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Live from the NRCHA Trenches - What Defines "Ownership" (a.k.a. dealing with Ownership Issues and Non Pros)

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Happy Wednesday!

Today's Live from the Trenches will cover a topic that has become VERY important recently due to changes in processing, checking, verifying ownership transfers - frustrating many people in the process including show promoters and secretaries.

Non Pro Ownership Requirements

You may think to yourself.. "Duh Kelley, I know that Non Pros can't show someone else's horse", but not so fast!

Are you familiar with ALL of the exceptions / exclusions? You might THINK you know, but I'll bet at least one or two of you out there would not correctly answer the following question.. "Would a Non Pro Lose their Non Pro Status if they....."

1. Show a horse they are officially leasing according to AQHA / APHA etc?
2. Show a horse they own with their "domestic partner" – even though they aren't technically married?
3. Show a horse in an NRCHA Open class that they don't own?
4. Show a horse in an NCHA 2,000 Limited Rider that they don't own?
5. Show a horse they bought 3 months ago and are waiting papers back from a certain breed association that is 3 months behind in processing ownership transfers?

If you said YES (they would lose) to all of the above EXCEPT #4 – then you would be 100% right.

If you didn't, then Read On McDuff! I'll give you the "Paul Harvey" or the "Rest of the Story" on those answers and a **big TIP for verifying ownership at AQHA without having to pay!**

As a refresher, Rule 2.1.12 outlines the ownership requirements for all Non Pro classes (Exceptions? Shout them out to the screen – let me hear you!! If you said the 5K Non Pro Limited / 1K Non Pro Limited / Youth Classes – you are correct!). Basically, the rule says a Non Pro can't show a horse that isn't owned by either themselves, their immediate family, family corporations, family partnerships, family trusts, etc...

2.1.14 – Non Pro can't jointly own a horse with someone that isn't immediate family violates the ownership rule. Unfortunately, that means partners who live together but aren't married can't jointly own without violating the rule. Domestic partnerships don't count. **And Leases don't count.** Even if a Non Pro officially leases a horse with a breed association, that is NOT enough for NRCHA Non Pro Classes that require ownership.

2.1.16 – Non Pro showing in an Open class has to adhere to the Ownership rule. If, for example, a Non Pro wants to 'try' out a prospective horse, they can't do it in an NRCHA Open class without violating the ownership rule. Have them stick to the practice pen. **Stepping into any NRCHA class in the show pen on anyone else's horse is a no-no** (except the classes you already shouted at the screen earlier in this email).

2.1.17 – That said, is it **OK for a Non Pro to show in an AQHA class on a leased horse** without losing their Non Pro Status – just not NRCHA. It is also OK for a Non Pro to show someone else's horse in an NCHA 2,000 limited rider horse

(if they qualify for that class for example) without losing their Non Pro Status. If there is a versatility or reining class where they don't have to own, they can show and not lose their NRCHA Non Pro Status.

Last but not least...

2.1.18 – THIS one is the one that is causing a major headache for many secretaries right now. It is NOT OK for Non Pros to show a horse they have purchased but that has not been officially transferred at a breed association. **Transfer paper and copy of old registration won't cut it.** "I sent them in 3 months ago" is starting to be heard throughout the land of the show secretary. Unfortunately, that doesn't work. The Rule specifically says "... Proof of ownership shall consist of the official registration document as issued by a breed association... Horses cannot be shown on transfers in Non Pro classes. Ownership must be current on horse's papers in order to show in Non Pro classes." This rule is extremely clear.

And **don't let your exhibitors just show a horse as 'grade' if it is officially registered.** Rule 1.1.4.1 says "All registered horses must be shown under the name assigned to them by their Breed Association". We have had members suspended from NRCHA for doing just that! They won't just lose their Non Pro status – they'll lose their membership!

The good news is that proof of ownership can be validation on the breed association website – a physical piece of paper isn't required. More good news is that if the horse is registered with AQHA, their redesigned website allows everyone to check ownership without logging into their website.

The bad news is that doing so isn't the easiest thing. Good news this link allows you to get a free emailed PDF that shows foal date / sire / dam / current owner / all previous owners – everything a good show secretary needs to enter a horse.

<https://aqhaservices.aqha.com/members/record/freerecords>

Make sure and Select Record Name = Master Registration w/All Owners & Pedigree.

There are things I like about this report and things I hate about it.

Pro – Once you set the variables (report and Email) they stay for as long as you are on the page

Pro – It doesn't time you out and make you log in again and again like it does if you are on the Show Results Upload trying to find current owner

Pro – It has owner address on it as well as full pedigree

Con – If you don't exactly know the horse's name, you can't find it. It doesn't give you partials, you can't pick from a list, nothing.

Con – The system sends an email with an attached PDF to your email which can take as few as 10 minutes and as many as 10 Hours to arrive

Here are a few helpful phone numbers for AQHA:

AQHA Show Department Direct Line – Lisa Pond 806.378.4352

AQHA Accounting Direct Line – 806.378.4513 / if a transfer hasn't processed, maybe they owe money. You can also call that line for membership renewal questions.

But I digress... we were talking about ownership requirements.

Bottom line, be ever vigilant! If you get an entry for a horse and the owner on the papers doesn't match what is on the entry form, email the exhibitor and ask for the relationship between them and the owner on the papers you received. If you didn't get papers, take a minute and look up the most current information. Update Stallion / Gelding changes, verify Sire/Dam and ownership!

Question differences, spot questionable relationships. You might think it isn't your job – but it should be. Your exhibitors should know the rules, but as you know, sometimes we need to help keep them out of trouble.

Feel free to forward to anyone that you think might find this useful.

As always, we appreciate you! Stay vigilant, diligent, focused and alert. Stay hydrated... Keep Calm and Horse Show On.

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