

The “FAQs” about IPHF

Since we announced the 2011 International Paso Horse Federation, Inc. circuit of shows, we’ve had many questions about IPHF – What’s it all about? Who’s behind it? Why do we think we need it? Here, I answer those questions.

Why was IPHF formed?

IPHF was formed as a non-profit corporation to promote the Paso show horse. We believe that promoting the show horse will raise the value of all Paso horses.

IPHF maintains as a secondary purpose the education about the Paso horse – within the Paso community and to the public at large. The more people know about the horse, the more they will love it as much as we do.

You will note that our name – International Paso Horse Federation, Inc.” does not contain the word “Fino.” We love and embrace our Paso Fino horses. But we think it’s important to encourage the growth and knowledge about Paso Trocha, Trocha y Galope and Trote y Galope horses. That’s why our name refers to the “Paso” horse.

Why did you break away from PFHA?

We didn’t! Everyone in IPHF leadership remains members and supporters of PFHA and encourages you to do the same. Organizers of IPHF collectively have over 100 years of tenure and experience with PFHA, much of that in leadership roles. Most IPHF members participate in PFHA shows and activities. There was no break from PFHA – merely the concept that there may be different but still exciting ways to show and promote the Paso horse. We want to plan for the growth of our breed and offer the Paso show enthusiasts more opportunities to exhibit their horses.

What does IPHF do that’s different?

As for show format, IPHF thinks it’s important that exhibitors understand why they placed they way they did in a class – what did the judge see and think about their horse? That is why it is critical that the judge of the show explain the reasons for his/her placements in a way that leaves each exhibitor knowing what qualities of the horse should be preserved and which need additional work. Spectators also will gain a better understanding of the judge’s perspective. The judges’ explanations create a “win win” toward the education goal.

The announcements take time, however, so the show schedule is tailored to allow appropriate age and gender breakdowns of the competitors while allowing sufficient time for the judge to explain the results. The show schedule can also be altered to allow groups to plan a show schedule based upon the demographics of their area and the classes best suited for their membership.

We have instituted strict criteria for judges that judge IPHF shows. A judge’s performance will be continuously evaluated to insure that fairness, knowledge and integrity are at the forefront.

Another aspect of education is to provide clinics open to exhibitors and members of the public. IPHF recently sponsored a full-day clinic and clinics also will be provided before each of the 2011 circuit shows.

In IPHF shows the horses are grouped into classes that are determined by the actual age of the horse in months. We allow for two divisions of schooling horses and two divisions of older horses. Also, it is the horse’s age on the first day of the show that determines for which class the horse is eligible. We think that, this way, the horses more fairly compete against horses of the same size and potential experience.

IPHF is committed to honoring the history and heritage of the Paso Show Horse.

Finally, IPHF encourages strong participation by owners and breeders in the organization. We want involvement by those with a financial interest in seeing our breed grow and prosper.

Who’s behind IPHF?

Most of the leadership is in the north Florida – Ocala – area. Amateur rider Bob Spence is President of IPHF, succeeding Marcia Davis in that job. Tony Coleman is Treasurer. Sheila Spence and Sharon Quinn Dixon hold the offices of Secretary and Vice President. Committee members include Dr. Gay Culverhouse, Carlos Tobon, Sharon Londono, Katreena Haley, Karen Holgate and Lisa Guess. We invite anyone who believes in our ideals and promoting the breed to join and help us – we’re happy to have you!

Sincerely,

Bob Spence