

BY-LAWS OF THE
MONTANA QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I NAME, OBJECTIVE AND LOCATION

SECTION 1: This association shall be known as the Montana Quarter Horse Youth Association (MQHYA), and shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit association, in accordance with the laws of Montana.

SECTION 2: The principal objective of the Association will be to promote youth interest in the American Quarter Horse and participation in related activities.

SECTION 3: All purposed, policies, and activities of the Association shall be consistent with the purposes, policies, and activities of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and the American Quarter Horse Youth Association.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Membership in the Association shall be open to any youth 18 years and younger on January 1st of the current year, who is interested in the American Quarter Horse. Out-of-State residents may be members of the MQHYA, earn year-end awards (defined in the MQHYA Standing Rules), but may not hold an office in the MQHYA.

SECTION 2: The association shall have no initial membership fee, but shall access annual membership dues for each calendar year in such amount as the membership shall determine in advance. The fiscal year for the MQHYA end December 31 of each calendar year. A lifetime membership will be valid until the member reaches 19 on January 1st of any year.

SECTION 3: Any member of the Association may be suspended or expelled for sufficient cause by majority vote of the Executive Board which consists of: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Directors, and Youth Advisors.

SECTION 4: In all matters governed by the vote of the members, each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. A member in good standing is one whose dues are current and is not on the suspended list.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

SECTION 1: The membership and/or the Executive Board will determine meeting dates, as often as deems necessary with at least one meeting held annual. Notice of the time and place of any regular or annual meeting of the membership shall be posted in the designated publication or by posting at the MQHYA horse show offices or by mail to each member, email or text message.

SECTION 2: An annual meeting of the MQHYA will be held each year. The annual meeting will be held to review the by-laws and standing rules of the MQHYA and for the election of officers for the year. Any other business items may be added to the agenda of the annual meeting by contacting any of the current MQHYA officers. The time for this annual meeting will be decided upon and arranged by the MQHYA Executive Board. The time and place shall be published in the regular newsletter(s) of the MQHYA at least (30) days prior to the scheduled meeting time. Or a letter/email, email or text shall be sent to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting stating the location and time.

SECTION 3: Special meeting of the members can be called by the President of the MQHYA or at least three (3) members of the MQHYA Executive Board. Notice of any special meeting shall be mailed/emailed to all voting members ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The purpose, location and time for any special meeting shall be stated in the notice to all members. The location of any special meeting shall be at a regular scheduled MQHYA approved horse show or at a central Montana location. Any special meeting shall not be scheduled on or during regular school days of school hours for the convenience of all members. MQHYA Executive Board will also appoint an individual/group to keep record of your show points.

SECTION 4: No proxy votes shall be allowed at any MQHYA meeting without advanced notice to all the voting members of the MQHYA. Notice must be given in writing to all MQHYA members fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled meeting to allow all interested MQHYA members time to respond. If proxy votes are used they must be individual and signed by the MQHYA member and mailed or given to the current MQHYA secretary for recording. No verbal proxies shall be allowed.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

SECTION 1: The officers of the Association shall consist of President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Reporter. All shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting. If there are not at least 3 voting youth present, the officer elections will be decided jointly by the Advisor, MQHA President, and any other active MQHA Board members present. Past activity will be taken into consideration in addition to the vote of the youth members present. Each shall hold an office of at least one year. The President and Vice-President may not succeed themselves for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 2: Duties of the President: The President shall be a member ex-officio of all Association committees, shall prepare an agenda for meetings, shall preside at all regular meetings, shall appoint committees with approval of the Board, and shall perform all duties as usually attached to that office. The President is encouraged to attend the MQHA Board of Directors meetings, as a guest, when possible.

SECTION 3: Duties of the 1st Vice-President. The 1st Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President when the latter is absent, or for some other reason, unable to act. The 1st Vice-President shall chair the Ways and Means Committee

SECTION 4: Duties of the 2nd Vice-President. The 2nd Vice-President shall assume all the duties when the President or the 1st President is absent, or for some other reason, unable to act..

SECTION 5: Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings; keeping records of the Association on-file, send out notification either directly or through the reporter, of the meetings; and handle all correspondence.

SECTION 6: Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep the records of the Association finances. He/She shall be prepared to report the financial standing of the Association whenever requested to do so and shall make a full financial report to the Association at each meeting.

SECTION 7: Duties of the Reporter. The Reporter shall arrange a page in the designated publications and will utilize the page monthly with the information about meetings, issues, youth news, and Facebook. The Reporter will also submit news worthy information to the youth section of the Quarter Horse Journal of the AQHA and Facebook page.

SECTION 8: Duties of the Directors. Directors shall be required to attend the annual meetings of the Association and as many regular meetings as possible. They shall act as a liaison between the MQHYA members in their respective districts. The districts will be defined as follows:

WEST: Missoula, Lincoln, Flathead, Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Sanders, Lake, Powell

SOUTH: Beaverhead, Madison, Park, Broadwater, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Jefferson, Gallatin, Stillwater

NORTH: Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Chouteau, Teton, Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Fergus, Judith Basin, Meagher, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Pondera

EAST: Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Musselshell, Yellowstone., Big Horn, Treasure, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, Petroleum

ARTICLE V **COMMITTEES**

SECTION 1: The President with the approval of the Executive Board, may appoint as many committees as deemed necessary, but to include the committees; Ways and Means, Memberships, and Year-End Awards. The MQHYA Executive Board will also appoint an individual group to keep a record of youth show points or approve compensation to MQHA point keeper.

ARTICLE VI **BY-LAWS**

SECTION 1: These By-Laws may be replaced, modified, or amended at any annual meeting of the association by a majority vote of all voting members present.

ARTICLE VII **COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS**

SECTION 1: In compliance with the AQHA, all youth competing in youth classes in AQHA approved shows must exhibit a registered Quarter Horse and be a member of the AQHYA. The registered horse exhibited must meet all AQHA ownership requirements. See official, current AQHA Handbook.

ARTICLE VIII
YOUTH ADVISOR OR YOUTH ADVISORS

SECTION 1: Youth Association member shall select a Youth Advisor or Youth Advisors at the annual meeting. The purpose of the Youth Advisor or Youth Advisors will be to advise, help and promote the youth organization in any way as may be appreciated. The Youth Advisor or Youth Advisors should accompany the MQHYA Youth Team to the AQHYA World Show.

MQHYA END OF YEAR AWARDS

Qualifications for MQHYA End of Year Awards Check-off List:

- 1.) Youth must be a current member of the MQHYA.
- 2.) All youth must purchase a MQHA back number.
- 3.) Youth are eligible for youth End of Year Awards showing a horse owned by either themselves, their family or leased according to the terms of AQHA.
- 4.) All points are based on one horse/rider combination.
- 5.) Exhibitor/Horse combination must show in a **minimum of three (3) MQHA/MQHYA shows or 50% of shows offered, whichever is less** in the current calendar year to be eligible for awards.

Year End awards will be given to the Top Two Montana Point Earners (that meet the qualifications) in each Level 1 Youth, Rookie Youth and Youth Class.

Walk Trot Youth will be given an award for Participation as well. No minimum show/point requirements necessary. (They are the future and we need to inspire them!)

Youth All Around Awards will be given to the top point earner in the Rookie, Level 1 and Youth divisions

MQHYA reserves the right to cancel all prizes if the funding is not available.