



**VIRGINIA QUARTER HORSE
YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

BYLAWS

2015

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Article I - Name

The name of this association shall be the Virginia Quarter Horse Youth Association (VQHYA).

Article II - Objectives

Reference: 600. Constitution of American Quarter Horse Youth Association, Article 1, Section 2

This association shall have as its principal objectives:

1. To improve and promote the American Quarter Horse breed
2. To improve and develop the capabilities of youth, both individually and through group participation, in the breeding, raising, exhibition, and recreational use of American Quarter Horses
3. To develop and improve scholarship, leadership and community interest and participation of young horsemen
4. To encourage high moral character, sportsmanship and clean living among all its members.
5. To acquaint youth members and affiliates with the parent organization, AQHA, its structure and functions

Article III – Membership Eligibility

Membership shall consist of youth 18 years of age and under, as of January 1. The youth must be in good standing with the Virginia Quarter Horse Association (VQHA) and the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA).

Each Youth must be a paying member of VQHA. There will be an annual fee of \$5 charged for membership with the VQHYA.

Article IV – Youth Advisor

This association shall be under the direction and guidance of the Youth Advisors and the Virginia Quarter Horse Association.

1. A team of two or more Youth Advisors, appointed from the membership of VQHA, shall be responsible for the activities of VQHYA.
2. One of the VQHYA Youth Advisors shall serve as a voting Director on the VQHA Board of Directors.
3. The VQHA Board of Directors shall have the power to manage the finances of VQHYA, acting in accord with decisions of the Youth Advisors.
4. A Youth Executive Committee shall be made up of the Youth Advisors and the VQHYA officers. One of the Youth Advisors shall serve as chairperson of this committee. Interested parents and the VQHA Board members are invited to attend. The Youth Executive Committee shall meet to advise and to help plan and carry out VQHYA activities.

Article V - Officers

Officers of VQHYA shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording and Corresponding secretary, a Treasurer, and a Reporter. The term of office for VQHYA officers shall be for one year from the date of the annual VQHA Awards Banquet.

1. President—Duties and Qualifications:

Resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the President shall be nominated and elected from the 14-18 age group. He or she shall have been an active member of VQHYA for two years. (An active member is one who participates in meetings, shows, fund-raising projects, and other activities.)

- A. Presides over all meetings of the association.
- B. Appoints any committees, which shall be considered necessary for the effective operation of the association.
- C. Helps plan budgets for the year, subject to the approval of the VQHA Board.
- D. Attends meetings of the VQHA Board of Directors to represent the Youth, whenever possible.
- E. Helps plan and carry out Youth activities.

2. Vice-Presidents—Duties and Qualifications:

Two Vice-Presidents shall be elected each year. The Vice-Presidents must be residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia and active members of VQHYA.

- A. Support and advise the President.
- B. Assume duties of the President if he or she cannot attend a meeting or must leave office.
- C. Help plan and carry out Youth activities.
- D. Publicize plans regularly in the VQHA Newsletter.

3. Secretaries—Duties and Qualifications:

Two Secretaries shall be elected each year. The Secretaries must be residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia and active members of VQHYA.

- A. The Recording Secretary keeps minutes of the meetings, prepares minutes for the publication in the VQHA Newsletter, and submits them for publication after each meeting.
- B. The Corresponding Secretary prepares correspondence as needed.

4. Treasurer—Duties and Qualifications:

The Treasurer must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia and an active member of VQHYA.

- A. Keeps financial records of the association, under guidance of the Youth Advisors.
- B. Keeps a record of individual participation in fund-raising activities.
- C. Prepares financial reports for publication in the VQHA newsletter.
- D. Helps plan yearly budgets.

5. Reporter—Duties and Qualifications:

The Reporter must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia and an active member of VQHYA.

- A. Reports association activities and news to the VQHA Newsletter, the Quarter Horse Journal, and/or any other association's newsletter or magazines.
- B. Assumes duties of Secretary if the Secretary is unable to attend a meeting.
- C. Keeps a record of the VQHYA material printed each month in the VQHA Newsletter.

Article VI – General Meetings

There shall be a minimum of four general membership meetings a year, as deemed necessary by the President, Youth Advisors, and the VQHA Board of Directors. Members shall be notified ten days before each meeting date, when possible.

Article VII – Elections and Vacancies in Office

Elections:

Elections will be held at the VQHA Awards Banquet each year. Any active, qualified VQHYA member in good standing with VQHA and VQHYA may be nominated for office. The active membership of VQHYA may vote.

Vacancies in Office:

Vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the VQHYA Executive Committee for the unexpired term, and those so appointed shall serve until the next election. When an office is vacant, it shall be filled at the next meeting of the Youth Executive Committee.

Article VIII – Youth World Show Team Selection

1. To be eligible for the Virginia Youth World Team, a youth must be a resident of Virginia and a member in good standing with the VQHA, VQHYA, and AQHA by March 1. Non- resident VQHYA members who have completed the letter of intent and met all additional requirements will be considered for a team position after Virginia resident youth positions have been filled.
2. Non-Virginia residents must have a Hardship application filed with AQHYA on the designated date for that year.¹, A proof of approval must be received from AQHYA before the Youth will be permitted admittance onto the Team.
3. Any member interested in qualifying for a state position on the Youth World Team must submit a Letter of Intent and Code of Conduct to the Youth Advisors by the designated date for that year.
4. If a Virginia youth qualifies nationally for the AQHYA World Show, he or she **can** participate on the Virginia World Team.
5. The Youth World Team representing Virginia shall, in most cases, consist of the youth who have the first and second places in the state standings for each class. *Priority shall be given to youth in the 14-18 age group.* Youth in third place, in most cases, will be the alternates for that class.
6. Youth must participate in all mandatory requirements designated by the Youth Advisor in order to take a state position on the VQHYA Team.

7. Virginia residents who do not regularly show at VQHA sanctioned events are still eligible to compete on the World Show Team. In addition to completing the Letter of Intent and being an active VQHYA member, the Youth must supply evidence that they have successfully competed in at least 5 (five) non-VA shows. In addition, if they are not in the first or second places in VQHA points standings, they **MUST** earn at least 4 (four) AQHA points in each class they are attempting to show in with the horse they intend to show. If a VA resident cannot meet these requirements, the “buy-out” referenced in Article 8 Section 15 become applicable.
8. Each class at the World will be separate. A youth may cross-enter all classes at the World; however, only one horse can be shown in “group working classes” (i.e. Western Pleasure, Hunter under Saddle, etc.). A Youth will be permitted to show multiple horses in “individual working classes” (i.e. Western Riding, Trail, etc.).
9. Individuals who qualify for the Youth World Team must be suitable and able to represent Virginia. This qualification will be determined by the Youth Advisor.
10. The VQHYA membership shall have the right to determine the state requirements concerning the number of shows, the selection of shows, and other qualifications. These requirements shall be determined annually at the Awards Banquet meeting.
11. The VQHYA qualifying points for the AQHYA World Show Team shall follow the guidelines for counting state points that are outlined in the current VQHA Show and Contest Rules. **Novice points do not count towards qualifying.**
12. A youth who competes in events not usually offered at VQHA shows, such as cow-horse and speed events, will be eligible to represent Virginia on the Youth Team with the approval of the VQHYA Executive Committee and the Youth Advisor. The youth must be a high scorer at AQHA shows outside of Virginia or at shows, competitions, and associations recognized by VQHA.
13. Youth members who **qualify nationally** for the World Show are not required to participate in fund-raising projects, however they will not receive funds or other Team paraphernalia from VQHYA unless they participate in the required activities.
14. Any **non-VA residents** who have elected to make a hardship to the VA team and do not participate in VQHYA events to earn participation points may elect to make a payment (buy-out) to offset this requirement. **The payment will be equivalent to the total AQHYA fees associated with their showing (stalls, entries, drug fee, etc.) PLUS a minimum \$200 donation to the VQHYA.** Any **VA resident** who does not participate in VQHA sanctioned events, or does not participate in VQHYA events to earn participation points, may elect to make a payment (buy-out) to offset these requirements. **The payment will be equivalent to the total AQHYA fees associated with their showing (stalls, entries, drug fee, etc.) PLUS a minimum \$100 donation to the VQHYA.** This option will be discussed on a case-by-case basis, and is not to be encouraged. State-qualified youth will have priority over hardships and “buy-outs”.
15. A member who **without** written or warranted reason backs out on a team position after the final decisions have been made shall not be eligible for any other team activity for the year and **will be required to reimburse VQHYA ALL expenses associated with their team spot.**
16. A team member or alternate participating in the AQHYA World Show will be required to walk in the Parade of States unless excused for reasons deemed sufficient by the Youth Advisor.

19. A Team Committee will be made up of trainers and other active VQHA members. The members of the committee should not be the parents of or work with prospective team members. The Committee will make decisions in case of a tie or any other difficult circumstances that cannot be resolved by team members involved or by the Youth Advisors.
20. Any member and parent or guardian of the youth submitting a letter of intent, **MUST** sign a copy of the VQHYA Code of Conduct *and* Rules and Regulations. The signed copy must accompany the Letter of Intent.
21. The VQHYA will provide financial assistance for each Youth on the team. This financial Assistance will be based on the available funds in the VQHYA account and will be at the discretion of the Youth Advisor, with input from Team members, and with approval from the VQHYA Executive Committee.

Article IX – Virginia National Youth Activities Team Tournament (NYATT) Team Selection

1. To be eligible for the Virginia National Youth Activities Team Tournament Team (NYATT) a youth must be a resident of Virginia, or a resident of North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, West Virginia, or Delaware.
2. Any member interested in qualifying for a state position on the NYATT Team must submit a Letter of Intent with the Code of Conduct to the Youth Advisors by the designated date for that year.
3. The NYATT Team representing Virginia shall, in most cases, consist of the youth who have the first and second places in the state standings for each class. *Priority shall be given to youth in the 14-18 age group*
4. VQHYA will send two NYATT Teams to the Congress: One Team will be sponsored by the VQHYA and one by the VA Amateur Quarter Horse Association. Each Team has the capacity for 12 youth, 2 slots for each class: Barrel Racing, Reining, Western Pleasure, Hunter under Saddle, Horsemanship, and Showmanship. VQHYA must send a minimum of 4 youth per team and a maximum of 24 youth all together.
 - a. Team member assignments will be completely random; however, the VQHYA team will be FILLED as best as possible before placing Youth on the Amateur sponsored team.
5. Youth must participate in all mandatory requirements designated by the Youth Advisor in order to take a state position on the NYATT Team.
6. The VQHYA membership shall have the right to determine the state requirements concerning the number of shows, the selection of shows, and other qualifications.
7. The VQHYA qualifying points for the NYATT Team shall follow the guidelines for counting state points that are outlined in the current VQHA Show and Contest Rules. *Novice points do not count towards qualifying for either show.*

8. All Team members are required to participate in the walk-in and NYATT ceremonies.

Article X – Youth Excellence Seminar (YES) and AQHYA Convention

The VQHYA will send Youth representatives to the YES and AQHYA Convention annually in Amarillo, Texas.

The VQHYA is permitted to send up to four (4) voting delegates. These delegates will be selected from the VQHYA membership by the Advisor based on interest, participation, and suitability. Priority will be given to the 14-18 age division, AND/OR, Youth interested in running for National Office/Regional Director.

Any member interested in attending the AQHYA YES must submit a letter of Intent with a Code of Conduct to the Youth Advisors on the designated deadline set by the Advisors.

The VQHYA will:

- Be responsible for the registration fees of the four (4) voting Delegates
- NOT be responsible for any other financial compensation of Youth representatives or chaperones

There is no limit to the amount of general Youth sent to the YES and Convention. Additional Youth are welcome to attend the YES and AQHYA Convention; however, they will be responsible for their registration fee, split of the hotel fees, and all other expenses incurred to attend the events.

Article XI – Code of Conduct

As per the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations, “membership and election to office in the AQHYA, VQHYA is a privilege, not a right which may be terminated or refused for cause detrimental to the interest of AQHA, AQHYA, and VQHYA, its programs, policies, objectives, and harmonious relationships of its members.” Activities deemed detrimental to the interest of AQHYA and VQHYA include, but are not limited to, immoral and lewd conduct, un-sportsman like behavior, alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products. Regardless of the permissive laws of your state or indulgence of your parents or legal guardian, use of the above-mentioned products or happenings of such conduct is NOT permitted while representing the AQHYA or VQHYA.

SUCH BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY YOUTH FOUND OR REPORTED TO BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE DETRIMENTAL ACTIVITIES OR BEHAVIOR WILL IMMEDIATELY BE REMOVED FROM THE ACTIVITY. The incident will be reported immediately to the parent or guardian. All offenses will be fully investigated by the Youth Advisor and the Youth Committee. If a hearing before the VQHYA Board and Youth Committee is scheduled, the youth may present evidence on his or her behalf. Please refer to the AQHYA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF RULES AND REGULATIONS for the AQHYA mission statement, motto, and code of conduct

In addition to the above mentioned Code of Conduct, all participating Youth will be required to sign an additional Code of Conduct for each VQHYA sanctioned Team..

Article XII – Committees

1. Appointment

The members of all committees except for the executive committee shall be determined by the chairpersons of the committees. The President may nominate a chairperson of each committee, but appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, which may also nominate committee chairpersons.

2. Rules

Each committee may adopt rules consistent with these Bylaws to govern its proceedings. Each committee shall keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements and shall account to the Board of Directors for all funds.

3. Duties

Each committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning matters referred to or relating to the committee. Each committee shall implement policy approved by the Board and assigned to the committee.

4. Executive Committee

a. The Executive committee shall consist of the President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. The Executive Committee shall exercise functions and powers of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board in matters considered sufficiently urgent that could not or should not be reasonably delayed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The committee shall not modify or change actions previously taken by the Board.

Article XIII – Non-Profit Status

VQHYA and VQHA are non-profit organizations. They shall not be responsible for any loss due to accident, theft, or injury otherwise sustained by any member, visitor, or guest.

Article XIV – Amendment Process

These bylaws, when approved by the VQHYA membership and the VQHA Board of Directors, shall stand until amended hereafter by a vote of 51% of the members present at any succeeding meeting.

Article XV – Bylaw Approval and Distribution

Bylaws for each current year shall be approved by the VQHA Board of Directors. The bylaws shall be made available for download on the VQHA website.

Katey Ralls, VQHYA Youth Advisor