

AHAA Competition Policy

Purpose

The AHAA National Committee has established this policy to establish a consistent framework for AHAA run completion events.

Competitions are considered an important element of the AHAA's pursuit of its organisational objectives as defined in the Constitution. All competitions must be guided by the primary principle of maximising participation opportunities for the intended event type e.g. a State Championship should seek to ensure maximum opportunity for all State Members to attend.

This policy is written acknowledging the difficulties presented by geographical distance between members and branches are the challenges this presents in an equine sport.

Competition Hierarchy

The following hierarchy applies to AHAA Competitions;

1. National Championship
2. State Championships
3. Regional Championships
4. Ribbon Days

As part of its role as the governing body for the sport, the AHAA may also seek to hold Open Competitions with the intention of encouraging participation from non-AHAA members or international guests. These competitions are contingent upon insurance company approval of any proposed event.

Competition Rules

As a member of the International Horse Archery Alliance (IHAA), AHAA competition events must always seek to apply IHAA rules to the extent possible for any competition event for which they exist, including general rules.

Where an exception must be applied due to equipment or track restrictions, the exception must be communicated to all competitors during the event briefing e.g. changes to the Polish Track to accommodate the generally smaller quiver sizes in use in Australia currently.

Members are expected to familiarise themselves with IHAA rules prior to attending events to aid in the smooth running of a competition.

Practice Days

An event may choose to hold an 'open' or 'practice' day prior to the official opening of the competition. This day will generally be the day prior, unless there are specific reasons this cannot occur (grounds restrictions etc.).

Where a practice day cannot be joined with the event, consideration must be given to ensure that an unfair advantage would not be created by holding a practice day at another time (e.g. a week prior for a National or State event with interstate participants.) In these instances, holding an extended warm up period on the day of the event may be a better option.

The provision of warm up areas and practice runs should be applied as per the IHAA General Rules.

Hire Horses

Where an event includes the provision or arrangement by the AHAA of 'Hire Horses', the need to ensure sufficient time for riders to be introduced and matched with appropriate horses must be factored in to the event timing and planning procedures to ensure the safety of all participants.

Funding of Competitions

The breakdown of costs for AHAA Competitions is detailed in the AHAA Accounts Procedures.

Classes for Competitions

Any AHAA Competition must offer walk, trot and canter classes to ensure all members have the opportunity to participate. Further breakdown of these classes may be carried out at the event organiser's discretion, depending on total numbers e.g. a Novice Canter class may be held.

An 'event champion' (e.g. National Champion) will be named for the overall winner of each class from a given event, according to the age categories detailed in the IHAA General and Competition Rules.

The Overall event champion must be drawn from the Senior Canter class.

Track types and rules should be applied consistently across class types, including for Senior and Junior age groups. Consideration may be given to different track types for the Child age group. Different tracks may be chosen for different classes however. The use of shortened track variants for Walk and Trot classes is encouraged to ensure the smooth running of an event e.g. a shortened polish track or a 90m Korean variant instead of a 150m track.

National Championships

1. The AHAA will seek to hold a National Championships (Nationals) at least once per calendar year, noting that more than one championships may occur in an AHAA Financial Year at times due to the overlap of these two periods.
2. The Nationals will be open to any current Financial Member to enter.
3. The Nationals cannot be combined with any other event.
4. The date and location of the Nationals for a given year will be decided by the AHAA National Committee, in accordance with the key principal of maximising member participation opportunities. This consideration should be balanced against both an individual year and total numbers, as well as the ongoing ability of all members to have an opportunity to participate.
5. The Nationals must be hosted by an AHAA Branch, but does not have to be hosted at the branches regular location or grounds. Branches should advise their State Representative if they have interest in running the Nationals in a given year. Hire horse availability and/or location are key consideration for the hosting of the Nationals to maximise the ability of interstate competitors to participate.
6. Nationals must consist of a minimum of two days of completion and at least one track from each of the Hungarian, Korean and Polish disciplines for the Advanced/Canter class, to reflect the expectations of the international community for IHAA participating countries.

State Championships

1. An AHAA State Championship Competition may be held once per calendar year for any state with a current Committee Representative, noting that more than one championships may occur in an AHAA Financial Year at times due to the overlap of these two periods.
2. The State Championships will be open to any current Financial Member to enter.
3. The date and location of a State Championship for a given year will be at the discretion of the relevant State Representative for that year, in accordance with the key principal of maximising member participation opportunities. This consideration should be balanced against both an individual year and total numbers, as well as the ongoing ability of all members to have an opportunity to participate.
4. A State Championship must be hosted by an AHAA Branch of the state in question, but does not have to be hosted at the branches regular location or grounds. A Championship may be held in an adjacent state if there is good reason to do so, but should not be held more than 100km from the border.
5. State Championships must consist of a minimum of two days of completion and at least three tracks. State Championships should attempt to hold one track from each of the Hungarian, Korean and Polish disciplines for the Advanced/Canter class. Where a track type cannot be run due to a lack of equipment or space, a similar track should be chosen to replace it e.g. Hun may be swapped for Aussie, Polish could be changed for Gamblers Choice etc.
6. The overall State Champion for any event will be determined in accordance with the rules stipulated in *Classes for Competitions* above. However, at the discretion of an event organiser, a secondary champion may be nominated based on the highest placing member from the state in question. An event organiser must determine in advance if they wish to offer this prize, and in instances where an individual wins both titles they should receive both prizes.

Regional Championships

1. An AHAA Regional Championship may be held where significant geographical distance may impede the running of a State Championship e.g. North and South Queensland, or where multiple branches are located in close proximity and wish to compete.
2. Regional Championships may be held as many times as deemed suitable, depending on the reason for holding the championships being held. In instances where Regional Championships are held for reasons of geographical separation, these should be limited to once per calendar year to reflect their intention as alternatives to a State Championship competition for that year. The holding of a Regional Championship of this nature does not preclude a State Championships later being held if circumstances change.
3. Where Regional Championships are held as an alternative to a single State Championship Event, the event organisers may agree to apply combined competition rules with the view to naming an overall event winner. Such rules must be agreed to in advance and communicated to all entrants.
4. Regional Championships differ from Branch Ribbon days specifically by their intention to foster competition on a wider scale than existing Branch Affiliates.
5. Regional Championships will be open to any current Financial Member to enter.
6. The date and location of a Regional Championship will be at the discretion of the relevant Branch Manager (s), in accordance with the key principal of maximising member participation opportunities for the competition purpose.
7. A Regional Championship must be hosted by an AHAA Branch, but does not have to be hosted at the branches regular location or grounds.
8. Regional Championships must consist of a minimum of one days completion and at least two tracks. Competition organisers should attempt to choose tracks that reflect the core principles of the sports disciplines, including use of quiver, angled shooting, different target types etc.
9. Where a Regional Championship is arranged in lieu of a State Championships, attempts should be made to reflect the rules of the State Championships as much as possible, particularly in relation to track selection, so long as all Regions are able to complete the track types selected.

Ribbon Days

1. AHAA Ribbon Days may be held by any AHAA Branch.
2. Ribbon Days can be held as many times as a branch sees fit, though should not be held to the extent where they replace the general opportunity for members to practice and train.
3. A Ribbon Day is open to any current financial member.
4. Ribbon days are intended to differ from normal training days by mimicking, to the degree possible, the structure and pressures that are encountered during a competition event. To this end they should be arranged in advance, advertised to members, and have positions or prizes available for members to win. Additional entry fees for Ribbon Days are at the discretion of the Branch Manager.
5. Ribbon days may consist of a single days completion or a single track of any type, but must be open to all classes. IHAA Rules should still be applied wherever possible to ensure consistency.

Open Competitions

1. Any competition that allows for participation by non-AHAA Members will be considered an Open Competition
2. The AHAA may choose to hold Open Competitions for a variety of reasons, however these must always support the principles of the organisation to grow the sport in a safe manner.
3. Open Competitions proposals must be approved by the AHAA National Committee.
4. Open Competition proposals need to be proposed with sufficient detail to allow an assessment to be made of their suitability in supporting AHAA objectives, and to allow the AHAA Insurer to confirm coverage will be available for the events. An Open Competition proposal must be put forward by a member of the Committee. The Committee may refuse to consider an Open Competition if sufficient information is not provided.
5. The primary purposes for Open Competitions is to encourage participation in the sport generally and entice new members.
6. International Competitions hosted by Australia will also be considered Open Competitions due to the need for non-AHAA Members to participate. International Competitions do not need to provide Walk or Trot classes.
7. Open Competitions must obtain declarations from any non-member participants to ensure they understand and agree to abide by any rules or decisions of the AHAA. Member participation in events is to be discounted to encourage AHAA Membership, excluding International Competitors who would be ineligible to join. International Competitor's should be asked for evidence of appropriate medical or travel insurance.
7. Open Competitions must be hosted by an AHAA Branch, but does not have to be hosted at the branches regular location or grounds. Because of the heightened risks in Open Events, a member of the Committee must attend any Open Event, unless a suitable person is appointed by a majority of the Committee to represent them. This person is responsible for ensuring the event complies with the conditions of the approval and all AHAA rules or insurance requirements.