

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

(Revised December 2019)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Montana Quarter Horse Association, Incorporated, hereinafter known as MQHA.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

Vision Statement: MQHA is a premier equine organization of excellence promoting unity of a diverse membership and versatility of the American Quarter Horse.

Mission Statement: We promote the use of the American Quarter Horse in Montana in a variety of ways. We provide beneficial services for our members which enhance and encourage Quarter Horse ownership and participation. We generate growth of MQHA membership via the marketing, promotion, advertising and publicity of the MQHA.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Composition:

- A. Membership shall be open to any person, family, or other entity interested in Quarter Horses.
- B. Families need only one (1) MQHA membership for children 18 and under, which entitles them to just one (1) vote per membership.

Section 2. Classification:

- A. Active: Any person who has paid current MQHA dues. Dues must be paid prior to voting in the annual election.
- B. Honorary: Members shall be entitled to all MQHA privileges with the exception of voting, holding office, or receiving high point awards.

Section 3. Good Standing:

- A. A member in good standing is one whose current dues are paid and who complies with the provisions of the MQHA Bylaws and Standing Rules. Each membership in good standing is entitled to one (1) vote.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

Section 1. The MQHA membership dues for each fiscal year shall be determined in advance by the Board of Directors and listed in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. All dues shall be payable on or before the beginning of the membership year (November 1-October 31). Members must pay their dues before voting. The fiscal shall be January 1 through December 31. Dues must be paid before points will be considered for any awards.

Section 3. Non-payment of dues shall automatically terminate membership. A membership terminated for non-payment of dues will be reinstated by paying the then current dues.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Composition:

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of one (1) elected director from each district in Montana, four (4) At Large Directors, the Amateur Chairperson, and the immediate past president. The MQHYA Youth Advisor(s) will be an official member of the Board of Directors and have full voting privileges.
- B. District and At Large Directors shall be elected for a three (3)-year term. Directors may succeed themselves.
- C. All directors must be current members of MQHA.
- D. Officers shall be voted on from the current Board of Directors.
- E. The following shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board of Directors: All National Directors, and the MQHYA Youth President.

Section 2. Nomination of District Directors:

- A. Candidates for director shall reside in the district from which they are nominated. At Large Directors may reside in any district/area of Montana. All candidates must specify from which district they are running.
- B. Nomination of candidates is by written petition signed by the candidate and endorsed by five (5) other current MQHA members, the candidate shall provide the names and current contact information for each of the endorsee's.
- C. Each candidate's petition must be received by the secretary sixty (60) days before the annual meeting.

Section 3. Election of District Directors:

- A. The secretary will prepare and mail a ballot to each member at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting.
- B. Members may vote by mail or bring their ballot to the annual meeting.
- C. All ballots shall be tabulated under the direction of the secretary and a committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Election is by a majority vote.

Section 4. Non-Attendance:

- A. Directors must attend 50% of conference calls and three (3) of the four (4) at table meetings during the year or notify the Secretary or President at least one (1) day prior for an excused absence.

Section 5. Vacancies:

- A. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors can be filled at the next table Board meeting by a majority of those present.

Section 6. Meetings:

- A. The Board of Directors shall hold four (4) at table meetings annually, meetings shall be posted on the MQHA website, Facebook and/or notified by email. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, at table meetings may be reduced to no less than three (3) meetings annually.
- B. Emergency meetings and/or monthly conference calls may be called by the president or three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Authority:

- A. The Board of Directors shall have administrative authority to transact such business as may be necessary between MQHA Annual Meetings.

Section 8. Elected Officers:

- A. The elected officers of the MQHA shall be president and the vice-president. The term of office is one (1) year.
1. Candidates shall be nominated from the new Board of Directors by the MQHA membership during the annual meeting.
 2. The election is by majority vote.

ARTICLE VI. APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 1. Composition:

- A. The appointed officers of the MQHA shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and listed in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. Appointment:

- A. The Board of Directors shall fill these positions by appointment for a one (1) -year term at the first meeting following the annual meeting.
- B. The salaries for each paid position shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. Duties of appointed officers shall be determined by the Board of Directors and listed in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. President:

- A. Preside at all regular, emergency, and annual meetings.
- B. Appoint all committees except Amateur with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- C. Have general supervision of all activities of the association.
- D. Be chairman of the Bylaws committee and ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
- E. Shall serve a one year term (non-voting) to the Board and MQHA membership in the role of Past President. Responsibilities during this time to act as a consultant to the current President and offer guidance in leading the Association to the Vice President in the absence of the President. He/She will be a resource to the Board and General Membership during this term. If this position becomes vacated it shall remain vacated until the next officer election, when a new President is elected.

Section 2. Vice President:

- A. Preside at meetings in the absence of or at the request of the president.
- B. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall perform the duties of the president.

Section 3. Executive Committee:

- A. The executive committee shall consist of the current MQHA president, vice president, two (2) national directors, and one (1) member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition:

- A. The number of National Directors elected to represent Montana is determined by the American Quarter Horse Association.
- B. National Directors are approved by the American Quarter Horse Association at their annual convention.

Section 2. Nomination of AQHA National Director Alternates:

- A. The MQHA, in accordance with AQHA requirements, shall elect two (2) candidates for AQHA Director Alternate. Alternates shall be elected for the period from annual MQHA Convention to annual AQHA Convention.
- B. Upon election, the MQHA President shall mail the names of recommended alternates to the AQHA.

Section 3. Election:

- A. Nomination of candidates for AQHA Director Alternate is by written petition signed by the candidate and five (5) other members. All National Director candidates must be current members of MQHA.
- B. Each alternate candidate's petition must be received by the secretary sixty (60) days before the annual meeting.
- C. The secretary will prepare and mail a ballot to each member at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting.
- D. Members may vote by mail or bring their ballot to the annual meeting.
- E. All ballots shall be tabulated under the direction of the secretary and a committee appointed by the Board of Directors. Election is by majority vote.
- F. The National Director Alternate candidate receiving the most votes is listed first for recommendation. The Alternate candidate receiving the second most votes is listed second for recommendation.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting:

- A. MQHA shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as determined by the Board of Directors.
1. The annual meeting shall be called by the president or by five (5) members of the Board of Directors.
2. Announcement of such meeting shall be emailed to MQHA members, posted on the MQHA website and Facebook page.

Section 2. Special Meetings:

- A. Special meetings of the members may be called by the president, or three (3) members of the Board of Directors. The purpose of any meeting shall be stated in the notice to members.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings:

- A. Notice of any meeting of the members shall be emailed to all voting members and posted on the MQHA website and Facebook page at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum:

- A. Ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum in a general meeting. A majority of current active directors shall constitute a quorum in a Board of Directors' meeting.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Composition:

- A. All standings and special committee chairpersons shall be members of the Board of Directors.
- B. The chairperson is authorized to appoint additional MQHA members to serve on their committees.

Section 2. Standing Committees:

- A. Finance
- B. Bylaws
- C. Membership & Marketing
- D. Amateur
- E. Region 2
- F. Youth/Scholarship
- G. Race
- H. Show
- I. Nomination
- J. Convention/Awards

Section 3. Duties of Standing Committees:

- A. Finance:
 1. Prepare an annual budget.
 2. Monitor adherence to the budget.

3. Provide an annual treasurer's report to the Board of Directors in areas of finance.

B. Bylaws:

1. Interpret the bylaws.
2. Receive and prepare proposed amendments to the bylaws, report them to the Board of Directors and submit them to the annual meeting.

C. Show:

1. Conduct annual show meeting.
2. Compile the yearly show calendar.
3. Prepare recommendations for the annual meeting.

D. Amateur:

1. The purpose of the Amateur Committee is to promote the Amateur program in Montana.
2. The MQHA Amateur Committee shall consist of all Amateurs who are members in good standing of MQHA, and possess a current AQHA Amateur card.
3. The Amateur Committee shall consist of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary to be elected from the MQHA Amateur membership for a two (2)-year term. Amateur Chairperson may succeed him/herself in office.
The Chairperson shall preside at all regular, emergency, and annual Amateur meetings; appoint all subcommittees; have general supervision of all group activities; approve all checks involving Amateur funds; be an ex-officio member of all subcommittees; and serve as the liaison on the MQHA Board of Directors in coordinating Amateur activities.
 - a. The Vice Chairperson shall, in the absence of the Chairperson, preside at meetings and perform the duties of the Chairperson.
 - b. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the MQHA Amateur Committee; preserve all papers, correspondence, and transactions of the MQHA Amateur Committee, and maintain a current record of the names and addresses of all MQHA Amateur members, and sign all checks involving Amateur funds.

E. Race:

1. Work in conjunction with the racing liaison.
2. Promote Quarter Horse racing in Montana.
3. Prepare an annual report with recommendations.

F. Youth:

1. Serve as an advisor to the MQHYA.
2. Act as a liaison between the MQHYA and MQHA.
3. Oversee the compatibility of MQHA and MQHYA bylaws.
4. Prepare an annual report with recommendations.

G. Nomination:

1. Seek out qualified candidates for the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special Committees:

- A. Duties of Special Committees shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Duties of Special Committees:

- A. Duties of Special Committees shall be determined by the Board of Directors and listed in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XI. HIGH POINT AWARDS

Section 1. Awards will be presented to the MQHA members whose horse(s) accumulate the most points in Montana shows approved by MQHA throughout the designated annual show and race seasons in accordance with the point system(s) accepted by the membership.

Section 2. High point award classes and other award categories will be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall select the recipients for special recognition categories.

Section 4. The awards committee, a subdivision of the convention committee, shall select awards for all MQHA year-end and high point awards.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY AND ITS USE

Section 1. Corporate Property:

- A. All property, real, personal or mixed, legal or equitable, acquired by MQHA by grant, purchase, gift, bequest, or devise, shall be its corporate property.

Section 2. Use of Name and Property:

- A. The name and property of MQHA shall not be employed for individual gain or benefit and shall not be put to any commercial use whatsoever.
- B. Permission for the use of the name or the property may be granted only by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Composition:

- A. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern MQHA in cases in which they are not consistent with these bylaws, Montana law, or with rules adopted by MQHA.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Composition:

- A. The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting.
- B. An amendment must be presented in writing to the bylaw committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting.
- C. Proposed amendments of revisions shall be emailed, posted on the MQHA website, Facebook page, and included in the MQHA convention mailings.
- D. The secretary shall mail amendment and revision proposals to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.
- E. Votes will be tabulated under the direction of the secretary and president. Results will be announced at the annual meetings.

STANDING RULES

(Revised December 2019)

- 1 **Conference Call:** Either the president or the secretary, at the request of the president, shall make the arrangements for a telephone conference call. At least a majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall be available in order to hold a telephone conference. The secretary shall list the members taking part in the conference and shall take a roll call vote to determine the results. A majority vote decides. The secretary shall immediately send the results of the conference to all members of the Board of Directors.
- 2 **Mail Vote:** The president shall direct the secretary to be responsible for drafting and sending out the ballots, tabulating the vote, and reporting the results to the members of the Board of Directors. A majority vote decides.
- 3 **Duties of Appointed Officers:**
 - A. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the MQHA and Board of Directors, preserve all papers, letters, and transactions of MQHA, keep an accurate record of names, addresses and Amateur status of all MQHA members, conduct correspondence for MQHA and be familiar with Bylaws and Standing Rules.
 - B. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept; an account of all monies received and expended for the use of the association, and be bonded as ordered by the Board of Directors. All sums received he/she shall deposit or cause to be deposited in the bank or banks or trust company approved by the Board of Directors, and shall make a report at the annual meeting or when called upon by the President. At the expiration of term of office, the treasurer shall deliver or cause to be delivered over to successor all books, monies and other property in a timely manner.
 - C. Point Keeper: The Point Keeper will compile an accurate computerized listing of horses earning points for year-end awards with standings current within ten (10) days after the receipt of show and race results, have year-end standings available within thirty (30) days of the last approved show or race, have accumulated point totals available for public perusal at every show following the first show of the calendar year, and issue a copy of updated totals to the MQHA Newsletter, and will posted on the MQHA website. Specific duties and responsibilities for this position will be defined by the Executive Committee.
 - D. The Racing Liaison Shall:
 1. Submit all bills to the Board of Directors for approval.
 2. Compile a yearly racing point listing of horses qualifying for MQHA year-end race awards. Results to be presented to the Board of Directors.
 3. Extend a personal invitation to all award winners, inviting them to the year-end banquet.
 4. Be responsible for submitting articles to the Racing Journal and the MQHA Association Reporter monthly.
 5. Compile a list of horses and owners eligible after each payment date and mail to each owner as soon as possible after each payment date.
 6. Separate the entry list by race, i.e., Charlie Russell Futurity along with entry fees and horses' names and owners. The Charlie Russell Derby will be a separate list of eligible horses, owners, and entry fees. Keep an ongoing account of the amount of money in each race and send that information along on the entry list to participating horsemen.
 7. Deliver, before entry day, to the racing secretary at the race track holding the Charlie Russell Stakes Races:
 - a. A list of all eligible horses for the Charlie Russell Futurity as well as all funds collected for the race.
 - b. A list of all eligible horses for the Charlie Russell Derby as well as all funds collected for the race.
 - c. Assist the race meet secretary in utilizing the information provided.

8. Coordinate, along with the racing director, the awards presented to the winners of the Charlie Russell Futurity and Charlie Russell Derby.
9. Establish a budget and have all forms and added purse pre-approved.

4. Special Committees: To Include:

- A. Marketing and Promotion
- B. Member Services
- C. Executive
- D. Breeders

5. Suspension:

- A. Suspension from AQHA automatically suspends a member from MQHA.
- B. A member having debts with the MQHA or one of its approved functions delinquent over ninety (90) days will be suspended from the Association, provided that written notice by certified mail of the account due and intention to suspend is delivered to the member.
- C. A suspended member may be reinstated with the approval of the Board, and is entitled to a hearing at the next scheduled Board of Directors' meeting following suspension.

6. Dues:

- A. Family, Individual, Partnership, Ranch, Race or any other entity dues are \$40.00 (American funds) for the current year. Postmark will determine date dues are paid.
- B. Foundation Fund/Life memberships are \$375.00.
- 1 Life memberships may be made on a payment schedule, payment terms of which are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 2 Annual dues are to be paid until life membership is paid in full.

7. Foundation:

- A. The fund will be invested in secure financial instruments that will guarantee a high level of safety while protecting the purchasing power of the original investment.
- B. The fund will be assigned to such financial institution(s) as directed by the Board of Directors. Each will be given leeway with its investments within the above guidelines and will provide the Board will quarterly reports.

I. YEAR-END AWARDS

- A. The point system for earning high point awards will be determined by the general membership.
 - 1 Desired changes to the current system must originate and be presented with recommendation for approval from their respective committee meetings (race or show) at the annual convention. These desired changes would then be presented for membership vote at the general convention meeting and voted on by voting members in attendance. Acceptance would require a majority vote of those members present and voting.
 - 2 The accepted systems will be printed in the Standing Rules.
 - 3 No system can be in direct conflict with any other provision of the MQHA Bylaws.
- B. In order to accumulate points for an annual high point award, it is the member's duty to **annually** submit to the MQHA Point Keeper a copy of the registration certificate of each horse which that member wishes to campaign toward an award and to purchase an annual/life number (show horses only) for each horse.
 - 1 The last owner (one or more) shown on the registration certificate of that horse must be an MQHA member in good standing and must have paid dues at the time of competition.
 - 2 The exhibitor of any horse being shown toward year-end awards must also be an MQHA member in good standing at the time of competition for any points to count.
 - 3 Dues must be paid in full before compilation of points count. Points will count from the date dues are paid, a MQHA annual/life number is purchased, and a copy of the registration papers is given to the Point Keeper.
 - 4 The MQHA membership must be listed the same as it appears on the AQHA registration certificate.
 - 5 Any discrepancy or dispute will be submitted to the Board of Directors for final determination.
- C. An Amateur or Select rider must designate the horse/rider team for which they wish to earn year-end points AND also the division they wish points to be counted in (Amateur or Select). It is the rider's responsibility to notify the MQHA Point Keeper of the division they choose to ride. An Amateur exhibitor who turns 50 years of age during the show season may choose to continue as an Amateur or opt out to become a Select exhibitor. In the event they choose to show as a Select exhibitor, year-end points will begin from the time they declare themselves to be a Select. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to notify the MQHA Point Keeper of their desire to change divisions.

II. YEAR-END CLASS AWARDS All MQHA approved shows to count during a show season (January 1 through December 31).

- A. Exhibitors must attend 50% of the shows to qualify for year-end awards with no minimum number of points required.
- B. Points from the top fifteen (15) shows will count for year-end totals.
- C. A High Point and Reserve will be awarded if a class is offered at least six (6) times during the year.
- D. If a class is not offered six (6) times during the year, only a High Point award will be given, and its value will be equivalent to a Reserve award. Horse with highest number of points will be declared a winner.
- E. In the event of a year-end awards tie for champion, both winners will receive an award and no reserve award will be given. In the event of a tie for reserve, both reserve winners will receive an award.
- F. The awards surcharge on all classes will be \$1.00 per entry, per class, regardless of whether or not a class entry fee is charged. MQHA show approval remittance will be due to the MQHA Secretary/Point Keeper no later than 15 days after the last day of the circuit.
- G. An AQHA mandatory drug charge per horse per show will be charged and all monies from it sent to AQHA; exception Youth/Amateur Shows according to AQHA Rules and Regulations.
- H. Racing awards will be determined by points earned at AQHA approved tracks in Montana. A minimum of ten (10) points is required to be eligible to win a race award. Points do not count until dues are paid.
- I. All results will become final after thirty (30) days of publication of official final standings.
- J. MQHA approval charge is \$65.00 for a show offering Open, Amateur, and Youth; Open and Amateur; or Open and Youth classes. The approval fee for a Youth or a Youth/Amateur show is \$40.00. A check made payable to MQHA for the appropriate amount should accompany this application and **must be paid 60 days prior to the first day of the show**. Approval fees are nonrefundable.
- K. MQHA Year-End awards will ONLY be a choice of monogrammed merchandise offered by MQHA and chosen by the Awards Committee, no cash awards are allowed.
- L. MQHA Double Pointed shows: MQHA will allow each circuit that has fewer than 4 judges to have one show that is eligible to be double pointed. This show must be designated at the time that the show is submitted for MQHA approval. Double pointed shows allow the exhibitor to earn double point for that show, but do not count as a double judged show for year-end awards. Members still need to show to 6 judges annually to qualify for year-end awards.

I .BREEDERS' AWARD

AQHA rules state that the breeder of a horse is the owner or recorded lessee of the dam at the time of service.

MQHA will award the MQHA member(s) who qualify under the AQHA rules and meet all state requirements. Three (3) different categories will be used to give broader scope to the award and involve more MQHA members. An award will be given in each category – Halter, Performance, and Racing. The number of horses counting for the award will be limited to but not less than three (3) that were produced from a dam or dams owned by the breeder at the time of service. The award will be given for the produce which accumulated the most points in a minimum of three (3) MQHA approved shows during a show season (January 1 through December 31). Points to count in Open, Amateur, and Youth classes only. Level 1 classes are **not** included. A breeder must nominate his produce prior to October 1 of that year and provide copies of registration certificates verifying the above conditions to the MQHA secretary. In the event there are not three (3) produce of one breeder winning points in a calendar year, the award will not be given.

II.SIRE AWARD

A stallion owner is the owner or recorded lessee of the stallion at the time of service.

MQHA will award the MQHA member(s) who qualify under the AQHA rules and meet all state requirements. Three (3) different categories will be used to give broader scope to the award and involve more MQHA members. A MQHA Sire Award will be given in each category – Halter, Performance, and Racing. The number of horses counting for the award will be unlimited, but not less than three (3) that were sired by the nominated stallion. The award will be given to the get which accumulate the most MQHA points in all MQHA races/shows during the race/show season (January 1 to December 31). Points to count in Open, Amateur, and Youth. Level 1 classes are **not** included. A stallion owner will nominate sire's get to the MQHA secretary 60 days prior to the annual year end convention and provide copies of registration certificates and stallion breeder reports for the year the dam was bred, or a letter from AQHA as to where the stallion was standing when dam was bred. In the event there are not three (3) get of one stallion owner winning points in a calendar year, the award will not be given.

III.YEAR-END HIGH POINT AND ALL AROUND AWARDS

A. ALL AROUND AWARDS

1. **Junior Horse (5 and under)**
2. **Senior Horse (6 and over)**
3. **Amateur Horse (1 horse, 1 rider)**
4. **Select Amateur Horse (1 horse, 1 rider)**

These awards will be given to the horse that earned the most points in any three or more of the six AQHA performance categories; for Amateur, seven AQHA performance categories. Halter points will be counted and halter is considered one of the required categories. Three categories must have ten (10) points earned in each show. After qualifying in three categories, additional points earned in all categories will also be counted. Points from the top fifteen (15) shows in each class will be used. A Reserve All Around will be given subject to the same guidelines.

B. LEVEL 1 AMATEUR HIGH POINT award will be given to one horse-one rider accumulating the highest total of points over the show year. A Reserve Level 1 Amateur High Point will be given, subject to the same guidelines.

C. ROOKIE AMATEUR HIGH POINT award will be given to one horse/one rider accumulating the highest total of points over the show year. A Reserve Rookie Amateur High Point award will be given, subject to the same guidelines.

IV. MQHA RANCH BROODMARE SIRE AWARD

One of MQHA's goals is to promote stallions that are cow horse bred and have daughters that are producing foals that excel in cow horse events whether it be in the show ring or on the ranch. Each application will be given credit for grand-get that have winnings in any of the cow horse events: cutting, reined cow horse, working cow horse, or roping events. Credit will also be awarded if the horse is ranch ridden.

- 1 The owner must be a member of AQHA and MQHA.
- 2 The stallion must be registered with AQHA as well as all offspring and grand-get.
- 3 The stallion must stand in Montana and must have a minimum of five (5) producing daughters. Each daughter must have produced at least one (1) foal.
- 4 The stallion must have a minimum of ten (10) grand-get, and must have at least one (1) grand-get ranch ridden. **If your stallion meets the above requirements, send in a written entry including the names of the owner, stallion, producing daughters, and grand-get and their registration numbers. Entries must be postmarked by October 1 of the current year. Send entries to the MQHA Secretary.**

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

- A. **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (OAP):** This award recognizes American Quarter Horses used in activities outside of MQHA approved shows, races, and contests. There is an annual fee of \$15.00 and a \$2.00 fee for each event the horse participates in. When competing in an outside event class, size, and placing is recorded with an event official verifying the recorded results are correct. Forms are due to the office within fifteen (15) days of the event. Points are tabulated using the MQHA point chart.
- B. **RODEO AWARD:** Upon discretion, MQHA will honor the rodeo horse with the greatest accomplishments.
- C. **WORLD CHAMPION:** MQHA will honor a horse owned by a MQHA member who has won an AQHA world title.
- D. **HOURS ON HORSEBACK:** Upon discretion, MQHA will honor the MQHA member with the greatest number of hours in the Hours on Horseback program.

VI. HONORARY AWARDS

- A. **RANCH AWARD:** Upon discretion, MQHA will honor an outstanding Montana working ranch. The award will be determined and under the direction of the Board of Directors.
- B. **HERITAGE AWARD:** Each year the MQHA will honor an individual who has positively impacted the growth of MQHA and the promotion of the American Quarter Horse. The award will be determined by and under the direction of the Board of Directors.

VIII. VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE awards will be awarded subject to the award rules and regulations specified in **Section I. YEAR-END AWARDS.** Awards will be presented to the highest scoring horse/rider combination in each Versatility Ranch Horse Class within the divisions of Open, Cowboy, Amateur and Youth.

IX. ANIMAL WELFARE

- A. Every American Quarter Horse shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion in

accordance with the current AQHA Handbook.

- B. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures or veterinary standards, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane.