

## **Fact Sheet-Novice Championship Show**

**Locations** : Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro , Tennessee  
South Point Hotel Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Date**: Novice Championship Show Weekend: October 5-7, 2012

**Qualifying**: To qualify for the Novice championship shows, competitors will go through a national or state qualifying system. Qualifying for the Novice Championship show is tied to the horse/rider combination.

**Two national invitation opportunities** exist for competitors: A top-10 placing at an AQHA Regional Championship Show in a novice class; or by showing to 20 AQHA judges throughout the qualifying year. For this latter option, competitors may show to judges around the nation – there is no regional preference or requirement. Introductory shows count as qualifying shows.

If a member chooses to qualify more than one horse, each horse must be shown to 20 judges.

The regional championship qualifying rule requires that the horse/rider show in novice classes. However, to assist exhibitors for the 2012 Novice Championships only, an exhibitor may show in either novice classes or the open youth or amateur classes when earning the 20 judge qualification. In future years, the national qualification will require exhibitors to show in the Novice Classes. This special consideration is being done for 2012 only.

The national qualifying period for the Novice championship shows is May 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

If a competitor nationally qualifies for one of the Novice Championship Shows, their invitation to the event will not be for a specific class. As long as one of the two national qualifying options has been accomplished, *an exhibitor will be able to enter any Novice Championship class for which they are still a novice.* If a competitor earns the required number of points and graduates out of a specific Novice class in 2011, the competitor will still be eligible to compete in that class at a 2012 Novice Championship Show. However, in subsequent years, the exhibitor

will only be able to participate in the Novice Championship in classes he or she remains eligible for during the qualifying year.

There also is no restriction on which Novice Championship Show an exhibitor may attend. If a competitor residing in the East wishes to attend the AQHA Western Novice Championship Show, he or she may do so. The same goes for competitors residing in the West who would like to compete at the Eastern Novice championship. ***However, a competitor may only compete at one Novice championship show per year.***

The AQHA Affiliate Council has helped to coordinate with the state and provincial affiliates to determine the method of state qualifying. Methods of state qualifying will vary by affiliate – if a competitor is interested in state qualifying for a 2012 Novice championship show, he or she should contact their state or provincial affiliate. At the end of the qualifying period, each affiliate will submit their list of qualifiers to AQHA. As with nationally qualifying, if an exhibitor qualifies through the state method in any single class, he or she may enter any class at the Novice Championships.

### **Classes Offered in Novice Amateur and Novice Youth**

- Halter (Mares & Geldings): Yearlings, 2 Year Olds, 3 Year Olds, Aged
- Performance Halter Mares and Geldings
- Showmanship
- Horsemanship
- Hunt Seat Equitation
- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Trail
- Western Riding
- Reining
- Barrel Racing
- Pole Bending
- Stake Race

Refer to the 2012 Novice Championship page at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com) for the most up to date information.