

## Exhibit A:

### Structure of the AQHA Horse of the Year Program [HOTY]

The criteria for selecting the AQHA/NHSRA Horse of the Year at the state/provincial level and at the NHSFR and NJHFR will be based on the following criteria:

- NHSRA members can now nominate their registered AQHA horses for their chance to win year-end awards and checks. Must be an AQHYA member. NHSRA member does not have to be the owner of the AQHA registered horse.
  - i. Not an AQHYA member yet? Join here: <https://www.aqha.com/become-an-aqhya-member>
- Nominate your horse(s) on your NHSRA membership profile
- Must nominate before **April 1<sup>st</sup> of the competition year** to be eligible
  - i. AQHA will be responsible for checking entries on the Junior High and High School Division to confirm entrants are current members and horses are registered with AQHA
  - ii. AQHA will notify NHSRA of any error within a contestant nomination
    - NHSRA will notify the contestant of errors within nomination
  - iii. The member is then required to fix the error on or before **April 15<sup>th</sup>** (or by the first Junior High state/provincial finals, at the discretion of the NHSRA)
- **Horses must be nominated in the membership system by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and if needed have any information corrected by April 15<sup>th</sup>. At NJHFR/ NHSFR contestant check-in – contestant will declare which horse they will be riding for the event(s) qualified for.**
- Eligible horses and the contestant must nominate as a horse/contestant combination in the events they intend on competing prior to the nomination deadline. The awards are based solely on the horse/contestant combination.
- Only points earned by the contestant who nominated the horse and whose nomination has been approved by the AQHA will count towards determining the AQHA/NHSRA Horse of the Year award.
- The point system used for the selection of the AQHA/NHSRA Horse of the Year at all levels will be determined by the AQHA and NHSRA.
  - i. The nominated horse/contestant combination (earning) the most points in two or more events.
  - ii. If there is a tie following the conclusion of (i) the tie will be broken by the nominated horse/contestant combination earning the most points in a single event.
  - iii. If there is a tie following the calculation of (ii), the nominated horse/contestant combination earning the most points in the single event with the largest number of entrants will break the tie.
  - iv. **If needed, additional tiebreakers will be determined by AQHA and NHSRA.**

#### Implementation:

The HOTY program on the state/provincial level will be held during each state/provincial finals. Any NHSRA Member who has nominated by April 1<sup>st</sup> and has fixed any errors by April 15<sup>th</sup> will be eligible to compete in the HOTY program at the state/provincial finals.