

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1

The name of the association shall be “SOUTHWEST QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION, INC.”

ARTICLE II – LOCATION

Section 1

The mailing address of the SWQHA is PO Box 1168, Mesilla Park, NM 88048

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Section 1

To promote interest in Quarter Horses from a regional standpoint, in cooperation with the American Quarter Horse Association.

Section 2

To promote and stimulate interest in regional Quarter Horse shows and other Quarter Horse activities.

Section 3

To promote educational and training programs on Quarter Horses.

Section 4

To keep points and make yearly awards to high point horses, amateurs and youth of the Association, as stipulated in the “Show Approval and Contest Rules.”

Section 5

Both Southwest Amateur Quarter Horse Association and Southwest Quarter Horse Youth Association are divisions of SWQHA; therefore, they are responsible to the parent association for their actions and deeds, whether implied or specific.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1

Eligibility: Any person interested in Quarter Horses is eligible; however, each application is subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

Memberships will be classified into 4 groups:

Family - A family membership shall be a husband, wife, and all unmarried children 18 years of age and under (as determined by AQHA standards). This type of membership has one vote. One adult member of the family is eligible to hold office. Youth is excluded from this membership upon termination of eligibility for youth competition and/or at the time of marriage. Youth is excluded from voting with this membership. Fee for family membership is \$30.00 per year.

Individual - An individual membership will allow the person to hold office and have one vote. Excluded from holding office in the parent organization and voting will be a youth who is 18 years and under. To be considered an SWQHA member, an individual 19 years and over must have an Individual, Life, Ranch, Syndicate, etc. or Family membership. Fee for individual membership is \$25.00 per year.

Life - A life membership may be carried in one name and/or in a family name. If the life membership is listed in an individual name, it will have the same provision as an individual membership. A life family membership will have the same requirements as a regular family membership. With all life memberships there will be one vote and one member of family eligible to hold office. A one-time fee of \$150 will be required.

Partnership, Syndicate, Corporation, or Farm/Ranch - This special membership will allow one designated exhibitor to show, will have one vote and one person may hold office. Youth are excluded from holding office and voting. Fee will be \$30.00 per year.

Honorary Life Membership - This membership will be granted by the SWQHA Board of Directors to those individuals who should be recognized for their efforts to SWQHA. This person will not pay dues and will have a vote.

Each owner listed on the registration papers must have an individual membership or be included in a family or life membership.

Membership dues must be paid with a separate check, not to include any other fees.

Section 3

All money received from dues shall be used in connection with the purposes of this Association.

Section 4

Membership is good for one fiscal year (except Life Membership) and is renewable each year on receipt of annual dues. Fiscal year is January 1 through December 31.

Section 5

All members, while in good standing, shall have equal rights, interests and responsibilities with respect to the Association; shall have the right to hold office and committee assignments, except as otherwise limited.

Section 6

Any member may be suspended for any fraudulent practices, being a party to illegal activities, or for unsportsmanlike conduct (Rule number V10220 in the AQHA handbook) that would present this Association in a bad light before the general public or other members. Any member against whom such action is taken by the Board of Directors will be suspended from the SWQHA and all its privileges until such time as the Board of Directors approves reinstatement. The action of the Board of Directors shall be conclusive on all parties of interest.

Anyone making a complaint to SWQHA must submit that complaint in writing to any SWQHA board member. Any SWQHA member having a complaint with a SWQHA sponsored show must submit that complaint to the SWQHA Board within ten days for resolution prior to forwarding a complaint to AQHA. The complainant must also accompany the complaint with a \$25.00 fee which will not be refunded. Any member of SWQHA, who has an issue that must be brought before the board for a vote, from the board, during deliberations the complainant will be excused from the board meeting during the time the issue is discussed. A member may be suspended for bypassing the SWQHA Board of Directors.

Section 7

Any entity who passes an insufficient check to SWQHA will be charged a \$25 service fee. Automatic 3 year probation will occur if check does not clear and service fee is not paid within 30 days of

issuance of check.

During the probation period cash, cashiers checks and certified checks only, may be used to pay SWQHA or its divisions. All relatives, partners or business accounts will be included at the discretion of the SWQHA board.

If after the probation period another insufficient check is issued, permanent probation will be in effect.

All SWQHA points (including futurity's) earned by payment of an insufficient fund check will be void and remain so after the check has cleared and service charge is paid, unless it is done so within 30 days of issuance of check.

Section 8

The Treasurer's books shall be audited after December 31st of each year by the Board of Directors at the January Director's meeting. After auditing, all monies shall be transferred immediately to the new Treasurer. The outgoing Treasurer will have two weeks to place the books in order and turn his records over to the new treasurer. The Treasurer will provide each Board Member with a copy of the monthly financial report.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS AND ELECTION

Section 1

General membership meetings will be held on the second Thursday of March, June and October. The annual membership meeting and awards luncheon shall be held the first Saturday of December. The meeting shall be held at a place designated by the Board of Directors. A temporary change of meeting date may be approved.

Section 2

A Board of Directors meeting shall be held the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meeting time and location will be posted on the web site. A temporary change in meeting date may be made by the Board. Any member may attend, with voice but without vote. Each director shall have one vote. A member of the Board will automatically be removed from office for three unexcused absences within one given year. To be considered for an excused absence a Director must contact either the President or Secretary with an explanation for the absence. The board will then vote whether to excuse the absence.

Section 3

The election of directors shall be held at the annual membership meeting each year. A nominating committee of no fewer than three shall be appointed by the President, which shall bring nominations to the October membership meeting. Other nominations for the Board of Directors may be taken from the floor. Ballots shall be mailed to all adult members, one to a family membership, Ranches, Corporations or Syndicates whose dues have been paid for the year. Ballots to be returned by mail to SWQHA PO BOX 1168 Mesilla Park, NM 88048 or returned in person prior to deadline set at the December Convention/Awards Banquet. If more than 5 members are running for the 5 Board positions, the ballots will be randomly numbered and number assigned to each voting member when mailed out so to prevent duplication and guarantee an accurate vote. New Directors shall take office after the Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner. The new officers shall be elected by the new Board of Directors at a meeting held immediately after the completion of the Annual Membership Meeting and the Awards Dinner. New officers will take office after being elected except for the office of Treasurer. The Treasurer will take office beginning January 1 after the Convention. Officers of the year just ended will continue to serve through the Membership Meeting and Dinner.

Section 4

The officers shall consist of: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected annually by the Board. Duties of these officers shall be those duties common to the office in other organizations, and such other duties as shall be assigned by the Board of Directors. The President and Vice President are authorized to sign checks on the association bank account.

There shall be 15 elected Directors. Directors shall be elected for the term of three years, with five Directors elected each year. Officers will come from the elected Board of Directors. Two immediate family members cannot serve on the Board at the same time. The immediate Past President will remain on the Board for only the first year after his/her last term. SWQHHA and SWAQHA Presidents will be ex-officio members of the Board. As such they will not have a vote.

Each officer or director must be a paid-up member of AQHA and SWQHA for the coming year prior to being elected and be no longer eligible to show in Youth Activities at the time of assuming office. Board members that don't show and are parents of youth showing may not and shouldn't be required to join AQHA.

Section 5

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-president shall assume the office. In the event of a vacancy in the other offices, or among the directors, a replacement shall be made by the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term.

Section 6

The following committees will be appointed by the incoming president not later than January 1: Membership, Futurity, Marketing, Finance, Fairgrounds, Stall Reservations, Point Keeper, Point Auditor, Work Requirements, Ring Stewards, Convention/Banquet, By-Laws/Show and Contest Rules, Awards, Show Approval and Judges, Website, Equipment Manager, Cattle and any other committee as needed. Each committee will be chaired by a current board member.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Property, funds and affairs of the club shall be directed collectively by the officers and directors of the Association.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall take whatever action is deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the association. The Board of Directors will be allowed to amend or repeal show rules during the current year to bring the show rules in line with fundamental rule changes made by AQHA during the show year.

Section 3

A simple majority of the Board members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1

By-laws may be repealed, modified, amended, or adopted only at the annual membership meeting. Any amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of those members voting. Amendments can be made retroactive, but only to the beginning of the Association's current year.