



INTERNATIONAL FRIESIAN SHOW HORSE ASSOCIATION

This month I would like to respond to posts on Face Book dealing with horse Shows and National Shows for associations. Some of the questions were why qualifications were necessary and why the National Shows aren't "fun anymore.

Years ago, the IFSHA World and Grand National Show was divided into 2 divisions, A National Division and a World Division. To compete in the World Division, you needed to compete in the National Division first. By having the 2 divisions there was the opportunity to have more classes to compete in. Our only Walk/Trot classes were the costume classes. Over the years, new divisions were added to the USEF Friesian Rules. We've added Dressage, Driven Dressage and Western Dressage. In the In Hand Division we added Baroque Friesian in Hand and Sport Horse in Hand. Our driving classes have enlarged and our rail classes have grown with a Walk/Trot, Junior Exhibitor, Equitation, Junior Horse, Amateur to Ride, Master Class and Open Class in almost every division. In a five day show, classes run from early morning thru the evening just to get it all in. In short, we have shot ourselves in the foot trying to put classes in for everyone competing. If our exhibiting members want more free time, what classes do you want to eliminate? I have heard the comment more than once; we should not have "one horse classes." As a show manager, I do not think it is right to tell an exhibitor that has traveled to the show, that I am canceling their class because it did not get enough entries. That member has the same expense in coming to a show as any other member. IFSHA members are always welcome to make suggestions in regards to the World Show, and if members really want less classes, e mail me at hndsnhves2@aol.com and let the board know what you think should be removed from the class list. Please remember, what we try to have for 1 division, we try to do for all divisions, so the same would go for removing classes.

Qualification for the IFSHA World Show has always been in the USEF Friesian Rules and several years ago the IFSHA Board adopted the motion to bring this rule forward. The reason was not to eliminate members from attending the world show but hopefully by going to a USEF licensed show with Friesian classes to qualify, members would gain additional knowledge of the USEF Friesian rules and avoid costly mistakes at the World Show. All licensed USEF shows hire a Licensed USEF Steward and it is their job to be knowledgeable of the rules. Please consult the Steward, or Technical Delegate whenever you have a rules question. The Friesian Rules are available on line and may be printed for your convenience.

As your President, I have tried to listen to the members, convey information and work with the IFSHA Board of Directors to make IFSHA an association for all. When the news letter comes out and the request is put to the members as to what you want for IFSHA and your World Show, do you take the time to respond. Is your position much like a committee member that never shows up for the meetings? If you don't respond, you are not representing yourself or your breed. For those that make the effort to contact me, I thank you for your suggestions. As IFSHA continues to move forward, I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Sandy Jacob, IFSHA President