



# **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**

March 2019

Sensational Sixteen

Exceptional Eight

## **FINAL FOUR**

SHOWMANSHIP, HORSEMANSHIP, and EQUITATION  
Separate Divisions in Select, Amateur and Youth.

Why these classes: The exhibitor has a tremendous impact on the quality of the run. These events are extremely exhibitor dependent.

### RANKINGS

Distinguished industry professionals will be polled twice annually to rank the exhibitors in each division from 1-25 with 64 names listed compiled from results submitted by participating Top 20 AQHA and Color breed horse shows. Exhibitors 26-64 will be listed in alphabetical order with no ranking. The Ranking Committee will be judges and trainers strategically selected to represent all areas of the lower 48 states. The Ranking Committee will remain anonymous and will not be informed who the other committee members are.

First poll to be announced the third Saturday of July each year. Results from all participating shows, that have occurred at this time will be provided to the Ranking Committee to evaluate prior to making their rankings. Participating

shows will receive a National Championship logo to display to acknowledge that they will be submitting their circuit standings. Individuals who do not appear on the summer ranking who feel they should be considered may submit their current year show results and a letter of 100 words or less by email to the respective email of the event they wish to be considered for. Emails must be submitted between Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 1st of the current year for consideration by the Ranking Committee.

Email address for each event are:

[ShowmanshipNatChampionship@gmail.com](mailto:ShowmanshipNatChampionship@gmail.com)

[HorsemanshipNatChampionship@gmail.com](mailto:HorsemanshipNatChampionship@gmail.com)

[EquitationNatChampionship@gmail.com](mailto:EquitationNatChampionship@gmail.com)

Second poll to be released the second Saturday of Dec. each year naming 64 exhibitors in each division with the top 25 ranked, the rest listed in alphabetical order. Results from Top 20 participating shows, NSBA World show, AQHA World shows and Color breed World shows that have occurred at this time will be provided to the Ranking Committee to evaluate prior to making their rankings. This is not a horse and exhibitor poll it is an exhibitor ranking. The 64 individuals in each respective division to be recognized and eligible to compete at Sun Circuit for the National Championship in each respective event. The rankings will be released to all horse media for promotion and recognition of the outstanding achievements of these exhibitors.

Any of the 64 exhibitors who attend will show to the first set of judges as a part of the regular draw at Sun Circuit, eligible paints and colored horses will run in a separate draw immediately following the AQHA class. AQHA, APHA and NSBA ownership rules must be followed to exhibit in the classes. After the class the high scoring 16 will be recognized and promoted via media. Special recognition, Sensational 16 award. It is important to note that all exhibitors are welcome to compete in the respective classes at Sun Circuit whether they are on the list of 64 eligible exhibitors for the National Championship tournament or not. L2 classes are held within each of these classes to provide a welcoming environment for all exhibitors.

The Sensational 16 as well as all other exhibitors will show to the second set of Judges as a part of the regular draw at Sun Circuit. After the class the high scoring Exceptional 8 will be recognized and promoted via media. Special recognition, Exceptional 8 award.

The Exceptional 8 as well as all other participants will show to the third set of Judges as a part of the regular draw at Sun Circuit. After the class the high scoring Final Four will be recognized and promoted via media. Special recognition, Final Four award.

The Final Four will then compete for the National Championship in a head to head competition with the highest ranked remaining exhibitor competing against the lowest ranked remaining exhibitor and the second highest ranked remaining exhibitor against the third highest ranked remaining exhibitor. Then the winner of the two battles will come back to compete against each other to be named National Champion.