

**ALABAMA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RULES  
(Revised January 21, 2017)**

**ARTICLE I: Title, Objectives, Location**

**SECTION I: TITLE:** This association shall be known as the Alabama Quarter Horse Association Inc., including the amateur and youth divisions known as the Alabama Amateur Quarter Horse Association and the Alabama Quarter Horse Youth Association, and shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit association in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama providing for such organization and by which it shall acquire all such rights as granted to associations of this kind.

**SECTION II: OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of the association shall be to promote the American Quarter Horse, educate and assist members and associates in breeding, improving, promoting and enjoying the American Quarter Horse.

**SECTION III: PLACE OF BUSINESS:** The principal place of business shall be at the office of the Secretary/Treasurer, or at such place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, and business of this association may be conducted at any place convenient or otherwise beneficial to the officers, directors, or members of this association. Officers and directors of the association must be bona fide residents of Alabama.

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERS, MEETINGS**

**SECTION I:** Membership is open to any person or firm interested in the promotion of the American Quarter Horse by payment of membership dues as hereinafter provided. Members may be residents of any state. See Sections II and III for membership options.

Membership Types:

- Regular – Regular membership is a paid membership available to any person or firm interested in the promotion of the American Quarter horse and includes voting privileges (1 vote per membership regardless of whether membership is in individual or family name) in elections, participation as a member of the Board of Directors or as an Officer, and participation in the ALQHA points for yearend awards.
- Life – Life Membership is a paid membership available to adult members of ALQHA. Lifetime members have annual voting privileges (1 vote per membership regardless of whether membership is in individual or family name) and are eligible to participate in the ALQHA points system for shows and competitions, and as a member of the Board of Directors or an Officer.
- Affiliate – Affiliate membership is a non-voting membership that is free to any person interested in promoting the American Quarter Horse. Affiliate members have access to all e-publications from ALQHA, liaison with AQHA National Directors, may participate as a Committee member, and are listed on the membership roster. Affiliate members do not earn state points at ALQHA sponsored shows or competitions, and therefore are unable to qualify through the State Affiliate for AQHA World Championship shows.
- Youth and Amateur Memberships are available through the Youth and Amateur Associations and are paid directly to those organizations. Amateur and youth members may also hold Regular Memberships if desired.

**SECTION II: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:** Annual membership dues in this association shall be determined by the Board of Directors. . Membership fees, as applicable per membership type, are due on or before January 1, or may be paid at any time during the year. With the exception of lifetime memberships, all memberships expire on December 31 of the current year. Any annual fees should be paid either in the form of a personal, business, farm, or certified check or by money order. Memberships mailed to the ALQHA Secretary shall become active on the date of postmark.

**SECTION II: LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP DUES:** Adult Membership. Lifetime membership dues are two hundred (\$200). This lifetime membership may, at the purchasing individual's request, be issued in the name of one individual, or a husband and wife. Partnerships, ranches, or businesses may purchase lifetime memberships in the name of designated individuals and those memberships shall terminate at the death of last individual.

**SECTION III:** An annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors for the purpose of electing directors, and for the transaction of such business as may be brought before the members. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given in the Alabama Quarter Horse Association newsletter in a conspicuous place at least thirty (30) days preceding the month in which the annual meeting shall be held. Notice shall be deemed to be delivered when it, or the issue of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association newsletter containing such notice, shall be delivered by electronic means (e-mail) or deposited in the United States mail with postage prepaid and addressed to the member (or in the case of multiple members residing at one residence, to one member at the household) at member's address as it appears on the record of the association.

**SECTION IV:** Special meetings of the membership may be held at such time and place as may be designated in the notice, whenever called at the discretion of the president or by a majority of the board of directors, or by notice signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the members then in good standing. Notice of each special meeting shall be given in the same manner as stated in Section III and shall briefly state the object and purpose of the meeting.

**SECTION V:** At any meeting of the members held in accordance with the foregoing provisions as to notice, the members attending such meeting shall constitute a quorum for all purposes unless a larger number should be required by laws of the State of Alabama. To exercise voting privileges, a member may be physically present at the meeting or may cast his/her vote in the annual election by mail. Members are prohibited from voting by proxy.

**SECTION VI:** Any officer of the association may call a meeting of members to order and preside as chairman. The order of precedence is: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In the absence of all such officers, members present may elect a chairman. The Secretary of the association shall act as secretary to all meetings, but in the Secretary's absence, directors may appoint any person to act as secretary of the meeting.

**SECTION VII:** Payment of Regular membership dues shall constitute voting rights in any membership meeting or annual meeting, but voting rights at the time of the annual meeting shall be granted only to those members whose dues are paid at the time of the meeting. At meetings of members, each member (annual or lifetime), shall be entitled to one (1) vote only regardless of whether the membership is held in the name of an individual, husband and wife, partnership, ranch, business, or otherwise. Youth members are not entitled to vote at any membership meeting except meetings of the Alabama Quarter Horse Youth Association, unless they possess Regular memberships in their name.

**SECTION VIII:** Whenever in these by-laws the term member or members shall be used, unless otherwise specified, it shall mean a member having the right to vote. Affiliate members do not have voting privileges.

## ARTICLE III: DIRECTORS

**SECTION I:** The Board of Directors shall manage the association's business and property.

**SECTION II:** The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen (15) regular members who shall hold office in three staggered terms with five serving a three-year term, five serving a two-year term, and five serving a one-year term; thereby electing only five directors annually.

To be eligible for election to serve on the Board of Directors, an individual must be a regular member in good standing of the ALQHA and the AQHA, and must be a bona fide resident of the State of Alabama. Any elected director approved by the Board of Directors will be removed from the Board of Directors upon a third consecutive, absence. Failure to notify the President or Secretary by either e-mail or by phone to the Secretary's notice of scheduled meeting shall be deemed an unexcused absence.

Any vacancy on the Board of Directors by death, resignation, or other cause will be filled by affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the association by choosing from those directors currently serving one-year terms. Should a director serving a one-year term vacate his position during the year, that position would be filled from the general membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. In addition to the regular directors so elected, all past-presidents of the association shall be and become directors at large, in an advisory capacity, with no voting privileges.

**SECTION III:** A meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual meeting and no notice shall be required for any such regular meeting of the board. The board, by rule, may provide for other regular meetings at stated times and places, with no notice required. The secretary shall give notice of each special meeting of the board by mailing or telephoning the same to each director at least ten (10) days before the meeting but such notice may be waived by any director, unless otherwise indicated in the notice. Any and all business may be transacted at a special meeting of the board.

**SECTION IV:** Eight (8) directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board; but, if there may be less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting until a quorum shall be present.

**SECTION V:** At meetings of the Board of Directors, business shall be transacted in such order as the Board of Directors may determine according to Roberts Rules of Order.

**SECTION VI:** At the annual membership meeting, association regular members elect the officers and Board of Directors of the association in accordance with Article VI of these By-Laws.

**SECTION VII:** The Board of Directors shall manage and control the business and property of the association and shall have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations, not contrary to the articles of incorporation of these by-laws, as they may deem expedient. All changes, however, are subject to revision or amendment by majority vote of the members present at any annual or special meeting of the members if written notice of intention by any member to remove said revision or amendment of any rule or regulation or action adopted by the board was served upon the association, as per Article II, Section 3. To be effective, the required notice shall (1) be in writing, signed by the member intending to make such motion at the meeting; (2) set forth in detail the specific rule, regulation, by-law, or other action adopted by the board (3) set forth the full text of the proposed motions; and (4) be served upon the association by e-mail and/or U.S. mail at the registered office of the association. Upon receipt from the member of time notice, the association shall, at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of members at which proposed motion is to be made, cause copies of such notice, together with rebuttal, if any, by the board of directors, to be either e-mailed and/or mailed to all members or published in the Alabama Quarter Horse Association newsletter.

**SECTION VIII:** The Board of Directors, from time to time, may create and empower committees, general or special.

**SECTION IX:** All National Directors of our area shall be fully empowered members of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association Board of Directors so long as they remain National Directors and members of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association. When funds are available, the ALQHA shall supply the National Directors with \$500 dollars per year for travel expenditures approved by the board prior to travel. The responsibilities of the National Directors in the American Quarter Horse Association are outlined in the AQHA Rule Book. The following covers the responsibilities of the National Directors as a member of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association. The National Directors should consider any question brought to him by and AQHA member residing in the State of Alabama and willingly give his counsel and advice. If, in his direction, a bona fide problem exists that cannot be handled by the director or vice-president, the National Directors should see that the problem is brought to AQHA attention and follow through until disposition has been made. The National Directors should report to the membership pertinent details of the AQHA Annual Convention. The report should be in writing and will be published in the first newsletter printed after the convention. The National Directors will attend all meetings called by the American Quarter Horse Association and the Alabama Quarter Horse Association.

## **ARTICLE IV: ELECTIVE OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**SECTION I: OFFICERS:** The officers of the association shall be the president, first vice president, second vice president, and such officers as may be authorized from time to time by the board of directors, who shall be elected by the board of directors. Those officers shall hold office for a period of two (2) years and until their successors are elected and qualified. All officers may succeed themselves in office for two (2) terms only, serving a total of no more than three (3) terms commencing with the annual election of officers. To be eligible for election to serve as an elected officer of the association, one must also be an elected director of the association, and/or a past elected officer of the association.

**SECTION II: PRESIDENT:** The president shall be the chief executive officer of the association and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He 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 shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**SECTION III: FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:** In the absence of the president, the first vice president shall have the power and shall perform the duties of the president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION IV: SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** In the absence of the president and first vice president, the second vice president's duties shall include, but not be limited to the duties stated in Section III above.

## **NON ELECTED OFFICERS AND DUTIES:**

**SECTION V: SECRETARY:** The secretary shall keep the minutes of all membership and directors' meetings. He or she shall (1) be the custodian for the safe keeping of all documents and records of the association; (2) be the ex-officio secretary of all committees appointed by the president or board of directors; (3) make a report of his or her office to the board of directors when demanded and to all annual membership meetings; and (4) attend ALQHA-sponsored events and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the executive committee from time to time. The secretary shall be an appointed position with an annual renewable contract. The board of directors shall determine the secretary's job description, salary and expense reimbursement.

**SECTION VI: TREASURER:** The treasurer shall be a director or the ALQHA and serve as the chairman of a finance committee to be appointed by the president and approved by the board of directors.

**SECTION VII: SURETY BONDS:** If the board requires, the treasurer and all officers or employees of the association who may handle association funds shall obtain a surety bond to be paid for by the association.

**SECTION VIII: FISCAL BASIS:** The fiscal year of the association shall run from January 1 to December 31.

**SECTION IX: COMMITTEES:** Standing committees of the association shall be the Nominating Committee, Rules Committee, Finance Committee, Show Committee, and Membership Committee. Other committees may be appointed by the president or board of directors as needed and serve for the length of time deemed necessary by the appointing party. Committee chairmen may add to committees from the general membership as deemed necessary. Duties of these standing committees expressed in broad terms are:

1. Nominating Committee: A nomination committee of not fewer than three shall be appointed by the president, which shall bring the director and officer nominations and ballots to the annual meeting.
2. Rules: The Rules Committee shall interpret existing rules, suggest new rules, draft rules and by-law changes and act as parliamentarian.
3. Finance Committee: This committee will present a financial report to the general membership at the annual meeting, oversee and disburse all funds received by the ALQHA, recommend investments for the association assets, project income, develop annual budgets, provide long range financial planning, prompt payment of employees and maintain a set of standard operating procedures whereby financial records for the ALQHA will be kept. The Finance Committee will, at the end of each administration, employ an independent certified public accountant to review the books.
4. Show Committee: The Show Committee shall oversee, produce and manage any ALQHA-sponsored show or futurity.
5. Membership: The Membership Committee shall promote and encourage membership in the Alabama Quarter Horse Association.

## **ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION I:** The board of directors shall have the power to make, amend, and repeal the by-laws of the association by vote of the majority of directors present at any regular or special meeting of the board, subject to the right of the members to rescind or amend such by-laws in the same manner as provided in Article III, Section VII, for the revision of amendments of rules and regulations.

## **ARTICLE VI**

**VOTING:** Nominations from ALQHA members in good standing for officer and director positions shall be in writing and sent to the ALQHA secretary via US mail or electronic mail no later than September 30 of the current year. The ALQHA secretary shall provide the chairman of the nomination committee the list of the membership-submitted nominees immediately after the September 30 deadline. These nominees will be considered in the development of a slate of nominees to be offered to the general membership for election.

The nomination committee shall present the slate of nominees and respective offices and positions to the general membership via the newsletter at least two months prior to the annual membership meeting.

Numbered ballots listing the nominees and respective office or position and voting instructions shall be sent by first-class mail by the ALQHA secretary to the current-year ALQHA membership no later than 30 days prior to the annual membership meeting. Completed ballots shall be returned via US mail in a corresponding numbered prepaid stamped envelope to the ALQHA secretary.

The ballots will be presented to the chairman of the nomination committee immediately prior to the annual membership meeting with results announced at the meeting.

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***ALABAMA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION***  
***RULES AND REGULATIONS***  
**(Revised January 21, 2017)**

1. The Alabama Quarter Horse Association shall calculate point standings for the year-end high point winners from January 1 - December 31 of the calendar year.
2. In order to be eligible for year-end awards, both the owner and exhibitor(s) of the horse must be current-year Regular members of ALQHA. Year-end points will begin accumulating upon payment of current-year open association membership dues. Dues can be paid to show secretaries and forwarded to the ALQHA secretary. In order to receive an award, any member must pay all his or her outstanding debts owed to ALQHA.
3. Year-end individual class awards will be given for the high-point earning horse and reserve high-point earning horse earning a minimum of ten (10) state points in that class. In the event of a tie for Champion or Reserve Champion, the winner will be the horse earning the most class first place finishes, and the runner up will become the reserve champion.

A. An All-Around Award will be presented to the open division high-point horse with the most accumulated points. Said horse must have earned at least five (5) points in open halter/performance halter and at least ten (10) points in each of two other open AQHA categories. Green classes will not count toward the all-around award. A reserve All-Around Award will be presented to the second highest point-earning horse with the above-rule applying. In case of a tie, the competitor with the most year-end high point class wins will be declared the winner. In the event this still does not determine a winner, the competitor with the most points in different categories will be declared the high point earning horse.

B. Six (6) special high point awards will be presented:

**B. 1. HIGH POINT MARE, STALLION AND GELDING OF THE YEAR:**

Both owner and exhibitor(s) of the horse must be a member in good standing of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association. Points earned from competition in the youth and amateur divisions of ALQHA will also accumulate and be counted for the award as long as the owner and all exhibitors are members of the division of ALQHA, ALAQHA, and ALQHYA in which the horse is shown. At least ten (10) points must be earned in an open division halter/performance halter class and at least ten (10) points must be earned in an open division performance class.

**B. 2. HIGH POINT HALTER MARE, STALLION AND GELDING OF THE YEAR:**

The high point halter mare, stallion, and gelding of the year will be awarded to the horse earning the most state halter/performance halter points in each division. At least ten (10) points must be earned in an open division halter/performance halter class. Both owner and exhibitor(s) of the horse must be a member in good standing of the Alabama Quarter Horse Association. Points earned from competition in the youth halter and amateur halter (including Novice, if applicable) will also accumulate and be counted for the award as long as the owner and exhibitors are members of the youth and amateur divisions of ALQHA in which the horse is shown.

C. ALQHA Pioneer Horseman Award. This award is for the purpose of honoring a person residing in Alabama who has been instrumental in the long-term breeding, showing, raising, and caring for the American Quarter Horse for at least 20 years. The nominee does not have to be a member of ALQHA. This award will be given annually to the person chosen by a committee of three made up of current ALQHA members and/or board members appointed by the current ALQHA president.

D. Leadline Horsemanship and Small Fry Walk-Trot. These classes are not mandatory for approval but are strongly recommended. ALQHA will give a year-end award for the high point exhibitor only.

1. Leadline Horsemanship. This class is to be judged on horsemanship. Riders are to be 8 years old or under. Leaders should be 13 years old or older. Leaders are not to be judged. Riders are to be judged both directions of the arena at a walk. Horses are not required to back. The arena may be cut in half at the judge's discretion. Western or english tack may be used, however, riders should be properly attired. Silver outfits or fancy clothes shall not count over a neat working outfit. A lead shank must be used and can either be attached to bits or to a halter under the bridle. Absolutely, no stallions allowed. Horses need not be owned by the rider or family. Any breed of horse or pony may be shown. Entry fees shall be at the discretion of show management. Awards for this class should be presented through eighth place. To be eligible for state points, exhibitors must be a member of ALQHYA.

2. Small Fry Walk-Trot. This class is to be judged on horsemanship. Riders are to be 10 years old and under. Riders are to be judged in both directions of the arena at a walk and jog trot. Horses may not be asked to extend either the walk or trot and shall not be asked to back. Horses need not be owned by rider or family and any breed of horse or pony may be shown. Absolutely no stallions. Exhibitors may show in either english or western tack and attire. Show management shall have no less than four spotters in the arena at all times during the class with at least one on each side and one on each end of the arena. Parents may serve as spotters but shall at no time offer assistance during the class unless an exhibitor gets into trouble. If an exhibitor has a problem, they may resume their ride so long as the judge deems it safe for that exhibitor and to others in the class. Awards for this class should be presented through eighth place. To be eligible for state points in this class, exhibitors must be a member of the ALQHYA.

E. Recreational Riding Award. ALQHA will present a year-end award to the ALQHA member who submits to the ALQHA secretary the most hours logged on an official AQHA Horseback Riding Program log sheet. Log sheets are available for download at <http://www.aqha.com/recreation/horseback/index.html>. ALQHA members are not required to be a member of the AQHA horseback riding program to compete for the ALQHA Recreational Riding Award. However, if an ALQHA participating member provides proof that he/she is also enrolled in the AQHA Horseback Riding Program, ALQHA will award double hours spent on any official AQHA trail ride. Submission must be post-marked no later than December 15 of the current year.

4. Points will be awarded up to nine places in halter and performance events. All three associations (ALQHA, ALAQHA, and ALQHYA) will use the same method for calculating state points.

# IN CLASS	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>	5 <sup>TH</sup>	6 <sup>TH</sup>	7 <sup>TH</sup>	8 <sup>TH</sup>	9 <sup>TH</sup>
1	1								
2	2	1							
3	3	2	1						
4	4	3	2	1					
5	5	4	3	2	1				
6	6	5	4	3	2	1			
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
9 or more	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

5. In order for an AQHA show to be approved by the Alabama Quarter Horse Association, the following procedures must be followed:

A. All show management should submit a list of all show dates that particular management intends to have state approved. This information will be published in the ALQHA newsletter and ALQHA website. Should a show manager decide not to have a show state approved after said show has been advertised in the newsletter and ALQHA website, show management must notify the ALQHA secretary of the change in ample time for the revision to appear in at least one issue of the ALQHA newsletter.

B. No show(s) will be approved for state points on the same weekend as the annual general membership meeting and banquet. No shows will be approved for youth points if said show conflicts with the Youth World Show or the Congress Youth Team Tournament.

C. Any show AQHA approves can be state approved for points upon submission of application form and approval fees. Any show applying to be approved for state points must have a completed and signed contract submitted to ALQHA a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the show date.

D. Shows held on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and national holidays will be eligible for state approval for open, amateur, and youth points. National holidays are January 1, Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas.

E. Only shows complying with AQHA rules pertaining to double-judged shows with two sets of AQHA points will count for more than one set of state points. According to AQHA rules, these are state fairs, livestock shows, and split-combined shows. Any shows eligible under this rule will pay double state approval fees.

F. All show managers and show secretaries must meet the same requirements as with AQHA for shows to be approved for state points. Both the show manager and show secretary must be current year member of the ALQHA.

G. A copy of the official show results with total entry count for open, amateur, and youth will be provided by the show secretary in a timely manner at no cost to the association point count secretary. The point count secretary will provide the association treasurer official entry count for open, amateur, and youth in order for follow-up fees to be billed. Show management will be billed for all follow-up fees from the official AQHA totals. All follow-up fees are due upon receipt of ALQHA invoice. A fine of \$25 will be levied against show management after 30 days. After 60 days a fine of \$50 will be assessed.

H. The follow-up fee will be \$1 per entry. Follow-up fees should be included in show management's entry fees and should not be charged as an office charge. However, show management may charge any office charges they wish as per AQHA rules.

I. Follow-up fees will be dispersed to each of the following:

\$.50 for each open entry will be retained by ALQHA.

\$.50 for each amateur entry will be retained by ALAQHA.

\$.50 for each youth entry will be retained by ALQHYA.

6. Current year AQHA handbook rules shall be followed with regard to positive drug tests found in AQHA-approved classes. The AQHA shall immediately be notified of all details regarding the case and will have jurisdiction over the disciplinary action. Upon suspension of the responsible individual(s) from AQHA membership said individual(s) shall also be suspended from the ALQHA membership for the same period as mandated by the AQHA suspension.

7. Contracts for goods and services in excess of \$500.00 must be approved by the Finance Committee. Any goods or services requested by the ALQHA must appear in at least one (1) issue of the ALQHA newsletter in a conspicuous place. Sealed bids should be returned to the person requesting same within 30 days from the date of the newsletter. Bids on goods must include a total amount including tax, shipping, assembly when required, and any special handling. Bids on services must include all expenses, including but not limited to postage or shipping, telephone, printing, mileage, lodging, or any other expense associated with such service.

8. The Alabama Quarter Horse Association adopts the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) handbook for any rules and regulations not covered in this publication.