

November 20th, 2011

Mr Jamie Simpson President OQHA
OQHA Board of Directors

Re: Request to amend Trophy Rule for 2012

As per my previous correspondence of September 2011, I respectfully request our board to revisit the trophy rules for the upcoming 2012 show season.

While I am sure that the rule change in 2011 that relates to "only 25 shows counting towards year end awards" was made with the very best of intentions, the change however has not been to the benefit of our entire membership nor the future growth and viability of our association in my opinion.

In January of 2011, my decision to haul again was made with enthusiasm, all stalls for all the shows were booked and paid for and plans were made. After many years away due to health reasons, I do admit that I failed to realize a change had been made in regards to the OQHA point system.

After learning that only 25 shows would be counted towards yearend awards, my plans changed to show at only 25 shows and forfeit any memberships and stalls at the furthest shows. The math was easy. It was less expensive to forfeit my stalls at Carp than to travel there with absolutely no benefit towards OQHA points.

As it turns out, the vast majority of participants reacted in a similar fashion. Most contestants cut off their shows at 25 as it would be a waste of time to show at more than 25 shows only to have the points deducted. As we know, many participants show OQHA for OQHA points as AQHA points are few and far between for most.

One of the most damaging aspects of this "25 maximum" show rule is the obvious unfair advantage for the folks in area 1 and 2. As it turns out 29 shows offered within a 2 hour drive of each other give the participants of Area 1 and 2 a leg up on anyone who resides east of Hwy 400. Area 1 and 2 participants can now only show close to home without any risk of loosing a yearend high point award to anyone from out of their area since the maximum points counted would only be for 25 shows. All 25 of which are within a very close proximity. For a participant from the east to compete at 25 shows means they must drive a least 6 hours one way to Area 3 shows to get in their 25 as only 11 shows are offered to the east. This is not fair by any means!

If a close race were on, in the past, the participants would have to support more shows, which they did if they chose to. Now as the rule stands, if there were a close race, the area 1 and 2 people, do not have to travel at all nor do they ever have to compete against a horse from our eastern affiliate. They simply stay close to home, yet a contestant from the east must travel to Area 3. If the rule was amended to include ALL shows counting, and if there was a close race for the yearend award, participation would be "balanced" as contenders east AND west would both have to make some longer distance hauls. That would be the only solution to the "unfair issue". The current 25 maximum show rule segregates the east from the west and further deteriorates the group as a whole.

The OQHA created our Area affiliates years ago for the sole purpose to allow participants the opportunity to win a yearend title without supporting shows across the province. The Individual Area clubs offer yearend awards and some OQHA members only show within their area. This '25 maximum show' rule for OQHA is duplicating the purpose of the affiliate Area Clubs and adds no benefits to the OQHA as a whole.

Also of great concern to me are the results for the 2011 show season yearend totals. According I have calculated the following results:

Within the 2011 25 maximum show rule, the number of competitors who where discriminated/punished/reprimanded/denied.... (I'm not sure which if any of these titles are correct) is very disturbing.

There were 38 individual class Year End High Point totals that were effected by the "25 maximum" show rule.

As well, there were 15 All Round High Point competitors totals affected.

There were 4 classes were the champions lost their yearend awards due to having their hard earned points deducted.

These people, who have spent their time, money and hard work, should in no way be punished for supporting our club. Those people should be thanked and rewarded in everyway possible for their continued support to our wonderful OQHA.

I must admit this letter has gone on longer than it should have, however, our OQHA, like all other sports organizations in these troubling times, needs to be very careful to not loose our valuable members that support us the most, possibly due to issues like this.

If the OQHA strongly believes that only 25 shows should be counted, than only 25 shows should be offered to make it an even and balanced playing field. In all other sports activities that I am aware of, no one gets points deducted for participating in too many shows in fact some groups rule a minimum show requirement. If AQHA deducted points from the High Point contenders there would be riots I'm sure

Again I very sincerely and respectfully request that an amendment be made to allow for the 2012 show season trophy rules to be changed to ALL SHOWS COUNTING towards Year end points and awards.

In closing I would like it noted that I personally was not affected with my point standings as I only showed at 25 shows and there was little competition. I am not a "sour grapes" looser, in fact quite the opposite, as my "wild one" won. However, again I will say, that I would have gone to more shows if the Ontario points had counted.

When it comes to a vote, Eastern Ontario usually will not be represented due to the shear geographics and the location of the meetings. With this in mind, I will hope that a vote is considered with fairness to all.

The root of my passion to have this rule changed is for the benefit of our club as a whole and to keep our east and west as ONE, the Ontario Quarter Horse Association.

Yours respectfully,



Laura McArthur
OQHA member since 1975