

RULES OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE YOUTH WORLD CUP

July 6 – 13, 2008

The American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup is an educational, leadership-based event where youth from every country have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned during the week by competing in a variety of classes. Youth members from across the world compete in each of 10 classes over a four-day period. The culmination of the event is a showcasing of skills learned in an atmosphere of friendly competition. It is a unique opportunity for youth to learn in a "hands-on" setting with other international youth.

RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Competitors must be 18 or under as of January 1, 2008. For show purposes, the age of an individual on January 1 of the current year shall be maintained throughout the year. Competitors must be members in good standing of the American Quarter Horse Youth Association at the time of the event.
2. A team will consist of five members and one team manager or coach. The team manager/coach must assume responsibility as chaperone for their team and will be housed with the team.
3. Each country shall govern its system for team qualification; however youth must qualify over a two-year time period.
4. Competitors from the host country may not ride a horse he or she has previously ridden.

HORSE SELECTION

5. Competitors will use horses they have never ridden. Horses will be grouped according to their ability in the events to be held. The groups of horses, along with their show record information will be assembled by the Youth World Cup Oversight Committee. This is to ensure each team is provided with horses of equivalent caliber.
6. Each team will draw a group of horses on the day before practice begins. Then each team will have three days to practice prior to the first show. There will be no riding on Sunday followed by clinics on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday and shows on Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday.
7. Each horse must be shown in at least one class excluding cutting and reining horses. At the discretion of show management and based on number of horses available, limits may be established as to how many times a horse may be exhibited.

8. No adult or professional trainer may ride the horses at any time during the duration of the event or the practice period before the shows.
9. In circumstances where a horse in a group may become lame or unable to be used, another horse may be substituted for the team. Substitute horses will be chosen by the Youth World Cup Advisory Committee made up of representatives from each country.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. The competition will consist of two "shows." An exhibitor riding a horse in the first show is not required to compete on the same horse in the second show.
11. The following classes will be held over two days:

SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER
WESTERN PLEASURE
WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP
HUNTER UNDER SADDLE
HUNT SEAT EQUITATION
WESTERN RIDING
TRAIL

REINING will be conducted on a separate day
CUTTING will be conducted on a separate day

Order of days to be determined by show management.

12. Three* members from each team may compete in Showmanship, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship.
13. Two* members from each team may compete in Western Riding, Trail, Reining and Cutting and Versatility.
14. Combined scores from the two shows will determine the final team standing.

*Number of team members will vary according to number of teams.

JUDGING OF THE EVENT

15. One judge per show will be used. The two judges' combined scores will determine the overall placings.
16. In instances where class procedures vary between countries, the pattern or procedure used for the class will be at the judge's discretion.

17. A tiebreaker judge will be drawn before the first show for each class. The procedure used to break ties for team standings will be as follows:
 - A) the team with the most first place wins;
 - B) the team with the most second place wins; and, finally;
 - C) if the first two procedures do not break the tie, both teams will be declared tied for first place.

EQUIPMENT RULE

18. Rules regarding legal equipment and attire will be as outlined in the 2008 AQHA Official Handbook. Any exceptions to rulebook must be approved by the Youth World Cup Advisory Committee and show management.

AQHA RESPONSIBILITIES

20. The 2008 International Youth World Cup shall be managed by the staff of the American Quarter Horse Association along with the host country. Any protests or grievances shall be filed with the persons above, then taken to the Youth World Cup Oversight Committee and their decision shall be final.
21. Competitors, owners, coaches and all other participants must agree to accept the facility and grounds, including, but not limited to, the arena, stalls and alleyway, where the event is to be conducted on an "as is" basis. They must agree to be solely responsible for property damage or personal injury caused by third parties or themselves, to the competitors, owners, coaches and their property. They must further agree to indemnify and hold the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) harmless for any and all such liability, whenever and however arising, not caused by AQHA's own negligence or that of AQHA agents, representatives or employees.
22. The host country will secure two approved judges for the event.

FEES FOR COMPETITION

23. The fee for a competing team of five youth plus one manager or coach is \$6,000. Each country is required to submit a deposit of \$2,000 prior to August 1, 2007 to secure rooms. An additional deposit of \$1,500 is required prior to March 31, 2008. Balance of the fee is due upon arrival. Refunds may be given up to 30 days before the event. No refunds will be made thereafter. Non-competing individuals may do so at a cost of \$1,000 per person if registered and pay a deposit of \$350 prior to June 1, 2008. These fees will cover the cost of housing, food and transportation while on site for the event.

CONDUCT GOVERNING COMPETITORS

24. Any participant whose action or behavior is found by the management of the event to constitute misconduct shall be automatically suspended from further participation in the event and forfeit all awards earned.
25. Misconduct means that conduct unbecoming to the dignity of AQHYA and the International Youth World Cup or conduct in contradiction of the objectives and purposes of AQHYA as set forth in Article 1, Section 2(d) of its Constitution: "...to encourage high moral character, sportsmanship and clean living among all its members."

CLASS RULES FOR SHOWMANSHIP, HORSEMANSHIP, EQUITATION, WESTERN RIDING, TRAIL, CUTTING, AND REINING WILL BE AS OUTLINED IN THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES SECTION OF THE 2008 AQHA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK.

CLASS RULES FOR WESTERN PLEASURE AND HUNTER UNDER SADDLE WILL BE AS OUTLINED IN THE NOVICE YOUTH SECTION OF THE 2008 AQHA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK.

(Text courtesy of AQHA)