

Amateur Awards Programs

This set of rules is the same for both awards. Explanation and criteria for both awards on next page.

For all Amateur Awards Programs, the following criteria must be met in order to participate.

1. Nominee must be an active ARHA member holding a current amateur or novice amateur card, in good standing and the nominee must have competed in a majority of the charter's offered shows;
2. Nominee must be an active member of the state charter which they are being nominated in good standing.
3. Nominee must not have won the same award in the past three years from the Amateur Awards Programs.
4. Each Charter's Board of Directors MUST use one of the following methods of selecting the two nominees:
 - Charter may allow its entire membership to nominate and / or vote on the two Amateurs; or
 - All board members shall vote on selections. A majority of charter board members must be in agreement of any nomination verified by either signatures on a nomination form or in the form of emails from each board member. The method in which the nominations were chosen shall be described with the nominations.
5. Each charter is entitled to select ONE (1) different amateur for each award and an alternative. Charter may **not** submit the same name for both awards. Should the same name be nominated from two different charters, the Amateur Committee will contact one of the Charters notifying them that an Amateur they have nominated has been nominated from another charter and that Charter's Board of Directors has the option of nominating a different qualified Amateur.
6. The charter president is responsible for contacting the ARHA Amateur Committee with verification of board approval by November 15 of the calendar year or make arrangements with the Amateur Committee. Charters must provide an explanation of selection. Please provide a picture of the nomination as well. Nomination form/information must be complete when submitting.
7. It is each charters' responsibility if they wish to participate in these awards program, which is no cost and no obligation to the charter. The only investment they would have is helping the Amateur Committee and ARHA in recognizing their most deserving members. If the Charter does not find any qualified member for either award, the Charter is obligated NOT to nominate. The charter has an obligation NOT to participate in the program if the charter feels it has no truly qualified individuals deserving of the awards. However, if the charter has a qualified individual for one award and not the other, the charter may still participate and the committee will award the recipient accordingly. Any financial help from the charter to continue this recognition is very much encouraged, but not obligated.
8. The Amateur Committee retains the right and duty to deny any nomination for any reason it sees fit. Should a denial occur, the Amateur Committee will notify the charter and request that a different submission be made for the alternative selection. Communication to the charter will be made, however, the Amateur Committee is responsible for providing these awards and has the right to accept or deny the nominations without explanation. If the charter does not agree with these terms, then they should not participate in the programs.

GUIDELINES FOR MOST IMPROVED

Indicators of this marked improvement during a year or over multiple years may be:

- Placing better in previously shown classes;
- Trying more classes with gained confidence and consistently trying new challenges;
- Improvement in the horse's performance, with particular consideration given to a member with a new or young horse or a horse they have put most or all training into themselves without the regular aid of a trainer;
- Particular consideration should be given to the Amateur that has shown growth with their connection to their horse, and growth in their horsemanship skills;
- Member does not have to have earned any weekend / year-end high point or class champion awards or ARHA titles;
- Improved point earnings from previous shows or previous years
- A member that demonstrates and focuses on their improved ability, horsemanship and ranch skills, possibly cow working ability through themselves and through their horse over time.

As a whole, this member is a good representative of what ARHA stands for. This member stands out among others, is willing to learn, demonstrates gained skills through their horse, and has greatly improved their horsemanship skills. The individuals each charter considers should be valuable members of their charter that have gone the extra mile to grow with ARHA and within themselves.

GUIDELINES FOR TOP SPORTSMAN

- Must be an Amateur member who displays the character, spirit, attitude, ethics and behavior that embodies the very mission of ARHA;
- This member displays honesty and fairness in everything he or she does and treats others, regardless of status or skill, with respect;
- This individual observes and plays by the rules and conducts him or herself with true sportsman-like manners at all times;
- He or she does not look at failure negatively, but looks at it as an opportunity to grow and learn;
- A good sportsman congratulates his or her fellow equestrians in their accomplishments, gives encouragement to others, and is always willing to help out if asked and able or offers to assist in various capacities;
- A good sportsman also recognizes his/her horse as their teammate in their efforts and treats his/her horse with fairness and kindness

As a whole, this member is a good representative of what ARHA stands for. This member stands out among others, is willing to help, encourage others, and embraces learning opportunities. The individuals each charter considers should be valuable members of their charter that have gone the extra mile to grow with ARHA and within themselves.