

## **600. CONSTITUTION OF AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

### **ARTICLE I-NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1:** This organization shall be a division of the American Quarter Horse Association, shall operate within the scope of the bylaws, rules and regulations of AQHA, and shall be named the American Quarter Horse Youth Association.

**Section 2:** The objectives and purposes of the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, hereafter referred to as AQHYA, shall be as follows:

(a) To improve and promote the American Quarter Horse breed.

(b) To improve and develop the capabilities of youth, both individually and through group participation, in the breeding, raising and exhibition of American Quarter Horses.

(c) To develop and improve scholarship, leadership and community interest and participation of young horsemen.

(d) To encourage high moral character, sportsmanship and clean living among all its members.

(e) To establish a means whereby youth members may work in conjunction with AQHA Youth Activities Committee.

(f) To create, foster and assist subsidiary youth affiliates composed of members of AQHYA.

(g) To acquaint youth members and affiliates with the parent organization, AQHA, its structure and functions.

**Section 3:** The AQHYA Motto “America’s Horse, Today’s Youth - Working Towards a Better Tomorrow”

### **ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** Classes of Membership: This organization shall

have the following classes of members:

**(a) Organizational Members**, consisting of youth affiliates. The designation youth affiliate shall be defined as one youth association per state/province or international affiliate, acceptable to and approved by AQHYA and its Advisory Board.

**(b) Individual Members**, consisting of boys and girls 18 years of age or under.

**(c)** Voting rights in the organization shall be vested exclusively in organizational members, each of which shall be entitled to designate four delegates for each youth affiliate.

**(d)** Annual individual membership fees will be \$15 or \$35 for a three-year membership with a lifetime youth membership fee of \$50 (membership through the 18 year age eligibility), which membership shall allow a youth all privileges of a regular member, and in addition, all privileges of a member of AQHA, the parent organization, except the right to vote at AQHA membership meetings and hold office in the parent organization. The monies of the organization shall be deposited in such manner, in such banks, or trust companies, and may be withdrawn in such manner as the Board of Delegates and Advisory Board may direct or designate.

**Section 2: Approval of Youth Affiliates:** A youth affiliate is eligible to be recognized and considered in good standing with AQHYA and the Advisory Board of the organization, when the following general conditions are met:

**(a)** The youth affiliate must be approved by or affiliated with the recognized state/provincial or international AQHA Affiliate.

**(b)** Each youth affiliate shall submit to AQHYA its constitution and bylaws, in addition to a complete list of Youth Affiliate officers, AQHYA Delegate(s), youth advisor(s) and AQHYA World Championship Show qualifying guidelines on or before April 1 of the membership year. Youth Affiliate officers and AQHYA Delegates must be members in good standing of AQHYA.

**(c)** Each organization shall encompass its respective state/province or country in scope, and affiliates with more than 1,500 registered American Quarter Horses would be required to have 50 resident youth members to affiliate. Affiliates with 500 to 1,500 registered American Quarter Horses would be required to have 35 resident youth members, and affiliates with less than 500 registered American Quarter Horses would be required to have 25 resident youth members to affiliate. An organization found to be representative of the state/province or country may be allowed to affiliate with less than the required number of members if they meet all other requirements such as: filing a copy of their constitution and bylaws, submitting a list of officers, delegates and advisors to AQHA by the deadline listed above, and submitting a list of members to AQHA by May 31 of the membership year, if they make a formal request for consideration to AQHA by May 31.

**(d)** Annually, an affiliate membership list must be sent to AQHYA on or before May 31 of the membership year. In accordance with subparagraph (b), AQHYA is to be notified of any amendments made to the initial affiliate constitution. New affiliates must send a complete constitution and bylaws.

**(e)** No provision of the youth affiliate constitution is in conflict with the AQHYA or AQHA constitution, bylaws or general rules and regulations.

(f) Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of AQHYA and AQHA

(g) Membership must be open to all youth 18 years of age and under interested in American Quarter Horses.

**Section 3: Approval of International Youth Associations:** An international association, which is recognized by AQHA, is automatically eligible for its youth members to be members of AQHYA; compete in AQHYA activities or AQHA-approved youth events; and for its youth organization to have delegates with voting privileges on the Board of Delegates of AQHYA. To compete in AQHYA activities or AQHA-approved youth events, or serve as a delegate of AQHYA, an international member must also be a member of AQHYA by payment of the requisite membership fee and compliance of all rules and regulations. Recognition of an international youth affiliate may be obtained by filing, with AQHA's Senior Manager of Youth Activities, an annual written letter of certification by the president of the AQHA-recognized parent international affiliate, certifying:

(a) that the international affiliate has a youth organization with an appointed or elected adult youth advisor or leader responsible for the activities of the youth organization and conduct of its members, either as a division of the international affiliate or separate organization;

(b) the number of youth members in good standing and if any intend to compete in AQHYA-approved events, their names, addresses and ages (if not already available through AQHA records), together with any other information requested; and, (c) the names of youth elected by the international youth affiliate to represent that organization as AQHYA delegates. Upon request, the president of the recognized parent international affiliate shall provide copies of the youth organization's bylaws, rules and regulations pertaining to its activities, and if a separate organization, governmental certification of its existence and good standing in the international country.

### **ARTICLE III-AQHYA OFFICERS, DELEGATES, DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1:** The business and property of the organization shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Delegates and an Executive Committee hereinafter created and empowered.

**Section 2:** Delegates: A youth affiliate shall exercise its voting privileges in the organization through its delegates, annually elected by the resident members in good standing of each youth affiliate.

(a) **Vacancy:** In the case of any vacancy in the Affiliate Board of Delegates, the President of the youth affiliate shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of the affiliate's delegate.

(b) **Meetings:** The regular annual meeting or meetings of the Board of Delegates shall be held at such time and place as they may be fixed by the AQHYA Executive Committee for the purpose of electing officers of the organization and for the purpose of such other business as may be brought before the meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Delegates may be held at such time and place as may be designated in the notice, whenever called in writing by the direction of the President or by a majority of the Board of Delegates.

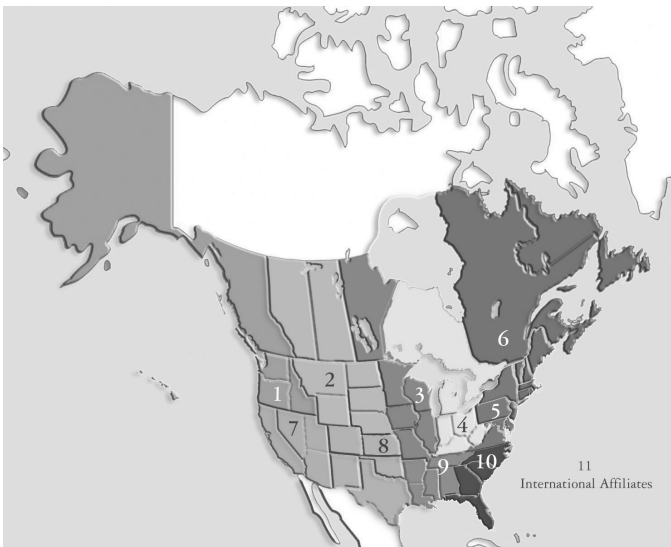
(c) **Notice of Meetings:** Written or printed notice of all meetings stating the place, date and hour of meeting, and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes of which the meeting is being called, shall be delivered not less than 15 days before the date of the meeting, either in person or by mail, at the discretion of

the president or secretary, or the officer or person calling the meeting, to each recognized youth affiliate entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered, upon deposit in the United States mail addressed to recognized youth affiliates at their address as it appears on the records of the association, with postage thereon prepaid.

**(d) Quorum:** A majority of the number of delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but if at any meeting of the board there may be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

**(e) Powers of the Board:** The Board of Delegates shall have the power and authority to direct the affairs of the organization, including, but not limited to, the right to make, amend and repeal the constitution of the organization, as they may deem expedient concerning the conduct, management and activities of the organization, the admission, classification, qualification, suspension and expulsion of members, removal of officers, expenditure of money and other details relating to the general purposes of the organization, subject to the approval of the Advisory Board.

**Section 3: Regions of the Organization:** The continental United States and Canadian provinces shall be divided into ten regions which shall be designated as shown by the map above. Youth affiliates of international countries will participate in an eleventh region.



**Section 4: AQHYA Officers:** The officers of the organization shall be the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sentinel, who shall be elected from and by the Board of Directors previously selected by the various regions of the organization. Such officers shall hold office for a period of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified. An officer must remain eligible for AQHYA membership and a member in good standing for the duration of their term. (An officer can not turn 19 before January 1 during the term in which they are serving.) Youth may only accept a nomination for AQHYA Officer if they have been elected as an AQHYA Director at

that AQHYA Convention. Additionally, the youth must have served as an AQHYA Director for at least one term. (For further details on the election process, consult the AQHYA Guide to Campaigning.)

**(a) President:** The president shall be the chief executive officer of the association and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the association, subject to the direction of the Board of Delegates, and shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Delegates. The president shall appoint all committees of the association subject to the approval of the AQHA and AQHYA Executive Committees. The president shall submit to the members annually at their meeting a report of the status of the association and its activities during the preceding year. No delegate of AQHYA may be elected to serve more than one year as president. In order to be eligible to run for President of AQHYA, a member must have previously served at least one year as an AQHYA Director or Officer. The president shall have such other and further duties and authority as may be prescribed elsewhere in this constitution or from time to time by the Board of Delegates. The president will also serve as the Executive Committee regional representative of the region(s) from which he/she was elected. The president will serve on the Youth Activities Committee for two years; as president of AQHYA and as immediate past president.

**(b) Vice President:** The vice president shall, in the absence, disability or inability to act of the president, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the president, and shall perform such other duties as the president shall prescribe from time to time. The vice president will also serve as the Executive Committee regional representative of the region(s) from which he/she was elected.

**(c) Secretary:** The secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and of the Board of Delegates, and shall record or cause to be recorded all votes taken and the minutes of all proceedings in a minute book of AQHYA to be kept for that purpose. He or she shall perform like duties for the committees when requested to do so. The secretary shall have the principal responsibility to give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the Board of Delegates and the members, but this shall not lessen the authority of others to give such notice as provided in this constitution. The secretary shall maintain communication between the Executive Committee and the AQHA Senior Manager of Youth Activities. The secretary will also serve as the Executive Committee regional representative of the region(s) from which he/she was elected.

**(d) Treasurer:** The treasurer shall have the responsibility of examining the financial need of specific projects and needs of AQHYA, and reporting those costs to the Board of Delegates. He or she shall be made aware of the continuing status of membership growth and corresponding payment of dues. The treasurer will also serve as the Executive Committee regional representative of the region(s) from which he/she was elected.

**(e) Sentinel:** The sentinel shall have the responsibility of maintaining order at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Delegates in accordance with parliamentary procedure, in addition to preparing meeting rooms and facilities for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Delegates. The sentinel may also be required to fill those duties that may from time to time be prescribed by the president. The sentinel will also be

responsible for compiling an annual scrapbook for AQHYA. In addition, the sentinel will serve as the Executive Committee regional representative of the region(s) from which he/she was elected.

**(f) AQHYA Director:** Annually, three Directors shall be elected by the delegates of each designated region at a regular annual meeting of delegates. The duties of an AQHYA Director are to enhance communication and serve as liaison between AQHYA membership of the particular region and the AQHYA Executive Committee. The candidate for AQHYA Director of a particular region must be a delegate from their affiliate; actually reside within the region; be of a minimum age of 14 years; together with such other qualifications as the AQHYA Executive Committee may, from time to time, designate. The candidate must also remain eligible for AQHYA membership and a member in good standing for the duration of their term. (A youth director can not turn 19 before January 1 during the term in which they are serving.)

**(g) Vacancies of Elective Offices:** All vacancies in the elective offices of the organization shall be filled by the Executive Committee from the Board of Delegates for the unexpired term, and those so appointed shall serve until the election and acceptance of their duly qualified successors.

**Section 5: AQHYA Executive Committee:** The AQHYA Executive Committee of the organization shall consist of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sentinel, elected by the Board of Delegates at its annual meeting. The delegates of each of the 11 regions of the organization shall annually elect 33 AQHYA Directors. Those directors who have previously served one term as an AQHYA Director shall be eligible for election as an AQHYA Officer Candidate. They may be eligible to become a member of the AQHYA Executive Committee when approved by the Advisory Board of the Organization. Such representative shall be certified in writing by the delegates who elected this regional representative.

**(a) Meetings of the AQHYA Executive Committee:** The AQHYA Executive Committee shall meet whenever and wherever called by direction of the president or three members of the committee acting jointly, of which meeting the secretary shall give 10 days written notice, but such notice may be waived by any member.

**(b) Powers of the AQHYA Executive Committee:** All powers of the Board of Delegates are hereby vested in the AQHYA Executive Committee.

**(c) Quorum:** The quorum of the AQHYA Executive Committee shall be three members.

**(d)** During the interim between annual meetings, or special meetings, of the Board of Delegates, the AQHYA Executive Committee is empowered to direct the affairs of the organization.

#### **ARTICLE IV-ADVISORY BOARD**

The Advisory Board of the organization shall consist of the AQHA President, the AQHA Executive Vice President, the Chairman of the Youth Activities Committee, the Director of Youth Activities, the Senior Manager of Youth Activities and any additional members appointed by the AQHA Executive Committee. This Advisory Board shall consist of at least four adults to assist the AQHA Youth Activities Committee in directing the activities of AQHYA. All actions of the organization and all nominees from the various regions of the organization for election to the AQHYA Executive

Committee shall be subject to the Advisory Board's approval.

### **ARTICLE V-PLACE OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1:** The place of business of this association shall be AQHA headquarters in Amarillo, Texas.

**Section 2:** All correspondence regarding AQHYA shall be directed to the Youth Activities Department of AQHA in Amarillo, Texas.

### **ARTICLE VI-AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution of the organization may be amended at the annual meeting of the Board of Delegates by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided a quorum of the delegates is in attendance.

### **ARTICLE VII-TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

Membership and election to office in AQHYA is a privilege, not a right, which may be terminated or refused for cause detrimental to the interest of AQHYA, of which it is a division, its programs, policies, objectives and harmonious relationship of its members. A member may be removed from the membership roll, an officer may be removed from office, a director may be removed from their position or an individual may be refused membership by the Advisory Board after prior written notice of the time and place of hearing, containing specification of charges, where the individual may attend, with counsel, to hear evidence against him, and present evidence on his behalf. The ruling or action of the Advisory Board may be appealed to the AQHA Executive Committee by written request filed with the Executive Vice President within 15 days of the ruling date, which appeal shall, however, not suspend the effect of the ruling.

### **METRIC SYSTEM**

Unit	Abbreviation	Number of Meters	Approximate U.S. Equivalent
kilometer (1 mile equals 1.6094 kilometers)	km	1,000	0.62 mile
meter (1 yard equals 0.9144 meter)	m	1	39.37 inches
centimeter (1 inch equals 2.54 centimeters)	cm	0.01	0.39 inch
millimeter	mm	0.001	0.04 inch

# WHY RENEW? LET'S REVIEW.

*Here's how your AQHA membership adds up:*

Your Benefit	Annual Value	Your Cost
America's Horse monthly magazine	\$35	\$0
Internet records*	\$120	\$0
Discount on transfer of ownership	\$35 per transfer	\$15
Discount on foal registration	\$35 per registration	\$25
AQHA Ford/Lincoln/Mercury		
Member Incentive	\$500	\$0
FedEx discount**	\$15	\$0
AQHA John Deere discount***	\$30	\$0
AQHA 12-month membership	Invaluable	\$40
EquiPass AQHA Road Service****	\$20	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$790</b>	<b>\$80</b>

For an even better value, get three years of AQHA membership for the price of two! Add in FedEx shipping discounts, and your membership value is even greater!

\*\$10 per month of complimentary Internet records at [AQHAMEMBERS.COM](http://AQHAMEMBERS.COM)

\*\*Based on 16% discount on \$32 FedEx Express package; estimated three packages shipped per year

\*\*\*Based on a \$399 lawnmower purchase. Most savings higher.

\*\*\*\*Discount on retail value of EquiPass AQHA Road Service.

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Visit [aqha.com/membershipapp.html](http://aqha.com/membershipapp.html) or call (800) 414-RIDE.

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ASSOCIATION

Life is a  
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The AQHA Corporate Partner benefits listed above apply to U.S. memberships only.