

## **TENNESSEE QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION YEAR END AWARD GUIDELINES**

### ***What year end awards will be given?***

There are three divisions of classes at a TQHA approved horse show: the open division, the amateur division, and the youth division. Year end awards will be given for each class in these divisions that is held at least ten times during the award year including the novice and select classes. The award year runs from October 1 through September 30.

### ***What is the difference in the divisions of classes?***

In the open division, the owner may choose who exhibits his or her horse. In the amateur and youth divisions, the horse must be owned by a member of the amateur or youth exhibitor's immediate family or officially leased (as stated in the AQHA Handbook). Only amateurs (age 19 or older as of January 1) may compete in the amateur division, and only youth (18 and under as of January 1) may compete in the youth division.

The amateur and youth divisions offer both novice classes (qualified exhibitors as defined by AQHA) and regular classes. The amateur division also offers Select classes in which only amateurs who are 50 years old or older may compete. Youth classes may be divided into age 13 and under classes and age 14 through 18 classes.

### ***How do I become eligible for a year end award?***

To qualify for year end awards a Competition Card must be purchased for the current show year for each horse in the open and each horse/exhibitor combination in the youth and amateur divisions. Enrollment in a division category (Open, Novice Amateur, Amateur/Amateur Select, Youth, or Novice Youth) qualifies the horse or horse/exhibitor team for all year end awards in that category. Beginning in 2011 AQHA rules allowed for an amateur exhibitor to show two different horses in the same class, i.e. one in amateur western pleasure and one in amateur select western pleasure at the same show. Note that the competition card is part of the membership form.

Please note that beginning with the TQHA 2012 show year (October 2011) amateurs will only need to nominate for the Amateur category which will cover amateur and amateur select classes. However, an amateur select exhibitor may not win both the amateur and amateur select award for the same class with the same horse. They must choose between which award they want and the other award will go to the next eligible exhibitor.

A copy of the horse's registration papers must accompany the application. Competition cards may either be purchased at any TQHA approved show or by mailing an application to the TQHA secretary.

The horse owner must be a member of TQHA either through an individual or a family membership.

The youth or amateur exhibitor named on the Competition Card must also be a member of the TQHA Youth Association (TQHYA) or the TQHA Amateur Association (TAQHA).

A horse or horse/exhibitor combination must show and place five (5) times in a class to be eligible for the year end award in that class.

### ***How are the points calculated?***

If all of the necessary membership and registration paperwork is in order, points will be calculated beginning with the show at which the Competition Card application is received. If the application is sent through the mail, points will begin with the next show after the application's postmark date. Points earned before the Competition Card was purchased will not be counted.

Points will only be given to horses or horse/exhibitor combinations that place on the judge's card (through 9<sup>th</sup> place). Horses that place in a class will receive 1 point for each horse beaten up to a maximum of 45 horses plus 1 point for entering the class. No points are to be awarded to a disqualified horse/contestant regardless of the number in the class. Example #1: There are 20 entries in a class and you place 4<sup>th</sup>. You receive 17 points (one for each of the 16 horses you beat plus one for entering the class). Example #2: There are 5 entries in a class and the judge only places three. If you did not place, you receive no points, even though you entered the class.

Points will be cumulative. The horse or horse/exhibitor combination with the highest number of points in a class will be the year end high point champion in that class. The horse or horse/exhibitor combination with the second highest number of points in the class will be the year end reserve high point champion. In the event of point ties: The horse accumulating the greatest number of first place wins will prevail. If first place wins do not break the tie, second place wins, and then third place wins, etc., until the tie is broken.

Points earned toward the year end award for a class will *only* be counted for those horses or horse/exhibitor combinations who show and place five (5) times in that class.

### ***What is the All-Around Award?***

Year end All-Around and Reserve All-Around awards will be given to the horse in the open division, and the amateur and youth with any one horse in their respective division categories, earning the most points in halter and performances classes as calculated below.

1. Horses that place in a class receive a maximum of 9 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 8 points for 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc. toward their all-around. Example: You are in second place in Western Pleasure, earning 150 points for the year; you will receive 8 points toward the all-around award. You are in 1<sup>st</sup> place in Mares 3&over, however there are only 5 exhibitors competing. You will receive 5 points toward your all-around award.

2. To be eligible for the year-end all-around award, class points must be earned in halter and in two performance categories as listed in the AQHA.

3. No points are to be awarded to a disqualified horse/contestant regardless of the number in the class.

4. If a tie occurs, the horse or horse/contestant combination will be declared the All-Around high point who:

1. earned points in the greatest number of events
2. won over the greatest number of horses
3. earned the most points in performance events

Year end All-Around awards will be given in the following divisions: Novice Youth, Youth 13 and Under, Youth 14 - 18, Novice Amateur, Amateur Select, Amateur, Open Junior Horse, and Open Senior Horse. Halter is not a required class for novice all-around awards (must have 3 categories). Halter is a required class for the Amateur Select All-Around beginning in 2012 (must have 3 categories).

***Are there any special rules or exceptions I need to be aware of?***

If a horse has earned stallion halter points and is then gelded, the stallion halter points will not be added to any halter points the horse may earn as a gelding.

Walk/Trot classes will be held at some TQHA approved shows. Walk/Trot exhibitors may not enter any other class that requires a lope or canter. Walk/Trot exhibitors may wear either Western or English attire and must ride a registered Quarter horse. The horse does not have to be owned by the exhibitor or exhibitor's family.

Weekday youth classes held from September 1 – May 23 will not count for TQHA points with the exception of Saturday shows which start at 4:00 pm or later on Friday.

If a Youth 13 and Under class and Youth 14 -18 class are combined into one class, competitors who place will still receive points as if they had shown in either the 13 and Under or the 14 - 18 class based on the total number of entries.

Exhibitors in Novice classes may also compete in the corresponding regular classes. Example: An exhibitor in Novice Amateur Showmanship may also show in Amateur Showmanship (or, if the exhibitor is over age 50, in Amateur Showmanship 50 and Over).

Exhibitors in amateur select classes are not eligible to compete in the corresponding all-age amateur classes with the same horse. Example: An exhibitor in Amateur Select Showmanship cannot also compete in Amateur Showmanship with the same horse in the same show. An amateur exhibitor who is aged 50 or older does not have to compete in an amateur select class, but may choose between the all-age amateur class and the amateur select class.

Amateurs who have nominated in both Amateur and Amateur Select categories should notify the point secretary how they want their points counted when classes are combined. Example: Amateur HUS and Amateur Select HUS are combined into a All Age Amateur HUS class. The point secretary should be informed at nomination time which category your points will go to.

Every person competing in an amateur class must possess a current AQHA amateur membership.

Every person competing in a youth class must possess a current AQHA youth membership.

Every person competing in any novice class must possess a current AQHA amateur or AQHA youth membership card and meet eligibility requirements for each class.

If a horse has accumulated points and dies or becomes permanently injured, the owner may appeal to the Board of Directors to have that horse's points toward year-end awards transferred to a new horse. A vet certificate should accompany the request.

Since points in the Open Division accumulate on the horse and not on a horse-rider team, if a horse is sold, the horse's Open points towards year-end awards will transfer with the horse. However, only the current owner at the time the award is presented will receive an award.

Disputes over points will be settled by the TQHA Board of Directors and their decision will be final.

Beginning with 2006 awards, points will transfer in the situations listed below to account for the two calendar year periods.

\*A junior division horse (10/1 – 12/31) that moves into the senior division in January.

\*A 13&U youth exhibitor (10/1 – 12/31) that moves into the 14-18 category in January.

\*Halter horses moving into the next year age group (10/1 – 12/31).

Novice exhibitor points will not transfer into the corresponding youth or amateur category.

Two year old western pleasure points will not transfer into junior western pleasure.

***How can I know how many points I have earned throughout the year?***

Points will be posted at all TQHA approved shows, plus they will be posted on TQHA's website within a month after each show ([www.TQHA.org](http://www.TQHA.org)). Any questions concerning points should be directed to the Point Secretary.

**TENNESSEE QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION POINT SECRETARY:**

***Doug Adams – Point Secretary***

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