

# **MassQHA BY LAWS**

(Revised 2024)

## **ARTICLES WHICH HAVE BEEN CHANGED ARE UNDERLINED**

### ARTICLE I NAME

This association shall be known as the Massachusetts Quarter Horse Association (MassQHA) and shall be operated and conducted as a non-profit organization in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The Massachusetts Quarter Horse Association (MassQHA) is organized for the purpose of educating youths and adults about the American Quarter Horse, its temperament and history; to promote the best interests of Quarter Horse owners, riders, and enthusiasts, as well as the breed; to promote and encourage breeding, performance and competitions involving the American Quarter Horse within the Commonwealth, and to encourage sportsmanship and youth activity.

### ARTICLE III THE ASSOCIATION

No profits shall proceed to any officer, shareholder, director or member of the corporation. Upon dissolution of or the termination of the corporation, any property owned by it shall be distributed to non-profit charitable organizations only.

### ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Any person desirous of furthering the purpose outlined in Article II is eligible for membership. Members shall be admitted, retained and expelled in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, adopt. Anyone denied the rights and privileges of membership in AQHA, by AQHA, will also be denied the rights and privileges of membership in MassQHA.

While in good standing, all members shall have equal rights, interests and responsibilities with respect to the Association; shall obey and be bound by all By-Laws, rules and regulations of the Association and decisions or actions of the Board of Directors and / or Officers; shall have the right to vote by personal attendance at membership meetings; and shall have the right to hold office and committee assignments, except as otherwise limited. In all matters governed by the vote for members (ones no longer eligible for youth), each member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

### ARTICLE V DUES

The Board of Directors shall fix dues for membership and special assessments from time to time. An annual fee as set by the Board of Directors shall be paid by each annual member and shall be due and payable on or before March 1 of each year.

That portion of the annual dues collected that can be attributed to a youth membership shall be credited to MQHYA.

- A. Single Membership (Individual)
- B. Youth Membership  
(Must be accompanied by parent or guardian membership)
- C. Mr. & Mrs. Membership (2 votes)
- D. Life Membership (Individual Adult)
- E. Family Membership (members of a family to join for a set fee. An adult must join as a single member or in the case of a husband / wife team, a Mr. & Mrs. Membership, with unlimited number of children.)

### ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

There shall be an annual meeting as fixed by the Board of Directors for the purpose of electing the officers and Directors and for receiving the annual reports and transactions of other business. The annual meeting shall be held in November.

Committee meetings shall meet whenever and wherever called by the direction of the President or Committee Chairperson.

Transactions of business in which decisions are ultimately affecting incoming elected Officers and /or Directors shall be attended by said Officers and /or Directors affording them a voice in the decisions effecting their tenure in office. Four (4) votes from Board Members allow a motion to be “tabled” once for a maximum of 30 days. Electronic transmission may be used by Officers and Directors to conduct day-to-day business of MassQHA. Also, telephonic meetings (conference calls) may be used when necessary for the Officers and Directors to hold a Board Meeting.

## ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

There shall be a nomination of officers & directors at the General Meeting held in October of the preceding year. All nominations for officers and directors will be open to the floor. Ballots will be distributed at the November meeting; members must be present to vote. Any adult member in good standing will be entitled to one (1) vote.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

MassQHA will allow members who are physically attending the AQHA World Show and/or 4-H Nationals, to place an absentee ballot, with the stipulation that they must be received by a MassQHA director prior to the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII QUORUM

A minimum of eight (8%) percent of the enrolled membership shall constitute a quorum. At all meetings of the officers; three (3) officers shall constitute a quorum and a majority of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## ARTICLE IX MEETING NOTICE

Notices of meetings shall be posted on MassQHA’s web-site at least (7) days prior to such meetings. Notification for general membership meetings shall be posted by electronic communication and/or by written notice stating time, place, and agenda for meeting.

## ARTICLE X OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

The Officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers and eight (8) members of the Association. The Youth Advisor shall also serve as a Director. The immediate Past President of the MassQHA shall automatically become a member of the Board of Directors for one (1) year. Thereafter, that Board position will be filled by election at the Annual Meeting, should the President be the same person in succeeding year(s). Should the immediate Past President be elected to another position as an officer of the Association, the Board of Director's position will be filled at the Annual Meeting by election or if vacated after the Annual Meeting, by appointment made by the President. No more than two (2) members of the same immediate family may serve simultaneously as Officers and/or Directors. Officers of the Association must be residents of Massachusetts. No more than three (3) Directors may be non-residents of Massachusetts.

## ARTICLE XI DUTIES

The business and property of the Association shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors. Definitions of the duties of Officers and Directors are as follows:

A. The duties of the Presiding Officer or President of this Association are:

1. To be responsible for appointing and is ex-officio of all committees, except the nominating committee.
2. To be responsible for representing this Association as its administer in any situation that is required. If he or she, or the Vice-President, is not able to fulfill this duty they may appoint a representative in their place.
3. President / Chairperson of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall see that the By-Laws, rules and regulations of the Association are enforced.
4. To appoint a Communication Coordinator responsible for coordinating electronic and/or written communications as necessary to keep the membership informed or as directed by the Board of Directors.
5. To appoint a Membership Chair to keep Association Official Membership Roll and to send each individual, family and/or youth a copy of the By-laws, Point System and a list of Officers and Board of Directors for the current year.

B. The duties of the Vice President of this Association are:

1. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President serves in his / her stead.

C. The duties of the Treasurer of this Association are:

1. To be responsible for holding the funds deposited by this Association and paying out funds on the order of this Association.
2. To make a full written financial report quarterly (that being four (4) times yearly) and submit same for the record.
3. To report that status of the treasury at each meeting which is to be placed on file, as record.

D. The duties of the Recording Secretary of this Association are:

1. To keep the records of all the proceedings of the Association.
2. To keep on file all Committee reports.
3. To make the minutes and records available to members upon request.
4. To maintain record books in which the By-Laws, special rules of order, standing rules and minutes are recorded and to have current record books on hand at every meeting.
5. To prepare, prior to each meeting an order of business for the use of the presiding officer and copies made available to the general membership.
6. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, to call the meeting to order and preside until the election of a chairman pro-tem, which should take place immediately.

E. The duties of the Corresponding Secretary of the Association are:

1. To conduct the general correspondence for the Association that is not a function proper to other offices or committees.

F. The duties of the Board of Directors of the Association are:

1. To sit as members of the Executive Board in addition to other officers and perform such duties as the By-Laws requires.
2. Prior notice of absence from Board Meetings is requested.
3. Any elected Director who is absent for three (3) consecutive times from meetings, without prior notice, is automatically removed and the vacancy filled. The President, with the advice and consent of the Officers and Directors, shall appoint a qualified successor to serve until the next general election. Upon notification of the intent of removal, a review will be conducted which will hear the extenuating circumstances surrounding the absenteeism.
4. Board of Directors have the power and authority to make, amend, repeal and enforce such rules and regulations concerning the conduct, management and activities of the Association, the admission, classifications, qualifications, suspension and expulsion of members, removal of Officers, the rules and regulations governing the procedure of such suspension, expulsion, and or removal, and other details relating to the general purpose of the Association.
5. Board of Directors shall at all times represent that which is in the best interest of the membership.

G. The duties of the Youth Advisor of the Association are:

1. The MassQHA Youth Advisor shall be required to submit current MassQHYA secretary and treasurer reports to the MassQHA Board of Directors during each MassQHA Board meeting.
2. In the event the MassQHA Youth Advisor is unable to attend a MassQHA Board meeting, he/she shall provide reports prior to such meetings.
3. When Co-Advisors are elected, one advisor shall serve as the primary Massachusetts Youth Advisor and official MassQHYA contact.
4. The MassQHYA Youth advisor must submit AQHYA worksheets, requests and all other required paperwork to AQHYA in a timely fashion.
5. The MassQHYA Youth Advisor or appointed adult replacement shall attend the Affiliate Youth workshop, team tournaments, AQHYA Youth World Show and Quarter Horse Congress.
6. The Youth Advisor shall attend MassQHYA Youth meetings and be available to the Youth members.
7. The Youth Advisor shall oversee team selection for the AQHYA Youth World show and Congress and any other team tournament that may arise, adhering to the current MassQHYA guidelines.
8. Any and all MassQHYA functions must be supervised by either the current MassQHYA Youth Advisor or youth parents.

At all shows and wherever called upon the Officers and Directors shall serve as Technical Delegates of the Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Quarter Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association.

ARTICLE XII SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committees shall consist of not less than three (3) members who shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Officers and Directors.

Members must be an Association member in good standing.

All members of Special Committees are to be present at all meetings of the committee.

Appointees shall meet and perform functions as set down by the Officers and Directors. Appointees shall make written or oral reports of primary duties to the President of the Association who may request representation at a Board Meeting.

President of the Association or his delegate serves as ex-officio at all meetings.

Secretary of the Association shall be present to record proceedings or in their absence, the committee may appoint any person to act as secretary of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

Proposed By-Law additions, amendments and deletions must be received by the Board of Directors, for their consideration, by July 1 of the current year and received by the membership prior to October 31 of the current year. Receipt will be in the form of electronic communication and/or written notice. The proposed By-Law additions, amendments and deletions will then be voted on by the general membership at the Annual meeting held in November. A majority vote of the general membership in attendance at the Annual Meeting shall add, amend or delete the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The President shall have the right to appoint any and all committees.

**~~~~~End of MassQHA By-law section~~~~~**

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# ~~~~~Points and Show Section~~~~~

## MassQHA APPROVED SHOWS FOR YEAR END AWARDS 2024

May 2nd - 5th 2024	MassQHA Annual Shows	Springfield MA
June 6th - 9th 2024	CQHA	Northampton MA
June 14th -1 6th, 2024	MassQHA Novice Show	Northampton MA
July 15th - 21st 2024	Region 6 Super 6 Series Shows	W. Springfield MA
August 21st - 25th 2024	New Hampshire Annual Show	Deerfield, NH
August 29th - Sept 1st 2024	Falls Creek Farm	Oneco, CT

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### 2 Meeting Rule

To be eligible for year end awards all adult and youth members must attend at least two (2) general membership (Youth &/or Adult) meetings between November of the previous year and October of the Awards year. Any college student who is currently a member of MassQHA may get meeting credit by either “calling in” or “Skyping in” to a meeting. It is the responsibility of the student to make these arrangements prior to the meeting. See points for more qualifications.

### POINT SYSTEM

1. In the **Open Division**, only AQHA registered horses, owned by MassQHA members, are eligible for MassQHA points. If more than one name is listed as owner on the registration, **all owners must become members**. In the Novice, Amateur, and Youth Divisions only AQHA registered horses, exhibited by MassQHA members, are eligible for MassQHA points. Membership becomes effective on the day that membership application and dues are received by the Membership Chairperson. See AQHA regulations on membership.

2. Only AQHA approved shows, which are also approved by MassQHA, will count for points toward year-end awards. The shows approved by MassQHA to count for points toward year-end awards are shown at the top of this page.

3. To qualify for a year-end award in any class, the horse must earn a minimum of five (5) MassQHA points in that event and must have placed at least two (2) times in that event.

4. Only MassQHA and MassQHYA members in good standing are eligible for year end awards.

5. Points will be awarded as follows:

Number of Horses in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <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		
9-12	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
13-16	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
17-20	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
21-24	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
25-28	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
29&over	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5

6. Grand Champion in each Halter sex division will receive one point more than any other horse in its sex division. Reserve Champion in each Halter sex division will receive one point more than the second highest point horse in its sex division.

7. AMATEUR OWNER CLASSES: A person is considered an amateur by AQHA after he or she is no longer eligible to show in Youth Activity Classes and / or who has not shown, trained or assisted in training a horse for remuneration either directly or indirectly. This does not include premium money. (Payment of entry fees, expenses and the like by other than the contestant is considered remuneration.) See the AQHA Handbook for further reference. For Amateurs to compete, original registration certificates of the horse must be shown or a photocopy of it, only if the photocopy is made from the new type of certificate. An exhibitor will forfeit all accumulated points as well as future eligibility for this award, if he / she no longer qualifies as an amateur.

8. LEADLINE (6 AND UNDER AS OF JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>) of the current year, and may exhibit in Youth and AQHA Halter and Showmanship classes only. No stallions allowed. An exhibitor forfeits his / her future eligibility for points, as well as all points accumulated in the Category, if he / she shows in any other performance class in a MassQHA approved show during the current year. Exhibitors showing a registered Quarter Horse do not have to be the owner. To be eligible for year end awards, all riders must be a MassQHYA member in good standing as stated on membership application. Leadline exhibitors are asked to, but not required to fill out a form at each MassQHA Pointed show verifying participation, placing, number in class, and showing a signature of a member of show management. If forms are not available any means of verification is permitted as long as it contains the above information and is signed. These forms should be submitted to the designated MassQHA Point Keeper within a reasonable amount of time after each show and all by October 1.

#### 9. WALK TROT

All exhibitors must ride a registered Quarter Horse and must be the same rider / horse combination, but exhibitors do not have to be owner.

No stallions will be allowed in *walk/trot riding classes*.

Only one horse/rider combination is allowed per class. If a rider is entered into a walk/trot class, that rider cannot show in the corresponding loping/cantering class at that show. However, that horse/rider combination can switch back and forth between the different shows.

To be eligible for year end awards, all exhibitors must be a MassQHYA or MassQHA member in good standing and must fulfill the point system requirements as stated in rules #10, 11, 13, & 14.

#### **Walk Trot Age Categories**

Division one – 10 and under

Division Two – 11 –18

Division Three – Adult Walk Trot 19 and over

10. All rules apply to AQHA Open, Amateur, and Youth Activity events.

11. You will have fifteen (15) days after the points are published to dispute any discrepancies. The results will then be final.

12. In order to be eligible for any year end award, each member must attend TWO (2) General Membership Meetings between November of the previous year through October of the current year.

13. Youth must attend TWO (2) Youth or General Membership meetings per year (November through October -see # 12) to be eligible for year end awards.

14. To receive year-end awards members must be in good standing with AQHA, MassQHA, and MassQHYA.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

### 1. **MassQHA ALL AROUND CHAMPION**

A horse must have at least five (5) MassQHA Halter points and qualify in two (2) different performance events to qualify for this award. (Example: 5 Halter and 5 Reining and 5 Pleasure placing.) Only AQHA halter and performance classes are to count. No Youth or Amateur classes. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 2. **MassQHA HIGH POINT OPEN PERFORMANCE HORSE**

Only AQHA performance classes to count (no Youth or Amateur or halter). Award to go to the qualified horse with the highest cumulative total of performance points. Points must be earned in a minimum of three (3) events in order to qualify. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 3. **MassQHA HIGH POINT YOUTH**

(A. 13 & Under B. 14-18)

Award to go to the MassQHA Youth member in each division who accumulates the highest number of points on one horse in Youth Activity classes. To qualify a youth must qualify in three (3) different Youth Activity Classes. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 4. **MassQHA HIGH POINT AMATEUR**

Only Amateur designated classes to count. Award to go to the member with the highest cumulative total of MassQHA Amateur points. Points must have been earned by qualifying in three (3) different Amateur classes. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 5. **MassQHA HIGH POINT NOVICE YOUTH**

Only Novice Youth designated classes to count. Award to go to the member with the highest cumulative total of MassQHA Novice Youth points. Points must be earned in a minimum of 3 different qualified events. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 6. **MassQHA HIGH POINT NOVICE AMATEUR**

Only Novice Amateur designated classes to count. Award to go to the member with the highest cumulative total of MassQHA Novice Amateur points. Points must be earned in a minimum of 3 different qualified events. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 7. **AMATEUR SELECT ALL AROUND**

Only Select Amateur designated classes to count. Award to go to the member with the highest cumulative total of MassQHA Select Amateur points. Points must be earned in a minimum of 3 different qualified events. *See rule 3 of point section*

### 8. **MassQHA HIGH POINT WALK TROT**

Only Walk Trot designated classes to count. Award to go to the MASSQHA Member with the highest cumulative total of MassQHA Walk trot Points. Points must have been earned by placing at least twice (2) in each of three (3) different Walk Trot Classes. (Division One, Two and Three - See rule #9) *See rule 3 of point section*

### 9. **MassQHA YEAR END HIGH SCORE DRESSAGE HORSE**

Must be a member in good standing before results will count. All members must attend two MassQHA meetings (November through October) in order to receive their awards. Enter your registered Quarter Horse under their registered name & number, in an in-state dressage schooling show (category 6) or at a USDF sanctioned show (category 4), or at a USEF sanctioned show for Western Dressage. A horse must compete in a minimum of two tests of the same level. Walk trot will not count.

The following three divisions will be awarded in English dressage and Western dressage: 1) **Youth 18 and Under**, 2) **Non Pro adult 19 and Over** and 3) **Open**. After the show is completed, mail your signed score sheet (both back and front) or a copy of sheet to the points secretary, showing the horses AQHA name, registration number, the name of the show, date, score and judge's signature. All completed sheets must be in by October 1<sup>st</sup> to count for any year-end awards. The horse and rider receiving the highest percentage score will be the champion. Ties will be broken by the highest second test score.