

AWARDS PROGRAM. – EFFECTIVE 1/1/2024

1. The NCQHA monitors the AQHA Rule Book to align its program with current AQHA award practices.
2. The NCQHA Points Secretary is responsible for maintaining up to date and accurate records of points earned by eligible horses and/exhibitors and owners as official show results are received from each approved show.
3. The NCQHA awards double points to exhibitors who participate in the Tarheel Spring Classic, Tarheel Summer Classic, and the Tarheel Fall Classic. NCQHA does not recognize double points accumulated at NCQHA approved horse shows for year-end awards. (Double Points suspended for 2024 for review in 2025).
4. NCQHA approves 5 Circuits in the calendar year. The Martinganza, TarHeel Summer Classic, Little River, Endless Summer, and the TarHeel Fall Classic. To qualify for any Year End Award, horses must be shown in 3 of the 5 circuits. 1 circuit **must** be either the TarHeel Summer Classic or the TarHeel Fall classic, show to 14 judges, and accumulate a minimum of 20 NCQHA points. This is for 2024 and will be reevaluated for 2025.
 - a. The two (2) qualified horses/exhibitors earning the greatest number of points will be named NCQHA Champion and Reserve Champion for the year.
 - b. Small Fry Awards and Equestrians with Disabilities Awards are exempt from this rule. (See Sections 8, 9 and 10).
 - c. **The cattle classes, you must show in 60% of shows offered with a minimum of 10 points.**
5. All-Around Awards. The American Quarter Horse is the world's most versatile breed of horse because of their abilities to excel in many different events. The NCQHA All-Around Award is presented to two horses in the open division, amateurs in the amateur division, and select amateurs in select amateur classes, or youth in the youth division.
 - a. All-around winners:
 - i. earned a minimum of twelve (12) halter points, and a minimum of fifteen (15) points in each of three AQHA performance categories, and
 - ii. earned the most points within the pool of qualified exhibitors.
 - b. Only Select classes count for earning a Select All-around award. Should the Select class be combined with the amateur all-age class, points earned by the exhibitor will count toward their Select all-around eligibility.
 - i. If a Select exhibitor participates in halter, ranch riding, team penning, ranch sorting or jumping, those classes will count toward Select All-around eligibility even though they are not offered as a Select class.
 - c. Youth all-around awards are recognized in two age groups: youth 14-18 years, and youth 13 years and under.
 - d. In the case of a tie, the horse in the open, amateur, or youth divisions or amateur select classes which:
 - i. earned points in the greatest number of classes,
 - ii. won over the greatest number of horses,
 - iii. earned the most points in performance classes, will be declared the all-around winner.
6. Individual High Point Class Awards. Presented to two horses in the open division, amateur and amateur select exhibitors, youth exhibitors: ages 14-18 years, and 13 years and under; Level 1 amateur and youth exhibitors, Rookie amateur and youth exhibitors. Awards are given for each halter and performance class offered at NCQHA sponsored or approved shows.
 - a. The points from each class of qualifying exhibitors are tallied. The two qualified horses/exhibitors with the most NCQHA points in each class will receive the award.
 - b. In the case of a tie, the horse in the open, amateur, or youth divisions or amateur select classes which:
 - i. earned points in the greatest number of classes,
 - ii. won over the greatest number of horses,
 - iii. earned the most points in performance classes, will be declared the High Point Class winner.

7. Level 1 and Rookie High Point Awards. Presented to the two qualified Level 1 amateur and youth, and two qualified Rookie amateur and youth exhibitors who earned the greatest number of points.
 - a. Exhibitors must compete in a minimum of three different classes.
8. Small Fry Awards. To be considered for a Small Fry Year End Award, exhibitors must have shown in a minimum of 7 NCQHA sponsored or approved shows and accumulate a minimum of 30 points.

Small Fry High Point Class Award. Presented to the two qualified exhibitors earning the highest number of points in small fry classes at NCQHA sponsored and approved shows.

Small Fry Champion. Awarded to the qualified exhibitor who earns the greatest number of points in all small fry classes.

- a. A Small Fry is a youth exhibitor 10 years old or younger.
 - b. Small Fry exhibitors cannot show in loping classes.
 - c. In the case of a tie, the exhibitor which:
 - i. earned points in the greatest number of classes,
 - ii. won over the greatest number of horses,
 - iii. earned the most points in performance classes, will be declared the winner.
9. Equestrians with Disabilities (EWD). To be considered for an EWD Year End Award, horses must be shown in a minimum of 7 NCQHA sponsored or approved shows and accumulate a minimum of 30 points.

EWD High Point Class Award. Presented to the two qualified exhibitors earning the highest number of points in EWD classes at NCQHA sponsored and approved shows.

EWD Champion. Awarded to the qualified exhibitor who earns the greatest number of points in all EWD classes.

In the case of a tie, the horse which:

- i. earned points in the greatest number of classes,
 - ii. won over the greatest number of horses,
 - iii. earned the most points in performance classes, will be declared the winner.
10. Other Awards.
- a. Most Valuable Professional Horseman of the Year. Awarded by the NCQHA based on affiliate nominations. Must be an AQHA professional horseman and a verified member in good standing of NCQHA.
 - b. Becky Poe Award. Awarded to any member of the association who demonstrates selflessness and continued commitment to the furtherance of the ideals of the North Carolina Quarter Horse Association. Any member can nominate another member for the award. Recognition for the award is provided by the nominating member and is awarded at the annual banquet.
 - c. Sportsmanship Award. Annual award selected by members present at the General Membership meeting.
 - d. NCQHA Golden Groom Award. Selected by members present at the General Membership Meeting.