

# 2023 APHA Youth World Championship Horse Judging Contest Rules & Guidelines

Contest Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023

## Judging Team Eligibility

A. 4-H, FFA, AYA, AjPHA and other interested youth groups may participate.

1. All contestants in the youth division must be at least 18 or under as of January 1 of the current year.

B. All contestants must be members of AjPHA.

C. All contestants are required to wear Western attire (long sleeve shirt and jeans or slacks—blazer or tie is optional) during the contest. No hats, caps or identifying clothing are allowed.

D. Entry fees will be \$40 per individual. Entries must be postmarked or received online by June 1st. Any entries received after June 1st will incur a \$5 late fee per contestant.

E. Teams that consist of four members will have their lowest score dropped. Team consisting of three members will have all scores counted. Every contestant will compete for individual awards.

F. Contestants may not have participated in an official, post-secondary Horse Judging contest, nor have been in training in preparation for a post-secondary Horse Judging contest.

## Classes to be Judged

A. Classes will be judged in accordance with the current year APHA Rulebook.

B. Eight to twelve classes will be judged, including two to six halter and four to six performance classes.

C. Halter classes will be separated by age group. Depending on the availability of horses, similar age groups may be combined into a single class (i.e. 2 and 3 year old mares).

D. Performance classes will be selected from the following: Trail, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Western Riding, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Hack, Reining, Ranch Riding, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Rail Pleasure, and Ranch Trail.

## Coaches' Meeting & Roster Changes

A. A coaches' meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23rd in the Watt Arena Stands. Coaches should plan to pick up their team packet and submit team rosters at this time.

B. Coaches missing the meeting may pick up their packets between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. the day of the contest at the announcer's stand in the Watt Arena.

C. **All changes to team rosters must be made by 7:00 a.m. the day of the contest.**

## Contest Procedures

A. Timing and conduct of classes will be conducted under the guidelines of the National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association.

B. All horses will be considered sound of mouth, wind, and limb in halter and judged as they go in performance. All tack and attire will be considered legal.

C. Each class will consist of four horses. Handlers/riders will be identified with numbered vests.

D. While the contest is in progress, there will be no talking between contestants or anyone else except as directed by the contest officials. No pagers, cell phones or other forms of communication will be allowed on any contestant. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

E. Coaches will not have contact with their contestants at any time during the judging and reason session. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

F. Placing scantrons will be provided. Contestants must provide their own **No. 2 pencil only**. Contestants may use clipboards, notebooks, plain paper, official APHA/NRHA score sheets, the 2023 APHA Rulebook so long as these items are clean and free of marks. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

G. A group leader will be placed in charge of each group of contestants. Contestants are responsible for turning in their cards to the group leader when time is called. Late cards will not be accepted.

## **Reasons**

- A. Contestants will give two sets of halter reasons and two sets of performance reason except for the Youth 13 & Under division. The Youth 13 & Under will only give two sets of reasons.
- B. Performance reasons may be chosen from any of the classes listed above.
- C. Contestants will have two minutes to give their reasons to the official. Oral reasons are expected to indicate the contestant's justification for their placement of the class.
- D. Contestants will not be permitted to use notes while giving reasons.

## **Scoring**

- A. Fifty points shall constitute a perfect score in placing the animals and fifty points shall constitute a perfect score for oral reasons.
- B. Teams are to consist of four members with the lowest score being dropped.
- C. Placing cards must be completed in full for a score to be tabulated. Cards that are blank, illegible, or marked with more than one placing will receive a zero score.
- D. All tabulated results of the contest will be considered official, and no change will be made unless an error is made in entering a score or placing by contest officials. Errors made by contestants will not be corrected once the placing card has been delivered to a contest official, including a group leader.
- E. Ties will be broken as follows:

### **Scoring and tie-breakers for overall placings (non-reasons scores):**

- 1. Highest total score overall wins, if there is a tie then,
- 2. Highest total reasons score breaks the tie, if there is still a tie then,
- 3. Lower placings in reasons class(es) wins (the rationale is that the contestant with the lower placings in the reasons class(es) had to "talk" harder to get the same reasons scores and tie above, so they likely did a better job of reasons justification)

### **Scoring and tie-breakers for a reasons score:**

- 1. Highest total Score in the reasons class(es) wins, if there is a tie then,
- 2. Lower placings in reasons class(es) (see rationale above) wins, if there is still a tie then,
- 3. Highest total overall score wins

### **Scoring and tie-breakers within a species/category:**

- 1. Highest total score within the species/category wins, if there is a tie then,
- 2. Highest total reasons score within the species/category wins, if there is still a tie then,
- 3. Highest total reasons score overall wins, if there is still a tie then,
- 4. Highest total score overall wins

## **Awards**

- A. The awards ceremony will be held at the conclusion of the contest.
- B. Gist trophy buckles will be presented to the first-place team members.
- C. Awards will be presented to the top 10 individuals and top 5 teams in each division and category (halter, performance, reasons, overall).