

**MISSOURI QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE I - Name and Objective

1. The name of the Association shall be Missouri Quarter Horse Youth Association.
2. This Association shall have as its principal objective:
 - Section A. Development of Leadership, initiative, self reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
 - Section B. To promote pride of registered Quarter Horses among boys and girls of Missouri.
 - Section C. The teaching and learning of horsemanship, both care and handling of horses and participation in both.

ARTICLE II - Relationship to Parent Organization

1. All of the activities and participation of this Association shall be in direct harmony and in accordance with the policies, rules, and regulations of the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, American Quarter Horse Association and the Missouri Quarter Horse Association.

ARTICLE III - Membership

1. Membership shall be open to any responsible youth within or without the State of Missouri consisting of boys and girls 18 years and under. The age of a youth on January 1 of any given year shall be maintained throughout the year.
2. The annual dues shall be set by the MQHA Board at the beginning of each year.
3. Non-payment of dues shall automatically forfeit membership and all privileges attached and belonging thereto. When there are not other objections, a member in arrears may be reinstated by paying membership in full.
4. Any member of this Association becomes subject to rules, regulations, and by-laws of this Association current, or hereinafter adopted, and shall be subject to expulsion and/or penalties from this organization as provided and stipulated in these by-laws.
5. The following shall be cause of expulsion, or penalties, of any individual, from this Association, when proof and evidence of commission has been established by evidences satisfactory to the Board of Directors of this Association:
 - A. To knowingly and willfully misrepresent in any entity an animal sold at either public or private treaty or exhibited in any state or AQHA show or race.
 - B. Any member expelled by the American Quarter Horse Youth Association is automatically expelled by this Association.
 - C. To knowingly and willfully violate any AQHA rule or law.
6. All charges shall be submitted in writing, signed by the person or persons bringing the charges, to the MQHYA and MQHA Board of Directors, who shall review said charges within ten (10) days. After said review, if the Board finds a full hearing is justified, a copy of said charges shall be forwarded to the individual charged, within one (1) week of said meeting. A hearing shall then be held within thirty (30) days after the individual's charges have been made, where he/she shall be confronted by his/her accusers, or permitted to examine any, or all, evidence offered in support of the charge against him/her; and thereby be given a full opportunity to logically refute such evidence.
7. Upon being found guilty, from evidence, as charged and worthy of expulsion, he/she shall immediately be expelled and, in course, public notice of such expulsion be given in such a manner as deemed necessary by the MQHYA and MQHA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV - Officers and Board of Directors

Section A. - Officers

1. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter. These officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present (from previous year's membership) at the annual meeting.

Section B - Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Area Directors.

2. The Area Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership, residing within that district, present at the annual meeting: one (1) director will be elected from each geographical area, Districts 1-6, set in accordance with the MQHA districts.

3. If the Board member is absent from two (2) meetings in succession without a legitimate reason, he/she will be automatically dropped as a Board member and a replacement for the remaining term of office will be filled by the Board of Directors. Reason for absence from a scheduled meeting must be given to the President, First Vice-President, or Secretary prior to the meeting date.

4. All such officers shall hold office until their successors are duly elected or qualified. Any member may succeed himself/herself, if duly elected.

5. Should a vacancy in office occur, a special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be called for the purpose of filling that vacancy.

ARTICLE V - Officers' Duties

1. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings, and perform such other duties as usually attached to the office. He/she shall conduct all meetings according to parliamentary procedures. Duties include representing the Association to the MQHA Board of Directors, solicit corporate sponsorships, oversee the AQHYA World Show and Congress teams, and oversee the other officers.

2. The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President when the President cannot do so. The First Vice-President shall serve on all committees and be official Chairman of each, although other members may be appointed as Chairman also. Fund-raising activities will be planned and carried out through the office of First Vice-President.

3. The Second Vice-President will be second in line for the Presidential office. This person will be in charge of social events, including the Annual MQHA banquet and the purchasing of the Year-end Awards.

4. The Secretary shall be responsible for implementing all Association activities, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and also keep an updated roster of membership. The Secretary is responsible to correspond with members.

5. The Treasurer shall perform the usual devolving of such office, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall serve on the Year-end Awards Committee. This office is a two (2) year term.

6. The Reporter shall report all Association activities, including business meetings to the official publication. The Reporter shall be responsible for submitting monthly news to the Quarter Horse Journal and shall be responsible for compiling and submitting the MQHYA scrapbook at the AQHYA World Show.

7. An annual budget set forth by the officers shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval before the first general membership meeting of the new year. Any expenditures not provided for in the budget must be approved by the Board of Directors, or the majority of members present at any duly called membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI - Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 - December 31.

2. For the purpose of the show point system, the year shall be from January 1 - December 31.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings and Elections

1. The annual meeting of the Association for the election of officers and transaction of other business which shall come before it shall be named by the President, or at his/her refusal to call the same, by the Secretary or the First Vice-President.

2. At least ten (10) days notice of this meeting shall be given to each member in good standing by notice of ordinary mail to his/her last known post office address.

3. Members eligible to vote at the annual meeting must be members in good standing during the past fiscal year.

4. Those who become members of the Association for the first time, effective with the next fiscal year, are welcome to attend the meeting, but are not eligible to vote.

ARTICLE VIII - Committees

1. The President shall appoint such committees as Fund-Raising, Social, Year-End Awards, Congress Team, AQHYA World Show, and any other committees as deemed necessary by the President and/or Board of Directors.

2. The President shall have the authority to appoint committees for the purpose of other youth functions.

3. It shall be the responsibility of each committee to fully augment all functions of that respective committee as directed by the appointed Chairman. At least one (1) member of the Board of Directors shall be an active participant of such committees and serve as liaison with the Board of Directors.

4. At the annual meeting, the general membership shall submit names for Youth Advisor(s) for approval to the MQHA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

1. By-laws may be amended at any annual or special membership meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present, providing the proposed amendments are presented to the membership and Board of Directors, to be reported on, providing a quorum is present.

ARTICLE X - Order of Business

1. The order of business at any meeting, either annual or called, must include: (a) calling of roll, (b) proof of due notice, (c) reading and disposal of minutes, (d) financial report, (e) reports of officers and committee chairs, (f) unfinished business, (g) new business, (h) election of officers, if any, and (i) adjournment.

ARTICLE XI - Board of Directors Meeting

1. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, at any time or place, on one (1) week's notice.

2. Quorum of any Board of Directors meeting shall be half of the number of Board of Directors. A majority of such quorum shall decide any questions that come before the meeting.

3. All Board of Directors meetings may be adjourned from day to day, or from time to time, until a quorum appears.

4. The order of business must be the same as for a membership meeting.

ARTICLE XII - Awards and Points

1. No state points shall be accredited to any horse unless, and until, its owner or owners shall become members of the Missouri Quarter Horse Youth Association.

2. Membership begins the day on which the Treasurer or Secretary received said membership fee. If mailed, the membership begins on the postmarked date.

3. Points in AQHA approved classes shall be awarded on a 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis, with no horse receiving more points than the actual number of entries in the class. For the purpose of point recording for AQHYA and Congress qualifying system, points shall be awarded on a 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 basis, regardless of number of entries in the class.

4. In those instances where more than one halter class is held for each sex division, the Grand Champion horse of each sex shall receive two (2) points more than the highest point earning horse of its sex. The Reserve Champion will be awarded one (1) additional point (providing they are not already the highest point earning horse).

5. Year-end awards shall be given for each AQHA class which has been offered at least three (3) times during the calendar year.

6. Ten (10) High Point Awards will be presented at year-end:

A. High Point Halter Horse & Reserve

B. High Point All-Around Horse & Rider

1. 13 and under

2. 14 to 18

C. High Point Performance Horse (excludes halter) & Reserve

1. 13 and under

2. 14 to 18

D. High Point Novice All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve

1. 18 and under

To qualify as the All-Around Horse & Rider, it must be one horse/one rider accumulating the most points in one show season. Horse and rider must show in halter and performance categories and earn at least ten (10) points in the lowest placing category. Example: Horse earns 150 points in performance, so it must have at least 10 more points in halter to qualify, making the total points at least 160.

7. Special Awards will be voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting. They are:

A. Dorothy Sauers Memorial - to be presented to a youth who has shown outstanding service to the youth organization throughout the year.

B. Sportsmanship

C. Rookie of the Year - any youth competing their first full year of showing in AQHA approved shows is eligible.

D. Any other special awards that the Board feels is deserved for that year.

8. The Association shall sponsor one (1) or more shows per year that are approved by MQHA.

9. The accumulated point standings are to be published monthly in the official Missouri Quarter Horse publication.

10. The Association shall recognize the Year-end Award winners and make suitable awards in conjunction with the Missouri Quarter Horse Association Annual Convention and Awards Banquet.

11. Any youth whose registration is recognized by AQHYA and who becomes a member of the MQHYA is entitled to compete for MQHYA awards. Any horse exhibited must be solely owned by the contestant showing the horse or by the contestant's father, mother, step-parent, sister, brother, grandparent, or legal guardian (as evidenced by court documents), or owned by the institution in which the contestant is enrolled as a ward; such ownership must be evidenced by records of the Association and the certificate of registration of endorsement of such horse must show such person as owner, by proper endorsement of the Association at the time the horse is entered in any youth activity show or class, or exhibited as otherwise permitted by rules of AQHA or AQHYA.

12. Leased horses are ineligible to compete in youth activity events, since ownership is required as above specified.

ARTICLE XIII

Trophies, awards, plaques, etc. won by the Association are to be given to the President of each year. When a permanent location is found, the trophies, etc. will then be deposited there.

ARTICLE XIV - Qualifying System

1. The qualifying shows for the AQHYA World Team and the NYATT Congress Team will be decided at the annual convention each year.

2. The top two (2) in each class will represent MQHYA at the World Show. The next two (2) highest will be designated as alternates in case one or both of the others are unable to show.

3. The top two (2) youth in the following classes will represent Missouri in the National Youth Activities Team Tournament at the Congress: Hunter Under Saddle, Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Reining, and Barrel Racing.