

# Massachusetts Quarter Horse Youth Association Policies & Procedures

## Our Mission Statement:

The MassQHYA is an organization of young people who gather for their love of the American Quarter Horse. WE ARE CONTINUALLY promoting the development of our youth members through sportsmanship. OUR GOAL is to develop self-esteem and encourage our youth in becoming stronger competitors and future leaders.

To participate on any MassQHYA Team, serve on the MassQHYA Board of Directors or as an AQHYA Delegate members must adhere to the MassQHYA By-Laws, Code of Conduct and Policies & Procedures at all times. You are all a team and are expected to treat each other, all members, and the MassQHA elected Youth Advisor with respect. Once you are accepted, elected or appointed to one of the above, you have agreed to make a commitment to MassQHYA and follow through with your commitment and tasks. You must also follow the following guidelines.

1. Attend a minimum of 3 meetings/functions held during the qualifying period.
2. Participate in 51% of the Youth Fund raising events held during the qualifying period. (they will be listed on the web site)
3. Sell a minimum of 3 ads booklet or collect 3 sponsors.
4. Participate in 1 MassQHYA Community Service project.
5. Be a member of MassQHYA in good standing by May 31 of the current year. Board of Directors must be a member by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**QUALIFYING PERIOD THROUGH OUT THIS GUIDELINE IS November 1<sup>st</sup> of PREVIOUS YEAR TO October 31<sup>st</sup> of CURRENT YEAR.**

AQHYA Youth World Show, Congress NYATT & other Team Tournaments participants will be selected by the MassQHA Youth Advisor, and approved by the MassQHYA and MassQHA Board of Directors, adhering to the following guidelines.

MassQHYA Officers, Board of Directors and AQHYA Delegates will be voted on by the MassQHYA general membership with approval of MassQHA Youth Advisor & MassQHA Board of Directors, adhering to the following guidelines.

## **AQHYA World Show YOUTH TEAM SELECTION:**

### **I. NATIONALLY QUALIFIED YOUTH**

**(A)** All Nationally qualified Youth based on the AQHYA guidelines will be eligible to attend the Youth World Show. You must contact the MassQHYA by May 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year if you plan on attending.

**(B)** Nationally qualified Youth will receive financial aid and/or recognition awards only if the National Qualifier is a MassQHYA member and meets the criteria listed above.

### **II. STATE QUALIFIED YOUTH**

**(A)** Youth must follow above guidelines

**(B)** Youth must be residents of Massachusetts or Rhode Island. (For exceptions please refer to the AQHYA hardship guidelines)

### **III. STATE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS**

Each state is allowed 4 State Qualified exhibitors per event.

**(A)** Any Youth interested in being on the State Team must send a Letter of Intent by May 31<sup>st</sup> in writing and must be signed by a parent.

**(B)** Each youth will be offered a spot on the YWS Team as you state qualify according to the records from AQHYA sent to Youth Advisor annually. MassQHA Youth Advisor will verify that members have also met the qualifying guidelines above.

**(C)** After ALL Qualifying Team Participants are placed on the team, and then any remaining events will be filled by MassQHYA Members who have applied, but not qualified as top 4.

**(D)** First consideration will go to youth who have completed requirements listed above.

**(E)** If there are youth interested in a spot on the YWS team, but have not actively participated as MassQHYA member or met the above criteria and there is an open spot you may be offered that spot, but will not receive any financial support from MassQHYA, you will be require to participate as a team member .

**(F)** If a change in guidelines are deemed necessary, the change must be presented by the Youth Advisor and parent, then reviewed by the MassQHA Board of Directors before any such change is made.

### **III. The All-American QH Congress NYATT Youth team selection:**

Each team is allowed 2 exhibitors per event. (Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Reining & Barrel Racing are the current events offered).

- (A)** Any Youth interested in being on the State Team must submit a Letter of Intent by May 31st in writing and must submit his/her list of class choices by preference and must be signed by a parent.
- (B)** Each Team member meeting the Qualifying Guidelines may be placed on the Massachusetts Congress NYATT Team, by choosing his/her first choice event, approved by the MassQHA Youth Advisor. After ALL Team Participants are placed on the team, then any remaining events will be filled using the same system.
- (C)** When more than two (2) Youth apply for any class;
  - (a)** The Youth Advisor will first attempt to resolve the conflict with youth. Then this will be based on points from MassQHA shows held during the qualifying period. The top two (2) exhibitors applying for the class will qualify.
  - (b)** If the tie is still unbroken, preference will be given to the Youth who has participated in more of the meetings and fundraisers during the qualifying period.
  - (c)** If the tie is still unbroken, AQHA points will be used during the qualifying period.
- (D)** If a change in guidelines are deemed necessary, the change must be presented by the MassQHA Youth Advisor and parent, then reviewed by the MassQHA Board of Directors before any such change is made.

#### **IV. Region 6 Team Tournament:**

Each team is allowed three (3) exhibitors per event

- (A)** Any Youth interested in being on the State Team must submit a Letter of Intent by May 31st in writing and must submit his/her list of class choices by prefer and must be signed by a parent.
- (B)** Each Team member meeting the Qualifying Guidelines may be placed on the Massachusetts Congress NYATT Team, by choosing his/her first choice event, approved by the MassQHA Youth Advisor. After ALL Team Participants are placed on the team, then any remaining events will be filled using the same system.
- (C)** When more than three (3) Youth apply for any class;
  - (a)** The Youth Advisor will first attempt to resolve the conflict with youth. Then this will be based on points from MassQHA shows held during the qualifying period. The top three (3) exhibitors applying for the class will qualify.
  - (b)** If the tie is still unbroken, preference will be given to the Youth who has participated in more of the meetings and fundraisers during the qualifying period.
  - (c)** If the tie is still unbroken, AQHA points will be used during the qualifying period.
- (D)** If a change in guidelines are deemed necessary, the change must be presented by the MassQHA Youth Advisor and parent, then reviewed by the MassQHA Board of Directors before any such change is made.

#### **V. Leadership Teams:**

Leaderships Teams are defined as MassQHYA Officers & Board of Directors and AQHYA Massachusetts Delegates

- (A)** Youth interested in participating on the MassQHYA BOD must be nominated and elected by the MassQHYA general membership.
- (B)** Youth interested in participating as an AQHYA Massachusetts Delegate for the AQHYA Convention must submit a letter of intent to the MassQHYA Youth Advisor by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - (a)** Though all youth are welcome to attend the YES Conference and AQHYA Convention, MassQHYA is only allowed four (4) voting delegates. These four (4) delegates will be voted on by the youth general membership by March 31<sup>st</sup> of current year.

#### **VI. STATE TEAM POLICIES**

- (A)** In the instance a youth does not participate on a team that they had accepted a position on, they shall submit a written explanation of their action concerning that team to the MassQHA Youth Advisor and MassQHYA Board of Directors within two weeks after the final date of the event they were to participate in. This excuse will be reviewed by the Youth Executive Committee and MassQHA Youth Advisor. If the Youth Executive Committee with the guidance of the MassQHA Youth Advisor deems it necessary and proper to suspend this person from participation on all teams for a period of one year, they shall do so and notify the youth in writing of this decision. The death or serious injuries to horse, a death in the member's family or serious injury to the member are examples of acceptable excuses. Proof of injury shall require a doctor's or veterinarian's statement.
- (B)** In the event that the MassQHA Youth Advisor cannot attend the event they will appoint an adult to be Team Advisor with the approval of MassQHA Board of Directors to accompany the team to the event.
- (C)** All team members are responsible to the Team Advisor. Everyone on the team must abide by rules they set up.
- (D)** Team members shall at all times conduct themselves in a becoming manner. Each member's actions reflect on all MassQHYA & MassQHA members and the state in general. Conduct unbecoming to the team or state in general, is cause for dismissal from the team by the team advisor, you may be sent home at families expense.
- (E)** When the team is selected you will be competing as a team and must work together.
- (F)** The team outfits and uniforms shall be chosen by team participants and approved by the MassQHA Youth Advisor and the MassQHA Board of Directors.