

TO: PHBA Bylaws and General Rules Committee

FROM: Reese Pekny

Re: Overview and summary of Rule Change Proposal to rules #3151, #3152, #6004, #6015

I am requesting changes to rule numbers: 3151, 3152, 6004, and 6015 (attached). Upon the approval of these rule changes, I am requesting they become effective immediately.

The purpose of these rules changes to highlight the growing need to offer more inclusive class offerings at smaller shows. Currently, show management has the option to offer youth classes for 18 & under, but not required. In shows where one youth representing an age division may attend, that youth may be excluded from having an equal opportunity to compete and not know until after the trip is made to that show.

The advantages of these rules changes are to promote all youth having an equal opportunity to compete at any show by guaranteeing a class will be held as an 18 & under class if the corresponding division does not have enough to make a separate class.

Another advantage of adopting these rules changes is to prohibit show management from excluding youth from a class or classes at a show based solely on discretion due to the smaller numbers of entrants.

A negative to the way the rules are currently written is that there more of an opportunity for smaller shows to exclude youth members from classes. This does not promote a positive youth experience and deters others from attending smaller shows due to the possibilities of their division being cancelled. Another perceived negative is that older youth will compete against younger youth. The way these rules changes are submitted, points will be awarded to youth by division without preventing youth from being able to compete at all.

These proposed rule changes will ensure current members and future member feel accepted and welcomed in our organization regardless of the size of the show. The intent these rules should also inspire show management to invite more youth to their shows to allow the proper separation of divisions.