



Queen Contest Rules and Expectations

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to articulate the requirements and expectations for the candidates of the VQHA Queen contest and the VQHA Queen. The VQHA Queen is expected and required to enter and compete at the All American Quarter Horse Congress Queen Competition for the year in which they are selected as the VQHA Queen.

Who is the VQHA Queen

The VQHA Queen serves as a highly visible and integral part of the association during her reign. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Serving as a VQHA and VQHA Queen ambassador
2. Handing out awards at designated shows
3. Appearing at VQHA events
4. Representing VQHA in the community (legislative trail ride, state 4-H show)
5. Sharing the mission and message of VQHA with equine enthusiasts at events throughout the state

Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for the VQHA Queen contest and program are as follows:

1. Must be between the ages of 19 – 26 years as of January 1st of the Queen's term year.
2. Must be a member in good standing with VQHA for a period of 12 months prior to the application deadline. Previous membership and active participation in VQHA will be considered as part of the selection process.
3. Must never have been married, divorced, or given birth.
4. Must be assigned female as birth and identify as being female.
5. Must be subject to a criminal background and reference check.
6. Must agree that they have never posed or participated in any form of pornography or used their body to advertise in any negative or immoral way. If this is found to be true, the Queen will be forced to relinquish her title.
7. Cannot run for more than three cumulative years.
8. Submit a completed VQHA Queen Application.

Application and Selection Process

Application

Persons meeting the eligibility requirements for the VQHA Queen contest and program are encouraged to submit a completed application (attachment A) by the due date and time listed on the application. Prior to completing and submitting an application, please read this document in its entirety and reach out to the VQHA Queen Committee with questions.

The applicant will be entered only upon the Queen Committee Chairperson (listed on the application) receiving a fully completed application. The Queen Committee has the right to refuse any application. If an application is refused entry into the contest there is no appeal process.

Upon receipt and acceptance of an application, the Queen Committee Chairperson will confirm such via writing to the applicant.

Selection Process

The VQHA Queen contest consists of three assessments:

1. Horsemanship

The horsemanship ride accounts for 20% of the total score. The Queen Committee reserves the right to fulfill this requirement in one of the following ways and will communicate such to all applicants:

- (i) hold this class at a designated VQHA show;
- (ii) utilize the contestant's total points for the prior year in AQHA horsemanship classes (walk/trot classes are not eligible for consideration);
- (iii) Provide applicants with a pattern and require video completion of the pattern be submitted for review; or
- (iv) Schedule a horsemanship retreat at a designated farm, where horses will be provided to each contestant for completion of a pattern of the Queen Committee's choice

The purpose of multiple options for fulfilling this requirement is to ensure flexibility in cases where a show may be cancelled and the class may not be held.

2. Written Exam

The written exam accounts for 30% of the total score. The written exam consist of 50 questions on general horse knowledge, AQHA Official handbook of Rules and Regulations, and the VQHA by-laws and show rules. Each question is worth 2 points and will be given the morning of the VQHA Banquet.

3. Interview

The interview accounts for 50% of the total score. There will be a least three interviewers that will score you on your appearance, delivery, content, organization, and overall ability to represent VQHA. Each candidate will spend approximately 15-20 minutes in front of the panel of judges where the judges will ask a series of questions. The candidate will receive a score based on the five criteria above and the judges' scores will be averaged. The personal interview will take place on the morning of the VQHA Banquet.

At the conclusion of the selection process, the VQHA Queen will be announced and crowned during the VQHA Banquet and the Queen's duties will begin immediately after the crowning. The Queen will be required to continue her duties for one year until the following VQHA annual banquet, where the next Queen will be crowned. If a VQHA banquet is not held, the one year term will end one year from the start date of the current term.

Expectations and Requirements of the Queen

The VQHA Queen is a prestigious role that many dream to obtain. VQHA and the Queen Committee have the following expectations for the chosen VQHA Queen. Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in removal from the position.

Conduct and Behavior

The VQHA Queen must:

1. Uphold the title with respect, honor, grace, integrity and dignity and must not be involved in any activities that bring dishonor to the title, contest, Queen Chair, or fellow VQHA members.
2. Be conscientious of what is posted on one's social media and if asked by VQHA or the Queen Chair to remove or edit such content, must do so immediately. VQHA holds a VQHA Queen Facebook page and at the time of crowning, the page will be updated to reflect the new queen's name, and the new queen will be added as an editor to that page.
3. Agree that they will not pose or participate in any form of pornography or use their body to advertise in any negative or immoral way.
4. Not consume alcoholic beverages, smoke and/or use any form of tobacco, engage in profanity, or use illegal drugs while on official business associated with the Congress Queen or VQHA Queen.
5. Abide by the requirements of this document and the Queen Code of Conduct.

6. Maintain a log of the events that the VQHA Queen participates in, including any additional information relevant to the event that may be helpful to future Queen's. The event log will be valuable in future event planning.

Appearance

The VQHA Queen is expected to be a role model to all youth during activities where she acts in an official capacity as the VQHA Queen or Congress Queen. She is to exemplify strong leadership skills and display exemplary sportsmanship at all times.

While on official Queen duties, the Queen must:

- Maintain a professional appearance, with wardrobe and hair/makeup being suitable and appropriate for the event in which she is attending
- Wear a felt hat with the VQHA Queen crown
- Wear the VQHA Queen sash, which must be worn over the outfit and be wrinkle free.

Event Attendance

The VQHA Queen Chair will communicate with the VQHA Queen regarding event attendance specifics and will work with the VQHA Executive Committee to finalize a list of events soon after the Queen is crowned.

VQHA Events:

The VQHA Executive Committee will provide the Queen a list of VQHA events and state if attendance is required or optional. VQHA reserves the right to request that the VQHA Queen attend additional VQHA events if such events are created after the initial event list is provided. The VQHA Queen will be notified at least four weeks prior to any event that her attendance is requested.

Non-VQHA Events:

There may be instances where other organizations, such as the Virginia 4-H State Horse Show or VQHA sanctioned shows, request the VQHA Queen to attend. If the Queen's schedule allows, attendance at these events is encouraged as it is a great way to gain visibility and represent the Queen program in other settings.

Tentative VQHA shows and events that the Queen must attend are:

- Annual VQHA Year End Awards Banquet
- Winter Virginia General Assembly Session Day
- Spring VQHA Horse Show (typically held in May in Doswell, VA)
- Spring VQHA Clinic (typically held in March/April in Doswell, VA)
- Spring Legislative Trail Ride (dates and location varies)

- Fall Virginia State 4-H Horse Show (typically held in early September in Lexington, VA)
- All American Quarter Horse Congress Queen Competition
- Fall VQHA Horse Show (typically held in November in Doswell, VA)

Financial Responsibility

The VQHA Queen is responsible for fundraising to support her during her term as outlined below. VQHA owns one VQHA Queen sash and one VQHA Queen crown that will be loaned to the VQHA Queen upon crowning and must be returned at the end of her term. If the VQHA Queen sash or crown is lost or damaged beyond repair, the VQHA Queen is personally liable to replace the items with comparable quality and design. **Failure to follow the requirements for financial responsibility will result in immediate dismissal from the VQHA Queen program.**

Accounting of Funds for the Queen Program:

The VQHA Queen and Queen Chair are required to utilize the VQHA bank account to store any funds raised or donated to the VQHA Queen. It is important to understand that funds raised or donated to the VQHA Queen are not the Queen's personal funds and are property of the VQHA Queen program. Under no circumstances is the VQHA Queen allowed to keep any money in her personal bank account or any account that is not a VQHA owned account. All funds raised or donated to the VQHA Queen must be provided to the VQHA Treasurer for deposit within 5 business days after the end of the event where such funds are received.

The VQHA Treasurer will work with the Queen Chair and Queen to educate on the process of depositing funds and seeking reimbursement. As with all other facets of VQHA, in order to receive reimbursement the Queen's account must have available funds to cover such reimbursement and the reimbursement request must be in writing and include a receipt.

The VQHA Queen and/or Queen Chair is required to attend each VQHA Board meeting and report on the status and progress of the Queen's events, fundraising, etc.

Fundraising

The VQHA Queen is responsible for fundraising and must submit a fundraising plan to the Queen Chair and the VQHA President and Vice President within 30 days of being crowned. All fundraising events that the VQHA Queen wishes to hold must be approved by the VQHA Queen Committee in advance.

VQHA Financial Support:

VQHA, VAQHA, or VQHYA at the discretion of the executive committee or governing committee, may vote to donate funds to support the VQHA Queen during her term. If such a decision occurs, the Queen Chair will be notified.

Personal Funds Used:

In the event that the VQHA Queen uses personal funds during her reign, she is strongly encouraged to keep a running list of such expenditures and asked to share such with the Queen Chair for reporting to the VQHA Board. This will allow the VQHA Board to better understand the financial needs of the program.

Cause for Removal from Office

Should the Queen not abide by the rules as stated herein and the code of conduct, or neglect her duties, or exhibit a lack of responsibility toward the Queen's Program and the goals of VQHA, she will be removed from the VQHA Queen's position.

If such removal is exercised, the VQHA President will provide the VQHA Queen and Queen Chair a letter stating such and the date of termination. At such time, the VQHA sash and crown must be returned within 30 days from the date of the termination letter.

If at any time the Queen must remove herself from her duties (health, financial, etc) she is to notify the Queen Chair immediately. This will not preclude her from applying for the VQHA Queen program in future years.

Attachment A – See Separate VQHA Queen Contest Application File