team Tournament Winners' Report Form for their Regional tournaments to AHA postmarked/electronic transaction dated by **December 15th**. Team rankings and number of total points, plus the names, addresses, and membership numbers of team members must be included.
3. Awards for each Regional high scoring youth team will be provided by AHA.

YTH 112. YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD

To further promote and recognize the AHA youth programs, one (1) outstanding youth, per calendar year, will be selected for his/her achievements and contributions to the Arabian Horse industry, AHA and his/her community.

1. Nominees. All nominees must be current AHA Youth Members in the nomination year.
2. Nomination procedures. The following guidelines have been established for Youth of the Year nominations:

- a. Anyone may nominate an AHA Youth Member for the Youth of the Year Award. Regional Director and/or Director-At-Large for that Region must approve any Youth of the Year nominees. Regions may put forth unlimited nominees. (BOD 8/04)
 - b. A person may be nominated more than once, but may be selected for the award only once.
 - c. Nominations will be submitted to, and a winner will be selected by, the AHA Youth of the Year Award Committee, a Sub-Committee, consisting of five members from the Youth Activities Committee, who will serve for a term of two years.
 - d. All nomination applications must be accompanied by a current 3" x 5" photo of the nominee, which includes only the head and shoulders.
 - e. Only activities which occur in the nomination year will be considered for the award.
3. Nomination Deadline. Nominations must be submitted to the AHA office, postmarked/electronic transaction dated on or before **September 1st** of the nomination year. (BOD 8/04)
 4. Awards. Recipients of the Youth of the Year Award may be featured on the cover of an issue of *Arabian Horse Life* the following year of their nominations. In addition, winners will receive recognition at the annual Youth National Championship Show and be presented with a perpetual trophy at the AHA Annual Convention. (BOD 8/04)
 5. All information will be subject to publication by *Arabian Horse Life* and all applications and supporting materials will become the property of AHA and cannot be returned.
 6. Official nomination forms are available from AHA.