CHAPTER 17: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FUTURITY & MATURITY PROGRAM

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.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Each participant at an AHA Regional and National Championship Show, Ride or Event must submit a valid AHA Competition Card, join AHA (Membership with Competition Card). Proof of membership with Competition Card must accompany Show/Competition results when the member joins at the show. (BOD 8/04) (Refer to MEM 105 and 107)

2. Single Event Membership is not acceptable at Regional or National Shows, Rides or events.

PERF 101. INTRODUCTION


PERF 102. GENERAL RULES

1. Showing in any of these Futurity or Maturity AAOTR classes does not prohibit a horse from being entered in any other U. S. National class for which it is qualified, with the exception of:
   a. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo Arabian Western Pleasure Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Western Pleasure class,
   b. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Hunter Pleasure Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Hunter Pleasure class,
   c. Five Year old Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian English Pleasure Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open English Pleasure class (Six Year old horses may cross into the “Open” provided they are qualified for the open class). (BOD 3/12)
   d. Arabian Reining Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Reining class. (Reining Derby participants in the Futurity or Maturity program may compete in the corresponding Open Reining class) (BOD 3/16)
   e. Five Year old Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Country English Pleasure Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Country English Pleasure class (Six Year old horses may cross into the “Open” provided they are qualified for the open class). (BOD 3/12)
   f. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Working Cow Horse Futurity into the corresponding Open Working Cow Horse class. (BOD 11/07)
   g. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Trail Futurity into the corresponding Open Trail class. (BOD 3/09)

2. National qualifications are not required for entry into these Futurity or Maturity AAOTR classes and no National or Regional qualifications may be earned by participating in these Futurity or Maturity AAOTR classes.

3. These classes are to be considered National Championship Performance Futurity or Performance Maturity AAOTR Classes.

4. The U. S. National Show Commission will be responsible for:
   a. Dividing classes
   b. Class entry fees
   c. Close of entry date
   d. Scheduling classes

5. Half-Arabs must have DNA type of the horse and horse’s purebred Arabian parent placed on permanent record with the AHA Registry and the horse has been shown to qualify as an offspring of the stated purebred sire or purebred dam through DNA type testing in order to compete in the Performance Futurity/Maturity classes at U.S. Nationals. DNA testing will be at the owner’s expense and must be on file with the AHA office before the horse will be eligible to compete in the Futurity/Maturity classes. If the DNA is not on file at that time, the horse is ineligible to be shown and all nomination fees will be forfeited. (BOD 3/15)

6. The Reining Derby classes will fall under the rules outlined in this chapter for the Futurity and/or Maturity AAOTR program, unless otherwise stated. (BOD 3/16)

PERF 103. EXAMINATION OF ENTRIES AND VERIFICATION OF IDENTITIES

1. By enrolling a horse in the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR, the owner grants AHA the right to have the nominated horse examined or inspected for any purpose, including but not limited to the purpose of verifying its identity, by AHA officials, staff, or any other person that AHA requests to make such examination or inspection.

2. In the event that doubt should arise regarding the identity of any horse nominated in the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR, AHA shall make every effort to verify that horse’s identity, including but not limited to DNA or other testing. AHA shall have the right to withhold any Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR prize money which would otherwise be due and payable pending the outcome of an investigation to verify a horse’s identity. In the event the horse’s identity cannot be satisfactorily verified, no further prize money shall be paid to the party whose name appears on the nomination form.

3. AHA will advise the recorded owner in writing of any proposal to cancel the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR nomination application of a horse and the reasons supporting this proposal.

PERF 104. LIMIT OF LIABILITY

1. The AHA, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and members of the Futurity Commission will attempt to obtain true and complete information in connection with registration of horses, transfers, and all other matters relating to AHA and Futurity Commission activities. Neither the AHA, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents nor members of the Futurity Commission shall be liable in any way, whether in damages or otherwise, in connection with nomination into the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR, transfer of nomination, refusal of nomination or transfer, cancellation of nomination, the operation or administration of the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR, or for any other activities engaged in by, or on behalf of, the AHA or Futurity Commission in connection with the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR.

2. Participants in the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR agree that damages for any successful claim against AHA and Futurity Commission which is based upon the way a class is run, the judging thereof, the scheduling, the placing of the participants, or the interpretation of the applicable rules shall be limited to liquidated damages in the amount of the nomination and entry fees.

3. If, not withstanding the release signed by a participant in the program and the above provision of the program rules, any liability to a participant should arise on the part of AHA or Futurity Commission, such liability shall be limited as liquidated damages, to an amount equal to the nomination fees paid by the participant.

PERF 105. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO RULES

1. In the event that any dispute or issue should arise regarding the implementation of the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR program which cannot be resolved solely by reference to these rules or which requires that they be interpreted, the dispute or issue shall be resolved by decision of the Futurity Commission, upon a written petition submitted by an interested party to the Futurity Commission. The petition should not be submitted to a Commissioner(s), as all cases are reviewed on an anonymous basis. All decisions by the Futurity Commission on disputes or issues raised under the provisions of this section shall be consistent with the purpose of the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR Rules and shall be final. Written
notice of the decision of the Futurity Commission stating the basis for the
decision shall be sent to the Petitioning party.

2. The Futurity Commission may amend these rules from time to time as it
deems necessary with the approval of the AHA Board of Directors.

3. **Recovery of Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR Prize Money**
   **Wrongfully Received:** If, in accordance with applicable protest or
disciplinary procedures of AHA, USEF, or EC, a determination by any of
these entities establishes, expressly or implicitly, that a person or horse was
not qualified to participate in the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR
program and prize money was received, all such money shall be refunded to
AHA within 60 days after a written demand is made by AHA. In the event that
AHA is required to refer any such matter for collection to an attorney or
collection agency, or to institute legal proceedings, AHA shall, in addition to
the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR prize money wrongfully
received, be entitled to recover from the person receiving said money interest
at the rate of 12% per annum compounded annually from the date the money
was received, as well as all costs of collection, including reasonable
attorney’s fees and collection agency fees.

**PERF 106. ELIGIBILITY**

1. Horses must be registered with AHA, CAHR, or CPAR and possess a
current Certificate of Registration.

2. Horses must be owned by a member of AHA. To nominate or re-nominate
horses to the Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR program, only one of
the owners shown on the current registration papers must be a member of
AHA in good standing. See MEM 105 for Competition membership
requirements.

3. For purposes of these Rules, a horse’s age shall be determined by the USEF
age standards.

4. AHA shall not be responsible for any disputes arising through change of
ownership.

5. It is the responsibility of the owner to verify that their horse is properly enrolled
(including the payment of all applicable fees) in the Performance Futurity/Maturity Program in order to compete in the designated Performance Futurity/Maturity classes at U.S. Nationals.

**PERF 107. NOMINATION**

1. Nominations are required for all participants. A class must be designated at the
time of original nomination. Nominations without a class indicated will not
be processed. **Nomination must be submitted by the close of entries for U.S. Nationals.** Nomination in an identified class will serve as the qualification for that class. A request to change classes postmarked/electronic transaction dated after August 1 and prior to the original close of U.S. National entries will be allowed with a written request and a $100 change fee. (BOD 11/05) A request to change classes after the original close of U.S. Entries will be allowed with a written request and a $250 change fee, until the first day the show office opens which is the final entry
closing (BOD 3/15) The class change fees will be retained by AHA for administrative fees. (BOD 11/12)

2. There is a $300-$40 one-time processing fee per class to be included with the first payment. (BOD 1/09, BOD 3/17)

3. Nominations must be made on the official nomination form. All nominations
must be made prior to the close of entries for U.S. Nationals. Nominations will
be entered under the current recorded owner of the horse.

4. A Nomination fee of $600-$700 per class (Western Pleasure Futurity/Maturity, English Pleasure Futurity/Maturity, Hunter Pleasure Futurity/Maturity, Country English Pleasure Maturity, Working Cow Horse Futurity, Trail Horse Futurity) may be paid in full, (BOD 201) (BOD 3/17) postmarked/electronic transaction dated to AHA prior to June 1, OR

The Nomination fee per class may be paid as follows:

- **1st Payment due June 1:** $200-$300
- After June 1, add late fee of $25
- **2nd Payment due July 1:** $200
- After July 1, add late fee of $50

3rd Payment due August 1 $200
After August 1, add late fee of $75

A Nomination fee of $1,000 per class (Reining Horse Futurity/Maturity/Derby, Cutting Horse Futurity/Maturity) may be paid in full, postmarked/electronic transaction dated to AHA prior to June 1, OR

The Nomination fee per class may be paid as follows (BOD 11/09):

- **1st Payment due June 1:** $400
- After June 1, add late fee of $25
- **2nd Payment due July 1:** $300
- After July 1, add late fee of $50
- **3rd Payment due August 1:** $300
- After August 1, add late fee of $75

5. Nominations must be made prior to the original close of entries for U.S. Nationals, entries postmarked/electronic transaction dated after the original close of U.S. Entries must pay the maximum nomination fee of $630 ($600 nomination, $30 office fee) plus an additional $900 late fee per performance class ($750 to be included in the prize money pot for that particular class and $150 to go toward AHA administrative costs). Nominations for the Reining and/or Cutting Horse Class must pay the maximum nomination of $1,030 ($1,000 nomination, $30 office fee) plus an additional $1,150 late fee per Reining and/or Cutting Horse Class (with $1,000 to be included in the prize money pot for that particular class and $150 to go toward AHA administrative costs) (BOD 11/09). Nominations are allowed with the additional $750 late fee or the additional $1,000 late fee for the Reining and/or Cutting Horse Class up until the Post Entry Close date or the actual day the show office opens which ever is later and any additional U.S. National class fees (including late fees) must be paid. (BOD 11/08), (BOD 1/09), (BOD 8/12)

6. Nomination fee does not include show entry fees, post entry fees, drug fees,
stall fees, etc. Nomination into the Performance Futurity/Maturity Program does not constitute entry into the U.S. National Show. A separate U.S. National Show Entry form must be submitted with the appropriate entry fees prior to the close of entries in order for the horse to be shown in the specified Performance Futurity/Maturity Class.

7. Substitution of horses is prohibited.

8. All nomination payments are final and non-refundable. Any portion of a
nomination payment not postmarked/electronic transaction dated by the due
dates above will cause that entry to be considered a late entry.

9. Transfers may be made to the consecutive year for horses which are injured, provided that a written request and veterinarian statement is received within 40 days prior to the first day of the show from the recorded owner. This transfer can only be applied to the same horse with a transfer fee of $100. Only the Performance Futurity/Maturity fees will transfer from one year to the next. A new official class entry form with applicable fees will be required the following year. (BOD 11/10)

10. Nominations for Performance Futurities/Maturities may be transferred upon
sale of a nominated horse. The AHA Show Secretary must receive the notice
of sale and request for transfer in writing before the horse is shown. Refer to
AHA Handbook for transfer fees. For Performance Maturities AAOTR, the
transfer must be completed in the appropriate registry and the Adult Amateur
Owner must be listed as the recorded owner on the Certificate of Registration
before the nomination can be transferred. (BOD 8/02)

11. There will be no refund of nomination fee, any portion of a nomination fee or processing fee.

**PERF 108. TACK AND APPOINTMENTS**

1. Martingales, tie-downs, running rings, tongue ties and/or any illegal artificial
devices used with the bit are prohibited in all classes except in the Arabian and Half-Arabian English Pleasure Futurity classes, where a running
martingale is optional. (See the current USEF Rule Book.)

2. Horses must be shown in same type of hackamore, snaffle or bridle
throughout the class, i.e. from section through finals.

3. For Hunter Pleasure classes, a standard Snaffle Bit is defined as a center
jointed, single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8” to 3/4”
diameter metal, as measured 1” from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2” to 4” outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap is used, it must be attached below the reins (Maturity class specifications may differ from Futurity requirements, refer to PERF 110 and USEF Rule Book). (BOD 11/12)

4. For bit requirements in Western Pleasure, Reining, Working Cow Horse and Trail classes refer to the USEF Arabian Rules for Junior Horse Classes in their respective divisions (Maturity class specifications may differ from Futurity requirements, refer to PERF 110 and USEF Rule Book). (BOD 11/12) Refer to PERF 110.6.6 for bit requirements for Cutting.

5. For English Pleasure classes, all aspects of PERF 108.3 apply except that half-cheeks are optional.

6. Hackamores (bosals) shall be round in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible rawhide or leather core. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a hackamore, i.e., steel, metal or chains. (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable; mechanical or rope hackamores are prohibited.) See USEF Rule Book.

7. For Cutting horses, entries are to be shown under the class specifications set forth in the current NCHA Rule Book (see exceptions in PERF 110.8). (BOD 11/13)

PERF 109. JUDGING

1. All Performance Futurity or Maturity AAOTR classes herein shall be judged utilizing the same judging system as employed by the National Championship Show with a Top Ten, Champion and Reserve Champion being named. (Refer to PERF 111 for prize money payout) The rules and specifications set forth in the current USEF Rule Book will be utilized unless otherwise specified and noted hereinafter. Note: Tack appointment requirements may deviate from specific USEF rulings, but will be so specified herein. Tack and appointments will be checked by the USEF Steward in all classes. All rules not covered herein will be subject to the prevailing rules set forth by the current USEF Rule Book.

2. All Reining Horses will be video recorded. Video recording may be used by the judge(s) to review if a major penalty (a penalty which results in a no score, a zero (0), or a five (5) point penalty) is unclear. A) The video recording must be provided by an "Official Show Videographer," and the judge must have reason to believe all horses have been video recorded; B) Whether or not to review the video recording is the sole discretion of the judge(s) and the decision of the judge(s) in this regard is non-protestable; C) The judge’s decision to review the video recorded performance must be made prior to announcing the official results of the class; D) If a judge decides to review any video recorded performance in a class, the official results of the class must be delayed until after the review and a decision has been made. (Refer to NRHA Rule Book for complete use of video review)

PERF 110. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Western Pleasure Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Western Pleasure Junior Horse. Entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to PERF 108.4, 108.6).
   b. Entries must be three years old and must never have been shown in a bridle. Bridle is defined as any bit that has a shank.

2. Country English Pleasure Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open) (BOB 8/10)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Country English Pleasure Junior Horse except entries must be shown in a single snaffle (Refer to PERF 108.6); cavessons are required. A running martingale is optional.
   b. Entries must be three years old and must never have been shown in a bridle. Bridle is defined as any bit that has a shank.

3. English Pleasure Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for English Pleasure Junior Horse except entries must be shown in a single snaffle (Refer to PERF 108.6); cavessons are required. A running martingale is optional.
   b. Entries must be three years old and must never have been shown in a bridle. Bridle is defined as any bit that has a shank.

4. Hunter Pleasure Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse except entries must be shown in a single snaffle (Refer to PERF 108.3); cavessons are required.
   b. Entries must be three years old and must never have been shown in a bridle. Bridle is defined as any bit that has a shank.

5. Reining Horse Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open)
   a. Entries to be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for reining, except entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to PERF 108.4, 108.6).
   b. Entries must be five years old and under (BOD 8/07)
   c. All entries will compete in two go-rounds. The final results to be based on an accumulative score from both go-rounds. Order of go for both go-rounds will be drawn.

6. Working Cow Horse Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open) (BOD 11/07)
   a. Entries to be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Working Cow Horse. Entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to PERF 108.4, 108.6).
   b. Entries must be five years old and under.
   c. All entries will compete in two go-rounds. The final results to be based on an accumulative score from both go-rounds. Order of go for both go-rounds will be drawn. (BOD 5/08)

7. Trail Horse Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open)
   a. Entries to be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Trail. Entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to PERF 108.4, 108.6).
   b. Entries must be five years old and under.
   c. All entries will compete in two go-rounds. The final results to be based on an accumulative score from both go-rounds. Order of go for both go-rounds will be drawn. (BOD 3/16)

d. Arabians and Half-Arabians/Anglo-Arabians are combined into one class. (BOD 3/16)

8. Cutting Horse Futurity (Arabian Open and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open) (BOD 11/13)
   a. Entries to be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the NCHA Rule Book with the below exception.
   b. Horses must be shown in a snaffle or hackamore and may be shown one or two-handed, with no penalties for reining or second hand on the reins. (Refer to PERF 108.1, 2.4, 4 and 6). (BOD 3/16)
   c. Entries must be five years old and under.

9. Western Pleasure Maturity AAOTR (Arabian AAOTR and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian AAOTR)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Western Pleasure Junior Horse.
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Country English Pleasure Junior Horse.

11. English Pleasure Maturity AAOTR (Arabian AAOTR and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian AAOTR)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for English Pleasure Junior Horse.

12. Hunter Pleasure Maturity AAOTR (Arabian AAOTR and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian AAOTR)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse.

13. Reining Horse Maturity AAOTR (Arabian AAOTR)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Reining.
   b. Six-year-olds must be shown in a bridle, i.e. bit. Five-year-olds must be shown in a snaffle or hackamore per current USEF Rule Book. Cross entries in the Reining Horse Futurity are not allowed.
   c. All entries in the Arabian Maturity AAOTR will compete in one go-round.

   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the NCHA Rule Book.
   b. Entries must be six or seven years old. (BOD 3/14)

15. Reining Horse Derby (Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Open) (BOD 3/16)
   a. Entries will be shown and judged under the Open class specifications set forth in the Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Reining.
   b. Horse must be shown in a bridle.
   c. All entries in the Derby will compete in two go-rounds, the Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Ten will be determined by the total of the composite scores from each go-round.

**PERF 111. PRIZE MONEY**

All nomination fees and the $750 and $1,000 late fees will go in to the prize money for that class. (BOD 12/15) (BOD 8/12) Nomination fees not designated will be distributed by percentage of the number of horses shown in each class in which the horse was eligible to be entered (example: Arabian funds to Arabians and Maturity funds to Maturity classes). (BOD 8/12) Prize money will be paid thus:

- Champion 25% of prize money for that class
- Reserve Champion 15% of total prize money for that class
- Remaining Top Ten 7.5% of total prize money for that class

If fewer than nineteen horses are in the class, 50% of the class, rounded up, will be eligible for Performance Futurity/Maturity prize money.

Any remaining Top Ten money will be divided equally between all Top Ten placings. For disqualifications at Nationals, refer to COMP 1002. For ties in Working Western disciplines, see USEF Arabian Division, Working Western Section, General Scoring. (BOD 8/12)

**PERF 112. PRIZE MONEY PAY-OUT PROCEDURES**

1. Prize money will be paid only to the party who is listed as the recorded owner of the horse at the time of the show. Checks for prize money shall be mailed within 60 days after completion of the competition.