

MINNESOTA YOUTH QUARTER HORSE YOUTH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1.

The objectives and purpose of the Minnesota Youth Quarter Horse Association shall be as follows

- To improve and promote the Quarter Horse Breed,
- To improve and develop the capabilities of youth, both individually, and in groups through participation in the breeding, raising, training and exhibiting of Quarter Horses,
- To improve and develop scholarship, leadership, community interest, and community participation in young horsemen,
- To encourage high moral character, sportsmanship and clean living among its membership,
- To acquaint junior members with the parent organization, the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association, its structure and its functions.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

All members of the Minnesota Youth Quarter Horse Association will meet the requirements of the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA) as prescribed in the Official Handbook of the AQHA. This includes youth and novice youth, age requirements, and irregularities. The following inclusions will also apply:

- The parents or the youth must also be member(s) of the MQHA, to participate in any and all of the awards programs or youth team participation,
- Membership Fees shall be \$5.00 for new membership and renewals. The Membership fees may be paid at any time during the year, however, the membership fee is only valid for the remainder of the calendar year. Membership Fees are made payable to the MQHA, and sent to the Membership Secretary. Membership will be validated by the postmark date on the envelope in which it was received or by the date it is received by hand,
- All Membership Fees must be paid before points will be recorded for participation in year-end awards, youth team appointments, holding office and any other special recognition given to MYQHA members. On payment of Membership Fees, participation in all activities will commence.

ARTICLE III ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1.

All members wishing to serve as officers of the MYQHA must meet all the membership requirements. Whenever possible, the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be filled by youth who are in the 14-18 youth category.

Section 2.

The election of officers and directors will be by mail ballot. The ballot will be prepared by the President, Youth Advisor, and Election committee. The election committee to be selected from the general membership by the President and Advisor. The membership will be called and asked if they wish to be on the ballot by the election committee. The ballot will be prepared in mid-October and mailed to all current members for their vote. Each member is responsible for returning their ballot in a sealed envelope, to the Youth Advisor. All ballots received prior to the annual meeting will be brought to the meeting where it will be counted by the election committee and advisor. The results will be announced under the election committee's report.

Section 3.

The Board of Directors of the MYQHA will be comprised of the four offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Directors. The Directors will be comprised of an equal amount of members from the 14-18 category and the 13 & under category. All members of the Board of Directors must meet all the membership requirements of the MYQHA.

Section 4. The new officers and directors will assume their duties and responsibilities at the close of the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1.

The President will serve as the presiding officer of all general meetings of the MYQHA. She/he will be an ex-officio member of all committees. She/he will, with the approval of the Youth Advisor, plan and call all meetings of the membership. She/he will act as liaison between the MQHA and the MYQHA.

Section 2.

The Vice President will assume the responsibilities of the President in the absence of that office. She/he will serve as a member of all Fund raising events of the organization.

Section 3.

The Secretary will record and publish the minutes of all membership and board meetings. She/he will serve as the reporter to the MQHA newsletter, unless a volunteer or appointee by the Advisor will serve in that capacity. She/he will be responsible for all general correspondence of the organization as directed by the membership, President or Youth Advisor .

Section 4.

The Treasurer will receive a list of current members from the Membership Secretary. She/he will pay all bills and collect monies owed to the organization. She/he will prepare a financial report for each general meeting, a final report for the annual meeting, and a budget for the ensuing year (together with the Youth Advisor).

Section 5.

The directors will serve as standing committee chairmen. The standing committees will be determined annually by the Youth Advisor and the MYQHA President, following the election of new officers, and prior to the January meeting.

Section 6.

The delegates for the AQHYA will be determined by the membership and the Youth Advisor prior to the annual World Show. If a vacancy should occur the President of the MYQHA will appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. The following guidelines will be considered:

- a. The delegates should be planning to attend the Youth World Show where the annual meeting is held,
- b. The delegate should have served as an Officer or Director of the MYQHA,
- c. The delegate MUST meet all membership requirements of the organizations,
- d. At least two of the delegates will be from the 14-18 age group. Only delegates may seek national office and each delegate must meet all the requirements of the AQHYA.

Section 7.

The President, with the approval of the Youth Advisor, may appoint a newsletter reporter. The Reporter will be responsible for timely articles in the State Newsletter, and AQHYA section in the AQHA Quarter Horse Journal. If a reporter is not appointed, the duties of the reporter will be the responsibility of the secretary.

Section 8.

Officers and directors may only miss a meeting if it is excused by the advisor not later than 24 hours in advance of that meeting. Excused absences would be those that are reasonable and honest (ie. Sickness, family emergency, work, scheduled plans, or school activities). If an officer or director has missed more than two unexcused attendances, they will be subject to replacement.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1.

The meetings of the MYQHA will be held whenever possible during Minnesota State Quarter Horse Shows. Time and meeting place to be determined by the President and Youth Advisor .

- a. An annual meeting for the purpose of finalizing plans for the coming year will be held in conjunction with the MQHA annual meeting,
- b. The first meeting of the new Board of Directors and the general membership will be held at the Annual Awards Banquet of the MQHA,
- c. A special meeting may be called to the Membership. To call such a meeting, a majority of the board of directors and a majority of the membership must be in agreement and ALL members must be contacted by mail, of the date, time and place of the meeting.

Section 2.

A quorum must be present before business can be conducted for both the board of directors and the general membership of the MYQHA.

- a. A quorum of the directors will consist of 1/3 of the members of the board,
- b. A quorum of the general membership will consist of 1/3 of the directors, Youth Advisor, and those present at the general membership meeting,
- c. A simple majority of those present and voting will satisfy all votes and ballots.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS AND GRIEVANCES

Section 1.

To amend the Bylaws of the MYQHA, the proposal must be in writing and must be presented by a member of the organization who is a member in good standing. This proposal can be made at any time during the year. The proposed changes will be reviewed and voted on by the youth members at the next available meeting.

Section 2.

To make a grievance against the MYQHA in any form, the following steps should be taken:

- a. Grievance must be in writing and must be sent to the President of the MQHA (or his/her representative), Youth Advisor, and President of the MYQHA, who will serve as the grievance committee. It must be signed by the person making the grievance or it will not be considered. If the grievance is with either the Youth Advisor or the MYQHA President, they will be replaced on the committee.
- b. A decision will be made and will be sent in the form of a letter within 30 days of receipt of the grievance to the individual making the grievance. If the individual making the grievance would like to have the decision reconsidered, he/she will be given 14 days to respond and request to meet with the grievance committee. If no response is made in the time allotted, the decision will stand.
- c. If further action must be taken, the grievance committee will give the matter over to the vote of the membership. A mail ballot will be sent out and a simple majority of those responding will satisfy the ballot.

ARTICLE VII FINAL AUTHORITY

Section 1.

The Bylaws, Policies, and Rules of the AQHYA will be accepted Rules governing the MYQHA with the exception and inclusion of those areas designated as States authority.

Section 2.

The MQHA monthly newsletter will be the official publication of the MYQHA. All Bylaws, policy or rule changes will appear in the official publication and also on the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association website, www.mnqha.com.

Section 3.

The Youth Advisor will be responsible for publishing any change to the Rules, policies, or Bylaws of the organization promptly. AT NO TIME WILL CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS TAKE INTO EFFECT UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR.

POLICIES AND RULES :

Policy 1.

The policies of the MYQHA will be in effect from year to year and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors every year with revisions to be sent to the membership with the election ballot as notification. These changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting by the membership in attendance, to take effect with the beginning of the new year.

Policy 2.

The MQHA newsletter will be the official publication of the MYQHA.

Policy 3.

Points and how they are tabulated will be published annually in the official publication of the MYQHA. The MYQHA will have a point tabulator to be selected by the Youth Advisor and the President of the MYQHA. The point tabulator may be a parent.

Policy 4.

A copy of the bylaws, Policies, and Rules of the MYQHA will be made available on the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association website, www.mnqha.com. Bylaw, Policy and Rule revisions will be published in the Official Publication of the MYQHA.

Policy 5.

RULES PERTAINING TO YOUTH TEAMS.

- a. Youth team appointments: The MYQHA will send teams to the AQHYA World Championship Show and the NYATT Team competition held at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress.
- b. All members competing on the MYQHA World Team and the NYATT Team will be governed by the Rules and guidelines prescribed by each respective group in their Rules and regulations. The Rules and guidelines for the World Team are published each June in the Junior Journal (and/or Quarter Horse Journal). The NYATT Team Rules are published in the All-American Quarter Horse Congress entry booklet. All other Rules will be designated by each state and will apply.

- c. All members of the youth teams will be members in good standing of the MYQHA meeting all the membership and resident requirements of the MYQHA. Youth (or their family) must also be a member of the MQHA. Points do not count until both memberships are paid.
- d. Points earned from Novice Youth classes do not count toward qualifying for youth teams.
- e. The Youth World team will be comprised of the four youth earning the highest number of Minnesota Points in each event offered at a qualifying show. These youth will be offered the positions first, if any of them refuse the appointment the next person in line with the next highest points will be offered the position.
 - 1. Using the tie-breaking rule under Section 8c-1 will break all ties. This will be in effect on the last show eligible for qualifying only, for each separate team.
 - 2. The Youth Advisor(s) and/or designee will do all point tabulations.
 - 3. A (6-1) point system along with the addition of national points earned at Minnesota approved shows in each class will be used to accumulate points for both team memberships. It is explained below.
 - 4. The youth must confirm their acceptance of participation by June 25 to the youth advisor. If no confirmation is made by that date, the trip will be offered to the next person on the list.
 - 5. If a show lands on the June 25 deadline, NO POINTS from that show weekend will count toward qualification.
- f. The NYATT Congress team will be comprised of the two youth earning the highest number of Minnesota Points in each event offered at a qualifying show. These youth will be offered the positions first, if either of them refuse the appointment the next person in line with the next highest points will be offered the position.
 - 1. Using the tie-breaking rule under Section 8c-1 will break all ties. This will be in effect on the last show eligible for qualifying only, for each separate team.
 - 2. The Youth Advisor(s) and/or designee will do all point tabulations.
 - 3. A (6-1) point system along with the addition of national points earned at Minnesota approved shows in each class will be used to accumulate points for both team memberships. It is explained below.
 - 4. The youth must confirm their acceptance of participation by August 15 to the youth advisor. If no confirmation is made by that date, the trip will be offered to the next person on the list.
 - 5. If a show lands on the August 15 deadline, NO POINTS from that show weekend will count toward qualification.

PLACING WITH POINTS EARNED BELOW:

NUMBER IN CLASS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	1					
2	2	1				
3	3	2	1			
4	4	3	2	1		
5	5	4	3	2	1	
6	6	5	4	3	2	1

- 6. All points will be tabulated, and the lowest one third of all the show days will be dropped. This is to enable members who cannot attend all shows, to still be able to contend for teams. Points will be dropped individually for each class/each show/dependent on the lowest scores.
- g. All shows will be used as qualifying shows that can be used for timely entries for each youth team.
 - 1. Shows that do not pay their youth rebate to the youth may be dropped from the list of qualifying shows by a vote of the youth membership,
 - 2. The qualifying period for the World Team will include shows held after Jan. 1 and up to and including those held before approximately before June 25, or whenever timely entries can still be made to the World Show,
 - 3. The qualifying period for the NYATT Team will commence after the last World qualifying show has ended and will end with the last possible date for timely entry for the team.
 - 4. No youth may receive and appointment for more than 2 state performance places on either team, unless they qualify for the following exceptions:
 - a. All Halter classes are exceptions. Youth with horses showing in these classes need to have shown their horse in Minnesota at least once, and may request to be part of the team by following the same procedure as the other team members. The positions will be offered to the horses with the highest number of points, should more than 4 horses wish to go in each division of age and sex of horse.
 - b. Another exception is: If there is not a 4th participant in each event who wishes to attend, additional classes may be awarded to youth already showing in 2 classes.
 - c. An individual who has received any national invitation(s) may compete for additional state appointments. If nationally qualified, an individual would be able to participate in more than 2 events (for example, 2 state positions and 1 national.)

- h. An out of state resident who wishes to participate in the qualifying classes for the NYATT team must be a member in good standing, meeting all requirements of membership of the MYQHA, participate in fund raisers, and membership events to show their interest in the MYQHA before they can participate for a position on a Minnesota Team.
- i. When no youth qualifying events are offered corresponding to events offered by the World Show or NYATT competition, the appointments will follow the previous Rules. If there is not a youth class offered at our state show, that is offered at the AQHA Youth World Show, the youth rider may accumulate points in an open class, providing the youth is showing the horse in those open classes. The position will be offered to the 2 youth with the highest number of points in an open event.
- j. The Youth Advisor will be responsible for identifying alternates from those attending each respective competition. They will also be ultimately responsible for the selection and appointment of all individuals participating on teams.
- k. Participants in the Public Speaking, Marketing, or Judging competitions offered at the World Show/NYATT will be required to be members in good standing, and meet all requirements of membership. They will then be treated as equal participants in their respective show receiving the same benefits as other team members.
- l. If money is to be given by the MYQHA towards the fees, stalling, uniform, for either trip, the youth must be a member in good standing and MUST participate in a minimum of 3 fund raising events, and attend a minimum of 2 membership meetings.
 - 1. An individual holding a state appointment on a team must participate in his/her event unless they are ill or their horse is unable to perform. A vet certificate may be required. If the contestant chooses not to show for any other reason, the youth must reimburse MYQHA for all they provided (ie. Entry fees, stall, etc.)
 - 2. Team members are encouraged to participate in the Parade of States at the World Show. NYATT members MUST participate in the Parade of States to receive their NYATT belt buckle (this is a Congress rule).
 - 3. Funds for payment of entry fees/stall fees will be covered by the youth organizations, using the following guidelines:
 - Fees will be paid for those youth that are active members, and meet all requirements for team participation.
 - Fees will be paid if the treasury is sound, and can cover expenses. If the treasury is not sound, team members will need to pay their own way.
 - 4. Nationally qualified youth from Minnesota, who do not belong to MYQHA will be welcomed to the World Team, however will be responsible for all their own expenses. Nationally qualified youth who may be members of the MYQHA, but do not participate in any activities, or meet the state qualifications for the teams, will also be expected to pay for their own entries and stall fees.
- m. To participate on these teams is a privilege for the youth of the MYQHA. They are members of a team working towards a group goal, not an individual seeking personal acclaim. This should be remembered in all areas of participation concerning these appointments. Unsportsmanlike conduct as described in the Rules of the AQHYA may result in exclusion or expulsion from the teams regardless of the point totals.
- n. Youth who would like a position on the Youth World Team will be required to submit a "Letter of Intent" before May 1. Those letters postmarked with May 1, or hand delivered to the youth advisor prior to May 1 will be accepted. Those youth not submitting the letter will not be considered for the team. The order of preference of those classes the youth wishes to compete in should be specified on the letter of intent. Youth who qualify nationally, or participants in the public speaking, marketing or judging competitions, are also required to submit this, if they would like payment of entries/stall fees (providing they are fulfilling the team guidelines from letter J above).

Youth who would like a position on the NYATT team will be required to submit a "Letter of Intent to the Youth Advisor before August 1. Those letters postmarked with August 1, or hand delivered to the youth advisor prior to August 1 will be accepted. Those youth not submitting the letter will not be considered for the team.
- o. All other Rules governing teams will be found in the Rules published by the AQHA, for the AQHYA World Team, or the Ohio Quarter Horse Association for the NYATT team.

Policy 6.

RULES PERTAINING TO YEAR END AWARDS.

- a. The Youth Advisor of the MYQHA will determine a budget before the annual meeting each year, and present it at the meeting for approval. The awards given by the youth organization may include:

3rd-6th place recognition	All-Around 13 & Under
All-Around 14-18	Novice Youth All-Around
Reserve 13 & Under	Reserve 14-18
Reserve Novice Youth	Rookie of the Year

The type of recognition will be determined by the budget amount available for awards, and by recommendation by the membership.
- b. To be eligible for MYQHA year end awards, a youth must be a member in good standing of the MYQHA and he/she family be members in good standing of the MQHA. Points will not be accrued until membership fees (for both MYQHA and MQHA) are paid.

- c. Recognition will be given for 3rd to 6th place. There must be a minimum of ten state points earned as is described the MQHA rules governing awards.
- d. The awards listed above under (a.) will be given by the MYQHA. Presenting awards to the youth earning the highest number of state points in all youth classes in a given year, in their respective division. (This will include points earned in youth mares/gelding and/or performance youth mares/geldings). Points will be awarded to one youth/one horse combination. If a youth shows more than one horse, each horse with that youth will be awarded separate points.
- e. In addition, an award will be given to the Minnesota Youth Rookie of the Year. Rookie being defined as one who has not received a Minnesota state point at any approved Minnesota Quarter Horse Shows in prior years. All points must be accrued within one calendar year Jan 1-Dec 31. Novice points do not count against this award, not will they be added to the total to count towards the award. All previous Rules will apply.

Policy 7.

OTHER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION.

- a. The Minnesota state points (for year end awards) will be awarded with point accumulated in the following manner. First through 6th place receiving points. Assuming there are at least 6 participants in the class: 1st – 6 points, 2nd – 5 points, 3rd – 4 points, 4th – 3 points, 5th – 2 points, 6th – 1 point. If there are less than 6 in the class, first place will receive the amount in class, 2nd will receive 1 less point (example: if there are 4 in the class, 1st – 4 points, 2nd – 3 points, 3rd – 2 points, etc.)
- b. Tie breaking: Whenever possible, both individuals will be recognized for their achievements. If this is not possible, the following procedure will be used:
 - a. The judges for each day of the show has run will be placed in a hat and the tie breaker judge will be drawn by lot. This judge will be used as the tie-breaker for that show. If the tie continues to exist, a flop of a coin will determine the winner.
 - b. Ties for year end awards: Both individuals will be recognized if a tie occurs for either Youth All-Arounds (both age categories), Youth Reserve All-Around, Novice Youth All-Around or Reserve, or Rookie of the Year.

Revised. April 2009 Lana Green, Youth Advisor