

MISSOURI QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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 the youth 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 youth 18 years and under. The age of 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 no 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 bylaws 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 bylaws.
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 evidence 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, Vice-President, Reporter, Executive Director: Social Chair, Executive Director: Membership Chair, and Past President. These officers, with the exception of the Past President, shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present (from the previous year's membership) at the annual meeting.

Section B - Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Reporter, Executive Director: Social Chair, Executive Director: Membership Chair, Past President, and Directors at Large.

2. Directors at Large shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership present at the annual meeting.
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 and Vice President 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 Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President when the President cannot do so. Fundraising activities will be planned and carried out through the office of Vice-President. It is the responsibility of the Vice-President to take care of scheduling, planning, running, etc. the fundraisers and/or tracking the sponsorships and follow-up sponsorship receipts. He/she will work closely with the four Directors at Large.
3. The Reporter shall be responsible for taking pictures throughout the show season and making a scrapbook for entry at the Youth World Championship Show. It is also the Reporter's responsibility to reach out to youth members and write a monthly 'Youth Spotlight' article to be shared via email as well on the MQHA website and MQHYA Facebook page. He/she will also help with finding ways to keep our members more informed on our website and Facebook page.
4. The Executive Director: Social Chair will be in charge of social events; including the annual MQHA banquet and organizing year-end awards, as well as World Show and NYATT team prizes. He/she will work closely with the Reporter to be sure the MQHYA Facebook page and webpage stay current, fun and relevant.
5. The Executive Director: Membership Chair shall be responsible for implementing all Association activities, subject to the authority of the Directors at Large. This person shall keep minutes of all meetings. He/she will also be in charge of the membership committee and keep an ongoing current membership list. The four Directors at Large will be the committee members and the committee will work to develop ways to increase members and better serve our current members.
6. The Past President shall have served as President of the Association the year prior. The Past President shall perform such duties as designated by the President and serve on such committees of the Association as may be directed by virtue of office. If the Past President is no longer eligible for youth membership, this office is to remain vacant.
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 show points for Year End Awards, the year shall be from January 1 - December 31.
3. For the purpose of AQHYA Youth World and Congress/NYATT Qualifying points by State, the show year shall be voted upon at each Annual Convention, noted in the meeting minutes, and posted on the MQHA website.

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 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, phone number, email address, or any other form of electronic media authorized by the member.
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 Fundraising, 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 to Bylaws

1. Bylaws 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, Points, and Scholarship

1. No state points shall be accredited to any horse or rider combination unless, and until, its owner/owners, become members of the Missouri Quarter Horse Youth Association.
2. Membership begins the day on which the Youth Advisor received said membership fee. If mailed, the membership begins on the postmarked date.
3. Year-end 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 Youth World and Congress/NYATT qualifying system, please refer to ARTICLE XIV.
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. In order to be eligible for year-end awards, an individual must earn a minimum of 10 points AND must show in a minimum of 10 shows (or 50% of the shows in which a particular class is offered, if it is offered less than 10 times during the show season). In the event of a tie, a tie-breaker will be used to determine first and second place. To break ties, the total number of shows attended will be used, and the individual that has attended the most approved shows shall be deemed the winner.
6. Fifteen (15) High Point Awards will be presented at year-end:
 1. High Point Halter Horse & Reserve
 2. High Point All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve
 - 13 and Under
 - Ages 14 - 18
 3. High Point Level 1 All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve
 - 18 and Under
 4. High Point Level 1 Walk-Trot All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve
 - 18 and Under
 5. High Point Rookie Youth All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve
 - 18 and Under
 6. High Point Small Fry All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve
 - 10 and Under

7. High Point Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) & Reserve

To qualify as the High Point Horse & Rider & Reserve, 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. To be eligible for high point and reserve a horse and rider must have earned points in a minimum of three classes. Example: Horse earns 150 points in two or more performance classes, so it must have at least 10 more points in halter to qualify, making the total points at least 160. (*High Point Level 1 Walk-Trot All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve (D above) and Small Fry All-Around Horse & Rider & Reserve (F above) are exempt from halter requirement.)

7. Special Awards will be voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting. They are:
 - A. Dorothy Sauers Leadership Memorial - to be presented to a youth who has shown outstanding service to the youth organization throughout the year.
 - B. Don Fudge Sportsmanship
 - C. Rookie of the Year - any youth completing their first full year of showing in AQHA-approved shows is eligible.
 - D. Any other special awards that the Board feels are deserved for that year.
8. The accumulated point standings are to be published quarterly on the MQHA Website.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Leased horses are eligible to compete in youth activity events, only under strict accordance to the rules set forth by AQHA.
12. The Barb Kerber Memorial Scholarship –
 - A. All members in good standing are allowed to apply. Members must meet the requirements as listed:
 1. Four years of High School with a grade point average of "2.5" or above, transcripts must be submitted on an annual basis to the Youth Advisor.
 2. Applicants may be required to work a set amount of hours at youth events if voted upon during the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE XIII - Awards to the Association

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. All MQHA-approved sanctioned shows count as AQHYA Youth World and NYATT Congress Team qualifying.
2. No points will count until the participant has paid in full an MQHYA Membership fee and the required Letter of Intent fee for either the AQHYA World Show, Congress/NYATT or both.
3. Points for qualifying shall be awarded on a six-point system, with no horse receiving more points than the actual number of entries in the class. Points will be awarded, based on actual placing regardless of whether out-of-state exhibitors placed as well. For example, if there are 10 horses in the class, and Missouri youth place 1st, 3rd, and 10th, these individuals will receive 6, 4, and 1 point, respectively. If a tie for a team spot occurs; the greater number of shows will be the tiebreaker.
4. The number of participants, as permitted by AQHYA in each class will represent MQHYA at the World Show. The next two (2) highest will be designated as alternates in case others are unable to show.
5. The top two (2) youth in the following classes will represent Missouri in the National Youth Activities Team Tournament (NYATT) at the Congress: Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, Reining, Ranch Riding, and Barrel Racing.

ARTICLE XV – AQHA Youth Excellence Seminar (YES) & AQHYA Events/Activities

1. When attending AQHYA events and activities, you are representing MQHYA. You are expected to represent the association in a positive manner.
2. Voting Delegates for YES shall be awarded, first to any MQHYA youth (who have held at least two officer positions previously) wishing to run for a national leadership position, and then awarded to current members of the officer and director teams.
3. MQHYA members must travel at their own risk and expense to AQHYA events and activities. The Youth Advisor shall work with the President each year to determine expenses the association will cover for AQHYA events.
4. All MQHYA members and parent chaperones attending YES must review and sign the “AQHA Youth Excellence Seminar-Team Missouri Guidelines.”