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**CHAPTER 20: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE  
FUTURITY & MATURITY PROGRAM**

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All AHA program and event deadlines must be met as specified, whether submitted by postal service, fax, e-mail, internet or other electronic means.

**MEMBERSHIP**

For membership requirements refer to Chapter 7.

**ARTICLE 2001. INTRODUCTION.**

The Performance Futurity program is for 3-year-old Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian performance horses and 5 year old and under Reining Horses. The Performance Maturity AAOTR Program is for 4 or 5-year-old Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian performance horses and 5 or 6-year-old Arabian Reining Horses. (BOD 8/02)

**ARTICLE 2002. 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. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian English Pleasure Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open English Pleasure class and
  - d. Arabian Reining Futurity or Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Reining class.
  - e. Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Country English Pleasure Maturity AAOTR into the corresponding Open Country English Pleasure class.
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

**ARTICLE 2003. 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 blood typing or 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.

**ARTICLE 2004. 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/or 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, notwithstanding 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.

**ARTICLE 2005. 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.

**ARTICLE 2006. 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.
3. For purposes of these Rules, a horse's age shall be determined by the USEF age standards.

**ARTICLE 2007. 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)
2. There is a \$15 one-time processing fee per class to be included with the first payment.
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 per class may be paid in full, (BOD 2/01) postmarked/electronic transaction dated to AHA prior to June 1, OR  
The Nomination fee per class may be paid as follows:
 

1 <sup>st</sup> Payment due June 1	\$200
After June 1, add late fee of	\$25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment due July 1	\$200
After July 1, add late fee of	\$50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment due August 1	\$200
After August 1, add late fee of	\$75
5. Horses nominated after August 1 and on or before close of entries for U. S. Nationals must pay a total nomination fee of \$750.00 per performance class. (BOD 2/01) Nominations are not accepted after the close of entries for U.S. Nationals. (BOD 1/03)
6. Nomination fee does not include show entry fees, post entry fees, drug fees, stall fees, etc. Nomination into the Performance Futurity 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 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. Nominations for Performance Futurities 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)
10. There will be no refund of nomination fee, any portion of a nomination fee or processing fee.

#### **ARTICLE 2008. 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 Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, and Reining 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.
4. For English Pleasure classes, all aspects of Article 2008.3. apply except that half-cheeks are optional.
5. 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.

#### **ARTICLE 2009. 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 (50% of the class), Champion and Reserve Champion being named. 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 videotaped. Videotape may be used by the judge(s) to review pattern faults only. A) The videotape must be provided by an "Official Show Videographer," and the judge must have reason to believe all horses have been videotaped; B) Whether or not to review the videotape is the sole discretion of the judge(s) and the decision of the judge(s) in this regard is non-protatable; C) The judge's decision to review the videotaped performance must be made prior to announcing the official results of the class; D) If a judge decides to review any videotaped performance in a class, the official results of the class must be delayed until after the review and a decision has been made.

#### **ARTICLE 2010. 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 Division of the USEF Rule Book for Western Pleasure Junior Horse. Entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to Articles 2008.3., 2008.5.).
  - 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. 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 Division of the USEF Rule Book for English Pleasure Junior Horse except entries must be shown in a single snaffle (Refer to Article 2008.4.); 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. 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 Division of the USEF Rule Book for Hunter Pleasure Junior Horse except entries must be shown in a single snaffle (Refer to Article 2008.3.); 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.
4. 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 division of the USEF Rule Book for reining, except entries must be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (Refer to Articles 2008.3., 2008.5.).
  - b. Entries must be five years old and under and must never have been shown in a bridle. Bridle is defined as any bit that has a shank.

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

**ARTICLE 2011. PRIZE MONEY.**

All nomination fees will go in to the prize money for that class minus the cost of the trophies, ribbons, plaques and awards. (BOD 8/02)  
Nomination fees not designated will be distributed by percentage of the number of horses shown in each class. 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

Any remaining Top Ten money will be divided equally between all Top Ten placings.

**ARTICLE 2012. 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 on the current Certificate of Registration. Checks for prize money shall be mailed within 60 days after completion of the show.
2. The Social Security Number or Federal Taxpayer Identification Number must be on file with AHA before prize money is released. If this information is not on file or is not provided within 120 days after notification, all prize money will be forfeited. If transfer or prize money requirements are not fulfilled by June 30 of the calendar year following the year in which the prize money is won, the prize money shall be forfeited. Foreign residents winning prize money at an event held in the United States will be subject to income tax of 30% per Internal Revenue Service regulations. This amount will be withheld from total winnings. To obtain more information on this matter, contact the Internal Revenue Service as the Arabian Horse Association is not able to render advice on matters of taxation. In addition, if a prize money check is issued and not presented for payment by June 30 of the year following the year in which the prize money was won, the prize money shall be forfeited. All forfeited prize money will be divided equally between the Performance Futurity classes and added to the prize money for the following Futurity or Maturity AAOTR year.