

## 2010 AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATE CIRCUIT SERIES *(For NRHA Affiliates in Australia)*

This program is designed for NRHA affiliates in Australia and gives them the freedom necessary to structure a circuit responsive to the needs of its members and location. This program provides a format by which the local champions can compete against their peers for a NRHA Morrison Bronze or a NRHA Pewter Trophy, while also offering the opportunity to advance to a National level. It is the aim of the NRHA and this program to increase the emphasis on "grass roots" reining and continue to promote our sport at all levels.

### CIRCUIT SERIES CONDITIONS

1. Individual circuits may begin July 1, 2009 and must end by June 15th, 2010
2. Each affiliate circuit show must be sponsored by a current 2009/2010 NRHA and Reining Australia recognized affiliate or a combination of current NRHA/Reining Australia affiliates.
3. Circuits will only be approved for affiliates that have paid their current year NRHA affiliate dues. 2010 NRHA affiliate dues must be paid prior to December 1, 2009.
4. The circuit affiliate sponsor(s) is required to hold a minimum of two (2) shows. All affiliate circuit shows must be NRHA approved and meet the requirements as stipulated for approved Australian shows for 2009/2010.
5. All shows held by an Affiliate will count as a qualifying circuit shows. All approved circuit shows will be published on the NRHA Web site.
6. Each Affiliate Finals will offer the following classes: Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open, Rookie Professional, Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro, Novice Horse Open I, Novice Horse Non Pro I, Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14–18, and Rookie II.
7. For an affiliate to qualify a rider for a class, that specific class must be offered in at least one (1) circuit show.
8. Each affiliate will be responsible for providing the NRHA office with a complete list of all placings, including zeros and no scores, in each class in each circuit show.
9. Affiliates may not require memberships in the local affiliate for participation in an affiliate circuit show; however, the rider must be a member of their local affiliate and their National Association Affiliate where applicable at the time of competing for points to count towards the Australian Affiliate Championship qualifications and the affiliate may require membership to qualify for year end awards. Circuits may not charge any additional fees for participants in the circuit qualifying classes. An example of fees charged improperly would be a registration fee for the horse in that particular affiliate or any additional fees to be eligible to qualify for circuit finals.
10. Qualification to the Australian Affiliate Championships will be tracked by the NRHA according to the state of residence recorded in the NRHA database.
11. Each state will qualify twenty (20) riders to the Australian Affiliate Championships in each of the approved listed Affiliate Championship classes.
12. Affiliates sponsoring a circuit may award pewter trophies to its circuit champions and plaques to its circuit reserve champions in NRHA approved classes only. The deadline for ordering these trophies is December 31 of the title year. Providing these awards is an option for each individual affiliate and must be ordered through the NRHA Office.

### AUSTRALIAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RIDER QUALIFICATION

1. There is no minimum or maximum number of shows that a rider must attend.
2. A rider may show at any NRHA/Reining Australia show to earn qualification points. However a rider must still place in the top twenty (20) in his or her respective state to qualify to the Australian Affiliate Championships no matter which show points are earned from.
3. A rider must designate which affiliate they will be representing at the Australian Affiliate Championships. If a rider belongs to more than one affiliate, then he or she must choose which affiliate they will represent for the finals. This declaration must be filed with Reining Australia by July 1st of the current show year.
4. The rider must be a member of local affiliate and their National Association Affiliate where applicable at the time of competition for points to count toward regional finals qualifications.
5. Points will be awarded based on the 10 point system. The winner of a class will receive 10 points, 2nd -9 points, etc. through to 1 point. Ties will be added up and divided by the number of ties. Each person in the tie will receive the same amount of points. Zeros and no scores will not be awarded points.

6. The top twenty (20) horse and rider combinations plus ties from each class in each state will qualify for the Australian Affiliate Championships. There will be no alternates, nor will substitutions be allowed.
7. Riders not earning any points during the qualification period will not be eligible to qualify to the Australian Affiliate Championships.
8. The NRHA office will post the standings of each affiliate on the NRHA Web site.
9. Those qualifying for the affiliate championships may only enter the championship classes for which they qualify.
10. A rider may show more than three horses per class.

### AFFILIATE FINALS CONDITIONS

1. The Australian Affiliate Championships will be held in conjunction with the 2010 Reining Australia National Show.
2. The top twenty (20) horse and rider combinations plus ties at 20th from each state will advance to the Australian Affiliate Championships.
3. There will be no substitutions allowed.
4. Championship classes will run concurrent with ancillary classes.
5. All Championship class will be run according to Reining Australia eligibility.
6. It is the responsibility of the rider to know his or her Reining Australia eligibility. Eligibility will be recognized for what an individual is eligible for at the beginning of the qualification period. **EXAMPLE:** If a rider is eligible for Rookie II at the beginning of the qualifications in 2009 and earns out of Rookie II by the beginning of 2010 but maintains a top twenty placing in the province then he or she is eligible to ride in the Rookie II class at Australian Affiliate Championships.
7. A rider may show more than three (3) horses per class.
8. The first two placing's of each class will be named the Australian Affiliate Champion and Australian Affiliate Reserve Champion.
9. Any misrepresented entry (this pertains to the eligibility of both rider and horse) will be subjected to disciplinary action per the NRHA Handbook.
10. In the event a corporate sponsor is procured, the Affiliate Show Committee must agree to abide by contract stipulations between the NRHA/Reining Australia and said sponsors.
11. The NRHA International Affiliate Committee reserves the right to amend these rules at any time with immediate notice of any such changes to the affiliates.

### AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The Australian Affiliate Championships will offer an Affiliate Team Competition among recognized approved NRHA/Reining Australia affiliates.
2. Any affiliate in good standing with the NRHA and Reining Australia, sending riders to the Australian Affiliate Championships is eligible to participate.
3. Points will be awarded using the NRHA 10 point affiliate championship qualifying scale.
4. The top three point earners per class for each affiliate will be used to determine each team's total points per class.
5. The affiliate with the highest placing team will be awarded \$500 USD.

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

1. The top twenty (20) horse and rider combinations plus ties from each respective state in the Rookie category are eligible to compete for the coveted Rookie of the Year title and trophy at the NRHA Australian Affiliate Championships in a separate and special class presentation. There will be no alternates.
2. Rookie of the Year rider will be named from the Rookie category.
3. The competition will be clean slate finals with the class winner receiving the Rookie of the Year title.
4. No entry fee will be charged.
5. There will be no substitutions.