

General Rules & Regulations

GEN100. STANDING COMMITTEES at present include:

- Amateur
- Equine Research
- International
- Judges
- Marketing and Membership
- Nominations and Credentials
- Public Policy
- Racing
- Recreational Activities
- Shows and Professional Horsemen
- Stud Book and Registration
- Youth Activities

GEN101. Standing Committee Members. Each standing committee shall consist of at least three members, appointed by the President with the advice and majority vote of the Executive Committee. To be eligible for a standing committee assignment, an individual must be a current AQHA member in good standing and complete the requisite application to be received by the office of the Executive Vice President on or before March 15 of the year that the individual is applying for standing committee assignment.

GEN101.1 To provide continuity and experience of members, standing committee assignments may be made for a term longer than one year, but in no event shall an appointment be longer than three years.

GEN101.2 To enable a standing committee to properly function, each member is required to attend all meetings; upon two consecutive absences, a member is automatically removed without further action.

GEN101.3 By unanimous vote, at any time during a standing committee member's tenure, with or without cause, the Executive Committee may terminate an individual's tenure on a standing committee. At its discretion, the Executive Committee may reassign the person to another standing committee. As service on AQHA's standing committees is a privilege, not a right, termination of tenure may be made without prior notice or right to hearing.

GEN101.4 Should a Director fail to be re-elected, or, for any reason fail to serve his term as an AQHA Director, his standing committee assignment is automatically terminated.

GEN102 Chair. Each standing committee shall be headed by a Chair who shall be elected annually by the respective standing committee members.

GEN102.1 The Chair shall vote only in case of a tie vote concerning committee action.

GEN102.2 An individual is eligible for annual election to the chairmanship of a committee, standing or otherwise, to a maximum of three consecutive terms, after which he is ineligible for re-election to the office until the expiration of one annual term, during which time another individual shall have served as chair.

GEN102.3 No AQHA Past President or former employee of AQHA may serve as Chair of a committee with the exception of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, for which a Past President is eligible to serve as Chair.

GEN102.4 An interim Chair appointed by the Executive Committee shall serve as presiding officer in the Chair's absence or incapacity.

GENIO3. Amendments. AQHA's rules and regulations, excluding those rules and regulations pertaining to registration of horses, may be amended at any time by change, addition or repeal by majority vote of the Executive Committee, but only after proposal of specific amendment shall have been approved by the appropriate standing committee or by the majority vote of the Executive Committee without such standing committee approval.

GENIO3.1 Requirement of Prior Notice. To be eligible for consideration by a standing committee for possible recommendation to the Executive Committee, a proposed amendment shall be filed with AQHA's Executive Vice President on or before December 31 of the preceding year prior to AQHA's Annual Membership Meeting at which that standing committee's report concerning such proposed amendment is presented. Such required filing may be waived by the Executive Committee, after considering the merits of the proposed amendment.

GENIO3.2 Period of Non-Amendment. A rule or regulation is not subject to amendment by change, addition or repeal until it has been in force for at least two calendar years. That limitation may be waived by the Executive Committee upon finding of extraordinary circumstances that (1) concerns the safety, health or well-being of a horse and/or rider, (2) materially benefits AQHA's programs or its financial stability or (3) involves other compelling circumstances.

GENIO4. GENERAL PROVISIONS: MEMBERSHIP in AQHA is a privilege, not a right, application for which shall be made by procedures prescribed by AQHA. Membership, or application therefore, may be terminated or rejected by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of AQHA, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Termination or application rejection proceedings under this rule shall be conducted under AQHA's disciplinary procedures for notice, hearing and temporary suspension. The effect of termination or rejection may be denial of the privileges of AQHA as set forth in AQHA's disciplinary procedure.

GENIO4.1 An annual membership is not transferable.

GENIO4.2 A complimentary renewal notice will be sent to members at their current address according to AQHA records at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the membership. With or without actual receipt of renewal notice, a member has sole responsibility over his membership status. An annual membership becomes delinquent on the last day of the month following expiration of term of membership eligibility and may be reinstated by payment of the current renewal fee, received by AQHA by the last day of the month following expiration, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for membership; otherwise, the applicant will be charged AQHA's current member fee.

GENIO5. The name under which a membership may be obtained is limited to 30 characters including letters, spaces and marks of punctuation.

GENIO6. Registrations must be recorded in the same name as appears on the membership card. If registrations are to be obtained, apply for membership in exactly the same name that registrations are to be recorded, i.e. the name of the individual, the name of a partnership, the corporate name (accompanied by the signature of the authorized agent as it is to appear on applications for registration).

GEN106.1 The record owner or record lessee of the dam of a foal for which a registration application is submitted must have a current membership at the time the registration application is submitted, or a non-member registration fee will be assessed.

GEN107. The name of a female member may be changed to reflect her current marital status upon her request.

GEN 108. While in good standing, all members have equal rights, interests and responsibilities with respect to AQHA and its property; shall obey and be bound by all bylaws, rules and regulations of AQHA and decisions or actions of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee; have the right to vote by personal attendance at membership meetings; and have the right to hold office and committee assignments, except as otherwise limited. "Membership in good standing" means an individual or other legal entity who has paid the requisite membership fee; is not under current suspension by the Executive Committee or the Executive Vice President; or does not owe a delinquent financial obligation to AQHA for fees or other account payable for which written notice of suspension of membership or participation privileges has been sent.

GEN 109. Individuals who are non-members, but own American Quarter Horses, file registration applications and other documents with AQHA or participate in AQHA-approved events, by such actions and in regard to such transactions, agree to be bound by all bylaws, rules and regulations of AQHA and decisions and actions of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. AQHA reserves the right to reject documents submitted by non-members who have engaged in acts detrimental to the humane treatment of horses or have engaged in acts detrimental to the intent of AQHA, its programs, policies, objectives or the harmonious relationship of its members.

GEN110. Every member by joining AQHA, or non-member by purchasing American Quarter Horses, filing registration applications or other documents with AQHA or participating in AQHA-approved events, does thereby agree:

GEN110.1 If unsuccessful in an attempt to overturn AQHA decisions, actions, rules or regulations, to reimburse AQHA for its reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses in defense of such suit, and

GEN110.2 He/she will not commence any action, whether in law or equity, against AQHA in any courts other than those Federal and State courts located in Potter County, Texas.

GEN111. As reciprocal assistance to AQHA for privilege of membership, participation in approved events and ownership of an American Quarter Horse, AQHA and the American Quarter Horse Foundation may use any photograph or other form of likeness reproductions of a member, event participant, horse owner, or their horses and registered equine names, to promote AQHA's objectives and activities including, but not limited to, use by third parties with authorization from AQHA. Members also agree that AQHA/AQHF may provide mailing list information to third parties (e.g., AQHA, affiliates and corporate partners) with authorization from AQHA/AQHF.

GEN113. An AQHA member, including a member using AQHA data for commercial purposes, has a duty to preserve and protect the pedigree registry/performance records and the property of AQHA, including, but not limited to, AQHA electronic data made available to members via the AQHA website or other pre-arranged consensual access thereto, and the duty to use such data only for the purposes for which

AQHA has granted conditional license. Publication of such data shall carry the following designation: "This information was provided by the American Quarter Horse Association from its Official Records."

GEN114. AQHA MEMBERSHIP entitles the recipient to the designated period of eligibility, upon application, qualification and payment of the requisite fee, the indicated membership privileges and one vote on membership matters.

GEN114.1 Full Membership Privileges, Individual: Restricted to one person, carried in that person's legal name only, providing full privileges of AQHA including privilege to participate in AQHA's open division of shows and other AQHA activities that require individual membership.

GEN114.2 Membership Privileges, except privilege of participation in AQHA's open show division and other AQHA activities that require individual membership:

GEN114.2.1 Joint: A combination, to a maximum of two persons, such as husband and wife, and includes such designation as John and Jane Doe, John or Jane Doe, John and/or Jane Doe, and John/Jane Doe.

GEN114.2.2 Assumed or Trade Name: A person or persons, or artificial legal entity, such as A. Smith, d/b/a Smith Ranches; Smith Ranches, a sole proprietorship of A. Smith; Smith Ranches; or any other designation not being the legal name of the person or artificial legal entity.

GEN114.2.3 Corporate: Corporations in good standing in the state or country of their incorporation, the officers, representatives, shareholders and all beneficial owners.

GEN114.2.4 Partnership, General or Limited: Partnerships, general or limited, in good standing in the state, province or country of their organization, the partners, limited partners, representatives and all beneficial owners.

GEN114.2.5 Syndicate or Joint Venture: Syndicates or joint ventures, in good standing in the state, province or country of their organization, the representatives and all beneficial owners.

GEN114.2.6 Decedent's Estate, Trust, Guardianship or Other Custodial Legal Entity: Decedent's estate, trust, guardianship or other custodial legal entity, the person for which the entity is created, his representative, and all beneficial owners or beneficiaries.

GEN115. American Quarter Horse Youth Association Membership allows boys and girls 18 years of age or under, the privileges of membership in AQHYA, and, in addition, all of the privileges of an individual AQHA membership including privilege to participate in AQHA's open division and other AQHA activities that require individual membership, but not the privilege to vote at AQHA membership meetings or hold office in AQHA.

GEN115.1 For youths whose 19th birthday is prior to January 1, the membership card will expire on December 31. The age of the youth as of January 1 will be the age maintained the entire year (regardless of the time of day the youth is born). For example, a youth who has a birthday in July and is 18 years of age January 1 *must show* the entire year as a youth.

GEN116. Amateur AQHA Membership is for individuals otherwise qualifying for such membership under the rules of AQHA's amateur division, which allows the individual to participate in AQHA's

amateur division, and, in addition, all of the privileges of an individual AQHA membership, including privilege to participate in AQHA's open division and other AQHA activities that require individual membership. National institutions of learning, executors, administrators, trustees or jointly held entities are excluded from amateur membership.

GENII6.1 The amateur applicant may convert a current AQHA 12-month individual membership for a fee of \$10, upon verification of amateur status. The expiration date for this membership will coincide with the membership being converted. Individual 12-month amateur membership is available for \$10 to a life member in the same individual identification number as the desired amateur membership designation.

GENII6.2 The amateur applicant may convert a current AQHA 36-month individual membership for a fee of \$20, upon verification of amateur status. The expiration date for this membership will coincide with the membership being converted. Individual 36-month amateur membership is available for \$20 to a life member in the same individual identification number as the desired amateur membership designation.

GENII6.3 Amateur membership cards will be issued by AQHA only upon application and AQHA approval of the applicant, which application shall be truthful in each and every detail. Submitting an application containing untrue statements shall subject the applicant to possible disciplinary action or suspension from participation privileges in AQHA-approved events or AQHA membership and/or fine. By submitting an application, applicant agrees to abide by AQHA amateur rules contained in this Rulebook including amateur rules set forth in SHW220-SHW229.

GENII6.4 The eligibility of all amateur membership card holders will be reviewed at the time application for renewal is submitted. Said application to be on a form supplied by AQHA and returned along with the appropriate fee. The renewal application shall affirmatively state that all previous representations contained in the individual's amateur application are still true and correct, verifying the individual's eligibility under AQHA amateur criteria. A false statement on a renewal application shall be grounds for disciplinary action under AQHA disciplinary procedure.

GENII6.5 Upon request by AQHA, an individual, who, for any reason, becomes ineligible for amateur membership, shall promptly return the amateur membership card to AQHA, whether or not AQHA request is made for it.

GENII6.6 Remaining months of membership for an amateur membership that is revoked may, at AQHA's discretion, be transferred to regular AQHA membership and a membership card issued to expire the same date as the original amateur membership card.

GENII6.7 A special handling service for an amateur membership card is available for \$10 for each card and is in addition to the regular fee and does not include overnight delivery.

GENII7. LIFE MEMBERSHIP is available, upon application and payment of appropriate fees, as follows:

- Individual
- Joint
- Assumed or Trade Name
- Corporate
- Partnership, General or Limited
- Syndicate or Joint Venture

Decedent's Estate, Trust, Guardianship or Other Custodial Legal Entity

American Quarter Horse Youth Association membership (through 18 years of age)

GENI17.1 Life membership shall have the same privileges as such designation carries with an annual membership, with the exception of AQHYA that carries special qualification requirements. Each officer, representative, director, shareholder, partner, beneficiary and each beneficial owner of a legal entity described above, and as to the estates, trusts, guardianships or other custodial legal entity, the person for which the entity is created must be eligible for individual membership in AQHA.

GENI17.2 AQHA life members who are youth (eligible through 18 years of age) shall have the same privileges as such designation carries with an AQHYA membership.

GENI17.3 An individual life membership may be amended one time at no charge. A joint life membership may be amended one time at no charge (1) at the written request of all joint owners or (2) at the written request of a joint owner whose request is based on (a) the death of a joint owner or (b) a final divorce decree or final judicial order establishing the rightful owner(s) of the life membership. A life membership held in the name of an entity described in GENI17 above may be amended one time at half the current life membership fee. Such request must be made by the owners/partners of the entity as evidenced by AQHA records. If a life membership is amended, the old life membership shall become inactive and shall be subject to nonmember fees should any future AQHA business be conducted under such membership. Further, any horses recorded in the old life membership shall remain in the name of the old life membership unless and until they are separately transferred pursuant to AQHA registration rules.

GENI18. VOTING PRIVILEGES: A person has one vote at AQHA membership meetings, annual or special, regardless of the number of individual or joint memberships he/she holds. For a person to vote the membership of a bona fide legal entity, he/she may not qualify to vote an individual, joint, assumed or trade name membership, and, in addition, upon request, shall provide AQHA with written authorization and substantiate the existence of the entity.

GENI19. HONORARY AQHA MEMBERSHIP: The Executive Committee may, from time to time, award an Honorary Membership to parties who merit special recognition for their individual efforts at the national or international level, in furtherance of the aims and objectives of AQHA. This membership shall have voting privileges. The honorary membership shall entitle the recipient to privileges regarding an annual membership, with the exception of AQHYA and amateur AQHA memberships, which carry special qualification requirements. Such membership may be designated by an appropriate plaque or certificate.

GENI20. RECORDS. Material accuracy of records furnished by AQHA either as hard copy or online service, is warranted by AQHA only to the extent of using its best efforts in the compilation thereof, and then solely for the benefit of the member or party purchasing the record who may, as exclusive remedy, receive reimbursement for expense of the record upon showing material inaccuracy thereof. Consequential damages are expressly excluded. No warranties, express or implied, arise from records issuance, other than as stated

herein, as the purchaser receives this record on an “as is” basis.

GENI21. STATE/PROVINCIAL AFFILIATES. AQHA may designate one affiliate association in each state/province, and when the state/province has an existing separate racing association, AQHA may designate it to represent the state/province’s racing interests, as an affiliate association(s) to receive for its members and any local or regional association affiliated with the state/provincial association, such benefits and assistance as AQHA may, from time to time, determine, in return for the performance of duties and responsibilities to AQHA as specified in the affiliation agreement of the parties.

GENI21.I This affiliation is a privilege, not a vested right, granted or rejected at AQHA’s discretion on an annual basis according to procedures and requirements formulated by the Affiliate Advisory Board, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The affiliate association shall, in no manner, have authority, express or implied, to act for, or bind, AQHA in any manner.

GENI22. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. AQHA may recognize international associations that promote the American Quarter Horse. Such recognition is a privilege, not a vested right, granted or rejected at AQHA’s discretion on an annual basis according to procedures and requirements formulated by AQHA and approved by the Executive Committee. If granted recognition by AQHA, an international association must annually agree to and sign an AQHA Agreement of International Affiliation and maintain required membership and registration numbers. Such recognition shall allow that international association the privilege of having an appointed Director on AQHA’s Board of Directors as provided by AQHA bylaws. Members of recognized international associations shall remain governed by AQHA bylaws, rules and regulations.

GENI22.I The following international associations are recognized:

- American Quarter Horse Association of New Zealand
- American Quarter Horse Association of the United Kingdom
- Argentina Quarter Horse Association
- Australian Quarter Horse Association
- Austrian Quarter Horse Association
- Belgium Quarter Horse Association
- Brazilian Quarter Horse Association
- Colombian Quarter Horse Association
- Costa Rica Quarter Horse Association
- Czech Republic Quarter Horse Association
- Danish Quarter Horse Association
- Dominican Republic Quarter Horse Association
- Finnish Quarter Horse Association
- French Quarter Horse Association
- German Quarter Horse Association
- Hungarian Quarter Horse Association
- Irish Quarter Horse Association
- Israel Quarter Horse Association
- Italian Quarter Horse Association
- Japan Quarter Horse Association
- Quarter Horse Association of Luxembourg
- Mexican Quarter Horse Association
- Netherlands Quarter Horse Association
- Norwegian Quarter Horse Association
- Panama Quarter Horse Association
- Paraguay Quarter Horse Association

Polish Quarter Horse Association
Slovak Quarter Horse Association
Slovenian Quarter Horse Association
South African Quarter Horse Association
Swedish Quarter Horse Association
Swiss Quarter Horse Association
Uruguay Quarter Horse Association
Venezuela Quarter Horse Association

GEN.122.2 AQHA may accept a recognized international association's suspension of a member as grounds to automatically suspend such member's AQHA membership. AQHA's suspension of an individual's AQHA membership in such cases is subject to the recognized international association (a) reporting the suspension to AQHA and (b) verifying that the recognized international association provided the accused (i) prior notice of a hearing and (ii) the opportunity to present evidence on his behalf and to refute evidence offered against him.

GEN122.3 In regard to violations of AQHA rules prohibiting surgical alteration, administration of prohibited substance, and other prohibited practices, AQHA may give reciprocal effect to the disciplinary action of the Executive Committee or other governing committee of a recognized international association for terms up to a maximum of one year suspension from participation privileges at events approved or recognized by the international association, the effect of which shall be to bar the disciplined individual from participation in AQHA-approved events for a similar term.

GEN123. GENERAL NOTICE PROCEDURE.

GEN123.1 Rule, Regulation and Policy Changes.

GEN123.1.1 Official Handbook. Each member or American Quarter Horse owner is charged with notice of all rules and regulations published in the current Official Handbook. Upon request, AQHA furnishes each member a current Official Handbook. (online at aqha.com)

GEN123.1.2 The American Quarter Horse Journal. Additional to notice provided by this Official Handbook, a member or an American Quarter Horse owner has the affirmative duty to remain current with AQHA rules, regulations, policies and other matters pertaining to AQHA events and programs, that may be amended from time to time during a particular year, sometimes with immediate effect, rather than January 1 of a particular year when Official Handbooks are issued. To fulfill such duty, a member or horse owner should subscribe to *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, where notice of changes pertaining to such matters is routinely published or visit aqha.com. Although subscription to *The American Quarter Horse Journal* is not required, AQHA has fulfilled its duty to provide members and American Quarter Horse owners notice of these intra-year changes and proposed changes effective January 1 of the following year, by publishing them in *The American Quarter Horse Journal* or at aqha.com

GEN123.2 Personal Service of Notice. Every notice required by these rules and regulations may be served by delivering the notice to the person to be served, or his attorney, by hand delivery, by U.S. mail postage prepaid, or by express mail to his last known address as it appears on AQHA's records. Notices delivered pursuant to this rule shall be deemed given: (I) at the time delivered, if

personally delivered; (2) at the time received, if mailed; and (3) one business day after timely tender to the person, if delivered via express mail. Such notice may be served by facsimile (fax) transmission to the last known fax number or by email to the last known email address. Such transmission shall be deemed received by such person by confirmation of the transmission to AQHA.

GEN124. AVAILABILITY OF FAX OR EMAIL DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS. AQHA employees are authorized, but not required, to accept a facsimile (fax) transmission or email of an original document, when, in the opinion of AQHA, the sender is (1) the authorized party executing the document or (2) a party having substantial interest in the subject horse who has obtained the original document from the authorized person and so verifies the genuineness of the document in the sender's possession to the satisfaction of AQHA. As a precaution, the fax or emails should be followed by the mailing of the original document, but this requirement is not a condition of accepting the fax or email.



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