

# **Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Youth Association Constitution & Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. This organization shall be a division of the Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Association: shall operate within the scope of the bylaws, rules and regulations of the Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Association: Shall be named Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Youth Association.

Section 2. The objectives and purposes of the Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Youth Association hereafter referred to as the SOQHYA shall be as follows:

- (a) To improve and promote the American Quarter Horse breed.
- (b) To improve and develop the capabilities of youth, both individually and through group participation in the breeding, raising and exhibition of the American Quarter Horse.
- (c) To develop and improve scholarship, leadership, community interest and participation of young horsemen.
- (d) To encourage high moral character and clean living among its members.
- (e) To establish a means where junior members can work in conjunction with the SOQHA.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Members shall consist of any individual whose parents are members of the SOQHA or who individually hold a membership in the SOQHA and who has not passed his/her nineteenth (19) birthday on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. The age of the youth on January 1<sup>st</sup> shall be maintained throughout the entire year.

Section 2. Married youth, regardless of age, are not eligible for membership.

Section 3. Children of Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Association members in good standing shall automatically be members of the SOQHYA.

- (a) Annual membership application required for point earning and all privileges of SOQHYA.

Section 4. Membership in good standing of the SOQHYA permits point earning privileges of the SOQHYA.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The business and property of the organization shall be managed and controlled by the Officers and Board of Directors.

Section 2. Officers. The officers of the organization shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter, who shall be elected annually, at the time of the annual meeting of the SOQHYA. Such officers shall hold office for a period of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

- (a) President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall have the general supervision of the affairs of the Association subject to the direction of the Officers and Directors. The President shall appoint all committees of the Association, subject

to the approval of the Officers and Directors. The President shall submit to the membership annually, at their meetings a report of the status of the Association and its activities during the preceding year. The term of office shall be one year. The President shall have the power to appoint up to three Directors during the period of one term of office. These Directors shall have full trustee powers as designated in ARTICLE III, Section 3.

- (b) Vice President: The Vice President shall, in the absence, disability, or inability to act, of the President, perform the duties of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.
- (c) Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and of the Officers and Directors and shall record, or cause to be recorded, all votes taken and the minutes of all proceedings in a minute book of the association to be kept for that purpose. They shall perform all duties of the like for committees who requested to do so.
- (d) Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have responsibility for collecting all monies from fund raisers and for reporting the financial status of the SOQHYA at all meetings. The Treasurer will work under the guidance of the adult Youth Advisor and in conjunction with the Treasurer of the SOQHA for checks and the deposit of funds.
- (e) Reporter: The Reporter shall have the responsibility of reporting on the activities of the Association and of the individual members of the Association to the news publication.

Section 3. The Board of Directors: The Directors for the SOQHYA shall exercise voting privileges at all Board of Directors meetings. Each Director shall have one (1) vote in consideration of motions and actions. The Board of Directors shall manage the business, property and affairs of the SOQHYA subject to the general membership.

- (a) There shall be twelve (12) directors elected at the annual meeting of the general membership. These will serve terms of one (1) year.
- (b) Vacancy: In the case of a vacancy in the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of the Association's Director. A successor shall not be considered an appointed Director.
- (c) Past Presidents shall serve as Director during their membership in SOQHYA for one (1) year provided they are still eligible for membership. If the Past President is not eligible for membership in the upcoming year, the general membership shall elect thirteen (13) Directors instead of twelve (12).
- (d) Each and/or any Officer or Director who is absent for two regular consecutive meetings without permission from the President or without adequate valid excuses may be placed on probation by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors voting on said issue or probation. An Officer or Director on probation must attend all remaining meetings in that fiscal year. Their failure to do so without a just excuse will demand their immediate replacement by the Board.
- (e) Youth Officers and Directors of SOQHYA are required to work a minimum of four (4) hours per year. Work committees will be established for shows put on by SOQHYA. Two (2) Officers and six (6) Directors will be assigned for each show. The hours worked by each committee member, officer and director will also be credited towards the Congress team qualifications.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **SOQHYA POINT SYSTEM**

Section 1. Points will be awarded as outlined in SECTION X of the Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Association Bylaws.

Section 2. Qualification: In order to qualify for an award, the ownership of the horse exhibited by the youth is require as stated in the Official Handbook of the American Quarter Horse Association.

- (a) In the event of an AQHA lease both the horse owner and exhibitor must be a member in good standing of SOQHA and/or SOQHYA.
- (b) In order to qualify for a SOQHYA award, a youth must live within the boundaries of the state of Ohio and must be a member in good standing. Only points accumulated while a member in good standing will count.
- (c) There will be no Out-of-Area High Point and Reserve High Pont awards.
- (d) In order to be eligible to earn a High Point All Around Award, 13 & Under or 14-18, and Exhibitor must earn a minimum of 5 halter points and a minimum of 5 points in each of three (3) performance events.
- (e) You must earn a minimum of ten (10) points in any event to receive a year end award.

Section 3. An annual Sportsmanship Award will be given to the youth selected by a majority vote of the youth membership, based on the following qualifications:

1. Attitude
2. Conduct
3. Willingness to help others
4. Image created
5. Contribution to the Youth Association

Section 4. From time to time it shall be the prerogative of the Board of Directors and/or the SOQHYA Awards Committee to create special awards for outstanding service to the Association.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **SELECTION OF TEAMS REPRESENTING SOUTHERN OHIO QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

Section 1. Points may be earned from January 1 to July 31 of the current year at any AQHA show located in the Southern Ohio Quarter Horse Association region as outlined in the SOQHA Bylaws ARTICLE I, SECTION 3.

- (a) Additional SOQHYA Team point shows may be added by a vote of the Board of Directors.
- (b) All SOQHYA Team point shows must be published on the official SOQHA news publication.

Section 2. The point system for selection of teams will be as follows: There will be thirty (30) points maximum awarded for each class. Points will be awarded according to the number of horses in each event.

In a class of twenty (20) the first place horse will receive twenty (20) points, or no more than the number of horses in that class; the second place horse will receive nineteen (19); the third place horse will receive eighteen (18), continuing to the last place with each horse receiving one (1) less point than the preceding horse. "Last Place" will be the last place as shown on the judges' cards.

Section 3. Points will be accumulated based on a youth's ten (10) best shows from and including January 1 to and including July 31 of the current year. A youth may exhibit more than one (1) horse during this period; however, the points earned by the youth with each horse will be compiled separately.

Section 4. Each Youth Team participant must be a member of the SOQHYA/SOQHA.

- (a) In the event of an AQHA lease both the horse owner and exhibitor must be a member in good standing of SOQHA and/or SOQHYA.

Section 5. All youth, in order to qualify for the Southern Ohio Youth Team, must have permanent residence within the boundaries of the state of Ohio. Only points accumulated during their period of residency within the area and while a member of the SOQHYA will be applicable.

Section 6. Any youth member meeting the requirements outlined in ARTICLE V, Section 4 & 5, will be entitled to compete for a position on the SOQHYA Youth Activity Team which will participate at the annual American Quarter Horse Congress. The top two members in each category will be selected. A member may be selected to participate in one or more categories only if there are no other members qualified in a particular event. In the event a member should qualify in two (2) or more categories in one year, they will be entitled to select the event in which they wish to participate and subsequently disqualify themselves from all other categories.

Section 7. A notification letter will be sent or a telephone call will be Made after the final qualifying point show for that year of team selection to all qualified youth. Those youth members who wish to participate on the SOQHYA Youth Team must notify the SOQHA office no later than 10 days after receiving the notification. This reply must be by letter, phone/text or postcard/email indicating their desire to participate and the category they selected (when selection is required).

Section 8. The final determination of the Youth Team participants, uniforms, stall decorations, Youth Team Manager, and budget will be made at and by a joint session of the officers and Board of Directors of SOQHA to be held on or before the July meeting, prior to the public announcement and notification of team members.

Section 9. Any ties will be broken by reducing the number of shows counted (i.e. in Section 2, reduce the number of shows from 10 to 9 to 8, etc. until the tie is broken). In the event this does not break the tie, the SOQHA Board of Directors will resolve the matter.

Section 10. Eligibility: Youth must (by July 31):

1. Attend 3 meetings
2. Must show to a minimum of five (5) judges during the qualifying period.
3. \$50.00 in sponsorships must be sent to the SOQHYA advisor, no later than April 1.
4. Work six (6) hours at SOQHYA or SOQHA shows.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **ADULT ADVISORS**

Section 1. The SOQHA shall establish and adult advisor committee each rea in accordance with ARTICLE VIII, Section 2, of the SOQHA Bylaws and the following sections in the article. The purpose of this committee shall be to provide mature guidance to the SOQHYA and to advise the SOQHYA Officers, Directors and membership of their ongoing activities.

Section 2. The Adult Advisor Committee shall be made up of at least two (2) and no more than four (4) adult SOQHA members in good standing and one (1) Youth Team Manager to be selected in the following manner:

- (a) Two advisors and the Youth Team Manager shall be appointed by the SOQHA Officers and Board of Directors. One (1) of these advisors must be currently serving as an Officer or Director of the SOQHA as specified in ARTICLE VIII, Section 2 of the SOQHA Bylaws.
- (b) Up to two (2) additional adult advisors may be selected and appointed by the SOQHYA Officers and Board of Directors. These advisors shall be members of the SOQHA in good standing. In the event the SOQHYA does not select their two youth advisors by April 1<sup>st</sup>, the SOQHA Board of Directors will make these appointments.

Section 3. The Adult Advisor Committee shall attend all SOQHYA membership meetings and Board of Directors meetings. They shall have no vote or official voice in the conduct of the SOQHYA meetings and/or affairs, except as stated in ARTICLE VIII of the SOQHA Bylaws.

- (a) All Adult Committee members shall be required to follow the operating business rules of the SOQHYA as so all Officers, Directors and members.