

ALL-AMERICAN RULES/PROCEDURES

Eligibility in the All-American program is determined entirely by placings at the designated shows listed on the next page. The top four Belgians in each class at AA level shows, the top three at A level shows, the top two at B level shows and the class winners only at C level shows are eligible to be entered in the All-American Contest. The horse must earn a qualifying placing in the open class at one of the recognized shows. Placings in bred & owned and/or other specialty classes do not qualify. Qualifying placings are the official class placing only, regardless of breed, age or sex eligible to enter the class. For example, in a mixed sex foal class, a stallion foal placing 2nd behind a filly would not qualify as the 1st place stallion foal. Likewise, a Belgian placing 2nd in a mixed breed class behind a Percheron would not qualify as the 1st place Belgian. All mares and stallions must be registered with the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America or Canadian Belgian Horse Association. This includes foals and geldings.

When entering, be sure that your placing was in one of the qualifying classes at a qualifying show. There are eleven classes which qualify for the All-American Contest: Registered Geldings (any age), Stud Foals, Yearling Stallions, 2-Year-Old Stallions, Aged Stallions (3 & Over), Filly Foals, Yearling Mares, 2-Year-Old Mares, 3-Year-Old Mares, Brood Mares, 4 Years & Over and Yeld Mares, 4 Years & Over). You must list all qualifying placings in ALL qualifying classes. Placings in futurity classes, bred & owned classes, etc. do not qualify for the Contest, however, any championships SHOULD be included. (Why list all the qualifying places? This contest is meant to be an accurate historical record of the year's events. Inclusion of only the first place finishes does not accomplish that goal.)

To make a nomination, you will need the following:

1. An un-retouched, unaltered color photograph, any size, of the horse standing only, and taken during the current year show season. No photos in harness or in motion will be allowed. Photos altered in any way will cause an automatic disqualification. We can not use photographer's proofs or digital images. Do not crop or cut photos.
2. A copy of the certificate of pedigree, both sides. Canadian horses are no exception.
3. The completed All-American Nomination Form, which follows the list of qualifying shows. Use one form per entry. The form must be signed and dated by the owner of record, the lessee or the exhibitor.

You may make copies of this form, download and print additional copies or call the Association office for additional forms. Junior and Senior Foals must be designated as such for those shows offering both divisions. There is no entry fee. Your entry must be in the Association office by November 15th, complete with copies of the pedigree and photos. **ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE, AND INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED!**

Please make sure that your entries are properly completed and signed. We will not hold up the contest and publication of either magazine for late entries or photos.

The Belgian All-American Committee will check all the entries and show results. Erroneous entries will be excluded. The Committee will advise **The Draft Horse Journal** of any disqualified entries. Any exhibitor that accumulates a total of three disqualifications for any number of infractions, will immediately and thereafter become ineligible to participate in the Contest. This means that if one exhibitor has three horses disqualified in this year's competition, none of their entries will be accepted for this year, or any year thereafter. Reasons for disqualifications include, but are not limited to: use of a photo taken other than during the current show year or a photo which has been altered in any way; the listing of inaccurate show winnings, entry of a non-registered foal, etc. Further, we will bring to the attention of the Board of Directors, exhibitors who habitually claim false winnings in the All-American Contest. In short, check your entries carefully, then check them again. If you won the placing, claim it ... If you did not, don't enter it.

The pictures of all nominees and their winnings will be published in **The Belgian Review**. Prior to this, these pages will be mailed to the judges of the designated shows in the form of a ballot. Each judge will be asked to place the top half of each class, and return his/her ballot form to **The Draft Horse Journal** for tabulation. The horse in each class with the highest points will be the All-American and the second highest will be the Reserve All-American. A reasonable number of Honorable Mentions will also be designated by **The Draft Horse Journal**, based on the tabulated results. There will be no set number of Honorable Mentions named—Some classes warrant several, others none at all.

The Draft Horse Journal will award \$50 to the owner and \$50 to the breeder of each All-American; and \$25 to the owner and \$25 to the breeder of each Reserve All-American. The Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America will also present certificates to each All-American and Reserve All-American owner and breeder at the Annual Meeting the following December. In addition to publication in **The Belgian Review**, **The Draft Horse Journal** will carry the All-Americans, Reserve All-Americans and any Honorable Mentions in their Spring issue.

What Happens If You Don't Follow the Rules?

In 1998, the contest adopted a "Three Strikes, You're Out" policy which arose from annual questions and complaints about inaccurate placings included in the breed ballots. The questions frequently came from contest judges. They would note that two competitors were claiming the same placing in the same class at the same show. The complaints also came from fellow exhibitors that were upset that a horse appeared in the ballot with a placing that they did not actually receive; oftentimes that they had won with their animal. At the time this misinformation was discovered, it was too late to recall the ballots as they were already in the hands of the judges. In most cases, the discovery was not made until after the contest results were already published. Whether or not these inaccurate placings had any bearing on the contest results is unknown, but it did call the integrity of the program into question and, as the ballot serves as an historical record of the show ring for the year, a desire for accurate results was certain. A policy was developed that stated that exhibitors claiming false placings or otherwise not following the rules should have the horse's entry in question disqualified and that a single exhibitor's third offense (three disqualifications) would exclude him/her from competing in the contest in the future, or "three strikes, you're out." Each breed association accepted the responsibility of reviewing the nomination forms for compliance and issuing "strikes" or disqualifications as they determined appropriate for their breed as it related to inaccurate placings and other instances not in accordance with the contest guidelines.

The best advice is to read the contest rules in the respective breed publications, follow the instructions for nominating horses, ask if you have any questions and, as the grade school teachers always point out, double-check your work. Since the inception of the policy, relatively few animals have been disqualified and, to date, no one has "struck out."

WARNING – NO ALTERED PHOTOGRAPHS!

Any entry submitted with a photograph that has, in the opinion of the All-American Committee, been altered in any way will be disqualified and the person who submitted it will receive one strike against him/her. What are considered alterations? Alterations include, but are not limited to, the following: Cutting, cropping, removing or manipulating anything, such as the handler, another horse, halter, or anything else appearing in the photo. Distorting, changing, adding or deleting the color, highlighting any portion of a photo or changing the background is considered an alteration. No matter how we say it or define it, we simply do not allow altered photos in the All-American Contest.

Return all entries by November 15th to:

Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America
P.O. Box 335
Wabash, Indiana 46992

2009 QUALIFYING BELGIAN SHOWS

AA Level shows where a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in the class earns the right to be nominated.

- none this year

A Level shows where a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the class earns the right to be nominated.

- National Belgian Show/Mississippi Valley Fair, Davenport, Iowa
- American Belgian Show/Ohio State Fair, Columbus, Ohio
- Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Michigan Great Lakes International, East Lansing, Michigan
- Canadian National Exposition, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

B Level shows where a 1st or 2nd in the class earns the right to be nominated.

- Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Illinois
- Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, Iowa
- Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Michigan State Fair, Detroit, Michigan
- Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, Minnesota
- New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York
- North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky
- Southern Ohio Draft Horse Association Show, Hillsboro, Ohio
- Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, Wisconsin

C Level shows where a 1st in the class earns the right to be nominated.

- Colorado State Fair, Pueblo, Colorado
- Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia
- Idaho State Draft Horse Show, Sandpoint, Idaho
- Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, Kansas
- Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, California
- Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, Missouri
- National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado
- Nebraska State Fair, Lincoln, Nebraska
- New England Show, Skowhegan, Maine
- North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, North Carolina
- South Dakota State Fair, Huron, South Dakota
- State Fair of West Virginia, Lewisburg, West Virginia
- Vermont State Belgian Show, New Haven, Vermont
- Washington Extravaganza, Monroe, Washington

The list of qualifying shows is evaluated each year. All-American status for shows changes due to a variety of reasons, including declining or increasing halter horse numbers or a show's failure to submit results for publishing. This contest is dependent upon the timely receipt of complete show results.

2009 ALL-AMERICAN NOMINATION FORM

All entries must be submitted on this form. One form must be completed for each horse. For additional entries, you can make copies, download the form (PDF format) from the Association's web site or call the Association for additional forms. Sign, date and submit the completed form, along with a copy of the horse's registration papers (both sides) and an un-altered, good-quality, uncropped color photograph of the animal taken during the current year to the address listed at the bottom of the Rules/Procedures page. The photo must be of a standing pose (no action shots, no horses in harness, no photographer's proofs, digital images & no Polaroids) and should be clearly identified. Entry deadline is **November 15th**. No exceptions. Late entries, incomplete entries, entries without photos or copies of registration papers will be returned.

Be certain that your placing was in one of the qualifying classes at one of the qualifying shows (listing on previous page) and list ALL qualified placings. Jr., Reserve Jr., Sr., Reserve Sr., Grand & Reserve Grand Championships are not considered qualifying placings, but should also be included. Foals should be designated as Jr. or Sr. for shows where separate classes are offered. All entries must be registered including foals and geldings. List "applied for" if the registration has been submitted but not yet received. Placings in futurity classes, bred & owned by exhibitor, etc. do not apply to this contest and should not be included.

NAME OF HORSE: _____

Registration Number: _____ Foaling Date: _____

Sire: _____ Registration Number: _____

Dam: _____ Registration Number: _____

CLASS:

Stallion

Aged (3 yrs. & over)

2-yr.-old

Yearling

Foal

Jr. (if applicable)

Sr.

Mare

Brood Mare, 4 yrs. & over

Yeld Mare, 4 yrs. & over

3-yr.-old

2-yr.-old

Yearling

Foal

Jr. (if applicable)

Sr.

Registered Gelding

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Show: _____

Qualifying Placing: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Championships: _____

Breeder (name & address): _____

Owner (name & address): _____

Exhibitor (name & address) if different than Owner: _____

Photo credit (for professional photos): _____

By signing below, I certify that everything I have listed above is true to the best of my knowledge and I understand and acknowledge that if discrepancies/errors are found, I am subject to having my entry disqualified from the contest and to receiving a strike.

Signature of Owner, Lessee or Exhibitor: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____

FINAL CHECKLIST: Copy of Registration Paper Color Photo Correct & Complete Placings Signature & Date