

Class Re-Structure Proposal

Question and Answer

Hello, I'm Tom Holt and welcome to a Q&A about the Class Re-Structure Proposal. Together with Kristen York, we hope to help you gain a better understanding of this proposal.

Words to Remember.

Division=Open-NonPro-Amateur
Level-Top-Intermediate-Limited
Protected Level=Limited Level

Acronyms.

LTE=Life time Earnings
LAE=Limited Aged Events

1. I am hearing the word "class leveling", just what does this mean? *Class Leveling is a term that is used in competition in which exhibitors are "leveled" by a systematic process. The objective of class leveling is to ensure that exhibitors are competing with their peers and thereby "leveling the playing field".*
2. So, **at the Limited Aged Events**, we already level the horse by age. Help me understand the systematic process the class leveling proposal has formulated for the rider. *At the NCHA, the gauge by which an exhibitor is leveled is based on their Total Lifetime Earnings. Currently, a rider, based on their eligibility, can compete in one or more of three divisions, Open, Non Pro and Amateur. The class leveling proposal creates three levels within each division. A rider's Total Lifetime Earnings determines the base level that a rider is eligible to compete in. In addition to the base level, the rider can, IF THEY CHOOSE, enter a higher level or division.*
3. So what are the levels called within each division? *The Top Level is named after it's Division. The second level is called Intermediate and the third level is Limited. So, for example, in the Open Division, the three levels are: The Open, The Intermediate Open and The Limited Open. In the Non Pro, it's The Non Pro, The Intermediate Non Pro and The Limited Non Pro and finally, in the Amateur, it's The Amateur, The Intermediate Amateur and the Limited Amateur.*
4. How were the dollar breaks determined in each division? *A detailed analysis was performed on our member database. The database was sorted by rider eligibility (Open, Non Pro and Amateur) and then by the rider's Total Lifetime Earnings. We then looked at past triple crown events and major LAEs show results to see how certain dollar breaks would*

work in each division. The pilot studies on those shows have proven that the proposed dollar breaks for each division keep payouts intact.

5. **Tell me how will this work?** *Each division will run just like they currently do. Each entry would designate what level or levels that a rider is competing in. Show producers, based upon entries, would determine number of go-rounds, number of horses to finals and non working finals. All of the existing classes within a class, ie. Senior, Gelding and Novice, will still be available.*
6. **Now, let's talk entry fees. How are they structured?** *To ensure that the top level in every division provides the biggest payout, the class leveling proposal created a graduated entry fee structure. The entry fee for the top level is the most expensive. The intermediate level is less than the top level and the limited level is less than the intermediate level. For example, if the top level in the Open was priced at \$2,700, then the Intermediate level would be \$2,000 and the Limited level at \$1,300. Keep in mind, that the show producer determines the entry fee. The leveling proposal simply requires a graduated structure.*
7. **If I enter multiple levels, is there a discounted entry fee?** *The leveling proposal encourages show producers to discount entry fees when a rider enters multiple levels. Based on how the show producer allocates their added money, discounting the entry fee should not mean a lower payout.*
8. **I am just starting my career, what is the best level for me to compete in?** *Each division offers a LIMITED level and was SPECIFICALLY designed for the beginner. As such, that's the perfect place for you to start. No rider with LTEs in excess of the amount designated can compete in a Limited class.*
9. **If a rider determines which level they are eligible to compete in and chooses to enter a higher level can they?** *Yes*
10. **Say I am an Intermediate rider, do I pay the same Entry Fee as other competitors that are entering the top level of my division?** *No, a graduated entry fee is proposed.*
11. **I'm a senior, are there special considerations for me?** *Yes, once a rider turns 60, the rider is eligible to compete in the senior division (This is currently offered and will not change). Also, once a rider turns 70, the rider is eligible to drop down to the Intermediate level regardless of Total LTEs.*
12. **What if me or my trainer have an off year or our horsepower has been limited, are there any considerations for this scenario?** *Yes, It's called the Revolving Door. If a rider is not in the TOP 100 money earning riders list in ANY division for the previous point year, the rider MAY drop down to the Intermediate level. So this works for everyone.*

- 13. Any other special considerations:** *One more, it's called the Money Earnings Cap. If an Amateur wins \$250,000 in Non-Pro LAE and Non-Pro Championship Weekend money, they MUST make a choice: to remain an Amateur and compete exclusively in the Amateur Division or to compete in the Non-Pro Division. Also, same in the Non-Pro, if a Non-Pro wins \$250,000 in Open LAE and Open Championship Weekend money, they MUST make a choice: to remain a Non-Pro and compete exclusively in the Non-Pro Division or compete in the Open Division.*
- 14. Can you tell me if this has been tested?** *Yes, 4 shows to date have tested proposed leveling format of which all had increased entries. Show producers have the latitude to determine what fits their demographics. It's factual to say that leveling works.*
- 15. Why are we making this change in NCHA?** *Our objectives are simple. Growing our membership base with new members. Increasing show entries from current members. Simplify rider eligibility. Maintain current payouts.*
- 16. Are we the only association that has leveled?** *No, actually we are one of the last. Most all equine associations have some sort of leveling.*