

# **Virginia Amateur Quarter Horse Association Bylaws**

## **Article I Name & Purpose**

- Section 1 The name of this Organization shall be the Virginia Amateur Quarter Horse Association (VAQHA), a division of VQHA Inc.
- Section 2 The purpose of this organization is to promote and encourage the Amateur Quarter Horse Exhibitors in Virginia.
- Section 3 VAQHA shall abide by the AQHA official rules except as to the following rules which are unique to the Virginia Amateurs.

## **Article II Membership**

- Section 1 Eligibility of members in the VAQHA shall be based on the official Handbook of AQHA. This shall include Rookie Amateur, Novice Amateur, Amateur and Amateur Select membership.
- Section 2 Annual memberships are open to any dues paid VQHA member who meets the membership requirements of Article II, Section 1 upon payment of a \$12.00 annual fee payable to VAQHA.
- Section 3 Suspension or expulsion of membership shall be made in accordance with AQHA and VQHA rules.
- Section 4 Application for membership must have the fee attached and mailed or delivered to the VAQHA Treasurer or any qualified designee appointed by the VAQHA President and approved by the VQHA Board of Directors.
- Section 5 Membership will begin January 1 and be effective through December 31 for each year. Any membership request submitted after January 1 will become effective as of the day the application fee is postmarked by the USPS and mailed to the individuals listed in Article II, Section 4 above.

## **Article III Members**

- Section 1 In all matters governed by the vote of the membership, any member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. For voting privileges, members in good standing shall be defined as having paid dues for the current membership year and not having been suspended or expelled.
- Section 2 At the regular annual meeting, the qualified members of VAQHA will elect the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President six weeks prior to the annual business meeting. The nominating committee shall present the nominees to the membership for consideration. The membership will be given the

opportunity to make nominations from the floor. A vote will be taken by written ballot.

## **Article IV Officers and Duties**

- Section 1      The officers of VAQHA shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will serve for two consecutive years and will be designated as the VAQHA Board of Directors.
- Section 2      The President shall be the chief executive officer of the association and shall preside at all meetings. He or She shall see that the By-laws, rules and regulations of the association are enforced and shall perform all other duties that may be prescribed from time to time by the board of directors. He or she shall appoint committee chairpersons as necessary. He or she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall represent VAQHA to the VQHA board of directors as a voting member.
- Section 3      The Vice President shall in the absence of the president, have the powers and perform the duties of the president and other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.
- Section 4      The Secretary shall keep a correct recording of the proceedings of the meetings of the VAQHA and shall handle all correspondence.
- Section 5      The Treasurer, and/or person designated by the Board of Directors shall collect dues of the VAQHA. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of VAQHA. The Treasurer shall be keep a ledger accurately recording all deposits and disbursements and a written report shall be prepared quarterly and delivered to the President and all members of the board of directors.
- Section 6      Any vacancy on the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment by the VAQHA President. At the next annual election, the members shall elect a new officer to replace the officer selected by the President to fill the vacancy.

## **Article V Year End Awards**

- Section 1      To qualify for VAQHA year-end awards, points will be accumulated on a one horse, one rider basis and must meet all requirements of AQHA and VQHA.
- Section 2      VAQHA will sponsor specific year end awards for the Amateur, Novice Amateur, Rookie Amateur and Select Amateur divisions. The specific awards are listed below:

1. Third and fourth place class awards
2. Third and fourth place All-Around awards
3. First Year Amateur Performance Award

Current year revenue is the basis for the current year awards. Current year revenue can be supplemented with reserve funds of up to \$500 annually.

## **Article VI Amateur Sportsmanship of the Year**

Section 1        The VAQHA Amateur Sportsman of the Year award will be presented to the amateur who has displayed outstanding characteristics of good sportsmanship. The recipient of this award shall be nominated by a VAQHA member and selected by the VAQHA Board. The award is perpetual and shall be presented to the new recipient at the annual awards banquet by the VAQHA Board. An additional plaque of honor will be given to the new recipient for keeping.

## **Article VII Changes to the bylaws**

Section 1        Changes to the bylaws can be made at the recommendation of the VAQHA board of directors by a majority vote of the general membership present at the annual meeting. A quorum shall constitute 10% of voting members as of 30 days prior to the meeting.

Updated: March 2017