

2026 Bylaws

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this association is and shall remain WASHINGTON STATE QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION (WSQHYA). This organization shall be a division of the Washington State Quarter Horse Association (WSQHA) and shall operate within the scope of the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the WSQHA and the WSQHYA. The youth membership shall be eligible for membership in the American Quarter Horse Youth Association (AQHYA).

Section 2. The WSQHYA, while operating within the scope of the bylaws, rules, and regulations of WSQHA, shall have their own youth bylaws, rules, and regulations specifically designed for the operation of the business of the youth organization.

Section 3. The objects and purpose of the WSQHYA:

- A. To improve and promote the American Quarter Horse breed.
- B. To improve and develop the capacities of youth, both individually and through group participation, in the breeding, raising, trail riding, and exhibition of American Quarter Horses.
- C. To develop and improve scholarship, leadership, and community interest and participation of young horse enthusiasts.
- D. To encourage high moral character, integrity, sportsmanship, and clean living among its members.
- E. To establish a means whereby youth members may work in conjunction with the WSQHA and the AQHYA.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Voting member: Any youth 18 years of age and under, as defined by AQHA, and actively interested in the American Quarter Horse is eligible to become a voting member.

Section 2. Youth member: Any person actively interested in the American Quarter Horse who is not more than 18 years of age on January 1 of that membership year is eligible to become a member of this association.

Section 3. Voting privileges: Members in good standing shall have the privilege of voting at WSQHYA meetings and elections. Members who are delinquent by reason of non-payment of dues shall not be entitled to vote while such delinquency continues.

ARTICLE III. FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Membership fees shall be assessed through the WSQHA for divisions including the WSQHYA. Points for year-end awards, WSQHYA World Team, and NYATT team qualification shall accumulate only after membership dues are paid in full as required by WSQHA.

Membership fees for WSQHYA are determined by the WSQHA Bylaws and Standing rules.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: There shall be an annual meeting of the association for the nomination of officers and the transaction of such other business as may come before it. This meeting shall be held in conjunction with the convention and annual meeting of the WSQHA.

Section 2. Executive Office Meetings: Shall be held in conjunction with the WSQHYA meetings and/or any scheduled membership meeting. Special meetings of the Executive Officers may also be held at any time by the common consent of all members of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Special Membership Meeting: The president as necessary, in order to conduct the business of the association, may call special meetings.

Section 4. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in the "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all meetings.

Section 5. The executive board, using the schedule of approved Washington State shows, will set meetings annually or as necessary. Most meetings will be held at the shows or via conference call. Notification of meetings will be posted at the show on the WSQHYA facebook page and/or via email.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. The youth elected officials of this association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary/treasurer, and Reporter and Co Reporter. The Past President shall have a seat on the Executive Board.

Section 2. Election: The elected officers of the association shall be elected by majority vote at the WSQHA annual convention. To be eligible for office, a youth must have a completed "Officer Letter of Intent" on file with the Youth Advisor by the beginning of the executive nominations at the WSQHA annual convention of the qualifying year. They will also be required to give a short electoral speech to the general WSQHYA membership at the annual WSQHA convention. If a youth is unable to attend the annual WSQHA convention and has provided an "Officer Letter of Intent" to the Youth Advisor by the beginning of the executive nominations, they may have campaign manager present their speech to the general WSQHYA membership. The campaign manager may also run for an office.

Section 3. Term of office: Each elected officer shall take office at the annual WSQHA convention and shall serve for a term of one year and/or until a successor is duly qualified.

Section 4. Elected officers are required to attend all scheduled meetings of the WSQHYA Executive Board and the WSQHYA General Membership. Elected officers having two (2) unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the WSQHYA Executive Board.

Section 5. Elected officers must participate and promote all fundraisers. They must also organize and keep the perpetual officer binders in good order and return them at the annual WSQHA convention that coincides with the end of their term.

Section 6. Should any Executive Officer position remain open after the required election process, the Youth Advisor will have the option to appoint a member to fill the vacancy.

Section 7. A WSQHYA officer is expected to conduct themselves within the objectives and purpose of the WSQHYA. If an officer is unable to meet these standards after two (2) written warnings, they will be dismissed from the Executive Board.

Section 8. Duties of the Officers:

- A. **President:** The president shall be chief executive officer of the association and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the association and shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the officers. The president shall submit to the members annually a report of the status of the association and its activities during the preceding year at the WSQHYA annual meeting and to the general members of the WSQHA at the annual convention and present year end and special awards. The president shall appoint any and all committees of the association.
- B. **Past President:** Shall serve as an advisory position to the Executive Board. The Past President shall not carry a vote in Executive Board matters.

- C. **Vice President:** The vice president shall, in the absence, disability, and/or inability of the president to perform his/her duties exercise the powers of the president and shall perform such other duties, as the president shall from time to time prescribe.
- D. **Secretary/Treasurer:** The secretary shall record or cause to be recorded all votes take and the minutes of all proceedings. The secretary shall have the principle responsibility to give or cause to be given notice of all meetings but shall not lessen the authority of others to give such notice as provided by these bylaws.
- E. **Reporter:** The reporter shall keep a record of WSQHYA accomplishments and activities for the year. The reporter will supervise (with assistance from the Youth Advisor) the creation, accuracy, and publication of the youth portion of the WSQHA website and all WSQHYA marketing information. The reporters shall provide articles for publication, take photos to post on WSQHA website and other media available.

ARTICLE VI. WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH DELEGATES

Section 1. The four voting delegates to the AQHYA Convention will be elected as prescribed by the WSQHYA Standing Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE VII. WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH WORLD TEAM

Section 1. The youth world team members will qualify by accomplishing the requirements set for by AQHYA and/or the WSQHYA Standing Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE VIII. WASHINGTON STATE CONGRESS NYATT TEAM

Section 1. The Congress NYATT Team from Washington State shall be selected in the same manner as the State Qualifiers for the AQHYA World Show. The split age classes shall take the 14-18 Youth first followed by the 13 and Under Youth. A National Qualifier with no state points may be on the team if there is an open position after all state earners have been contacted. If open positions remain, they may be filled by adjoining states.

Section 2. The classes available for the Congress NYATT Team are Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Reining, and Barrel Racing. Washington State is allowed two qualifiers per event.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the WSQHYA Bylaws may only be made at the annual meeting held in conjunction with the WSQHA annual convention. A majority vote of the membership present shall have the power to implement changes. Proposed amendments to the WSQHYA Bylaws must be in writing by Dec 1 for review by the WSQHA Board.

STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT: *“The mission of the Washington State Quarter Horse Youth Association is to improve and promote the American Quarter Horse. We are committed to seeing young people grow through their accomplishments in competition and recreational riding. Furthermore, we encourage sportsmanship, scholarship, and community outreach that will enable us to learn life skills and prepare us for the future.”*

-Erin Calcagni

THIS IS AN AMENDMENT TO THE WASHINGTON STATE QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION BYLAWS. THESE STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE PART OF/ AND ARE INCLUDED IN THE BYLAWS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION.

SECTION ONE: POINT TABULATION

- A. A. AQHYA points will be awarded according the AQHA/AQHYA system from the current “Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.” AQHA and AQHYA points will only be awarded to members in good standing. National qualifying points are accumulated from May 1st through April 30th.
- B. B. WSQHHA points will be awarded according to the “Standing Rules and Regulations” of the WSQHA. WSQHHA points will only be awarded to members in good standing. Points to count from date of postmark on envelope of membership application. Washington State Points are accumulated January 1st through December 31st.
- C. C. Points will be tabulated on one horse, one youth basis. A youth may exhibit more that one horse, however the points will be kept separately on each horse.
- D. D. An assessment fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per youth entry will be paid to the WSQHHA from WSQHA for each WSQHA approved quarter horse show.

SECTION TWO: YEAR END AWARDS

All member of the WSQHHA in good standing with this association, all dues and fees having been paid, showing an AQHA registered horse (Walk/Trot able to show any breed), and satisfying AQHA rules set forth for youth competition, are eligible to compete for year end awards. Points to count from date of postmark on WSQHA membership. Points earned prior to WSQHHA membership shall not count towards year end awards. January 1st through December 31st of each year is the qualifying period. Only AQHA shows given WSQHA approval will count for youth year end awards. Youth shall be cautioned that an infraction of any AQHA, WSQHA, or WSQHHA rule, whether or not intentional, may result in disqualification from year end wards, at the discretion of the board of elected WSHQYA officers and/or advisors. Year-end awards will be distributed at the annual WSQHA convention. If an award winner cannot attend the convention, it is the responsibility of the winner to make arrangements with the Youth Advisor to pick them up. WSQHHA cannot be responsible for mailing or delivering awards after the annual convention. Year-end awards not picked up by March 1st will be forfeited.

In addition to all other Standing Rules regarding year end awards, *QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WSQHHA YEAR END AWARDS* include the following:

- A. Each youth must attend three (3) WSQHHA meetings during the qualifying period. If the WSQHA annual convention is held after November 1st of the qualifying year it will count as one meeting for the following year. If a youth member is unable to attend the three required youth meetings, they also have the option of attending a general WSQHA board meeting. This option is **ONLY** extended to those WSQHA meetings held **BEFORE** the month of October of the qualifying year to fulfill the requirement. The WSQHHA youth member’s attendance must be noted by the executive WSQHA secretary.

- B. WSQHYA membership is due January 1st of each year. State points will be tabulated beginning with the day the membership is paid to the WSQHA office, Post mark or Show Secretary. Memberships paid prior to May 31st are required to complete their 125.00 fundraiser, as voted on by the current years officers, by 5 pm on Saturday of the WSQHA Emerald. If the designated fundraiser is not completed by deadline the youth is not eligible for year end awards for the points calculated from time of sign up. Those members that sign up after May 31st or did not participate in the fundraiser, must contribute \$125 to qualify for year end awards by the end of the NW Emerald. 11 & Under Walk/Trot category will raise half of the funds required.
- C. Each youth must serve on a committee a minimum of four hours or volunteer at a WSQHA approved show for a minimum of 4 hours. 11 & Under Walk/Trot shall complete 2 hours. Hours must be approved by Committee Chairperson and youth advisor for hours to count. Queen and ambassador hours will not count for committee hours. Committee selection will be done at the annual WSQHA Convention youth meeting. Any youth not in attendance at this meeting will be placed on one of the five committees as needed. It will be the responsibility of the youth not attending convention to contact the youth advisor and/or committee chairs to be placed on a committee. Hours must be completed and approved by September 15th.
- D. A youth class must be offered at least four times (under four separate judges) during the calendar year to qualify for a year end award. In addition, a youth and horse must have a minimum of five points to qualify. The horse must receive a score and/or placing. A score of zero or a disqualification by the judge will not count.

Above requirements MUST be met to qualify for year end awards.

Year end awards will be given to the top two point earners in qualifying classes under the separate youth classifications of Youth-Ages 18 & Under, Youth-13 & Under, and Youth 14-18. Year end awards will be given to the top three point earners in qualifying classes under the separate youth classifications of Novice Youth-18 & Under, Rookie, level one Walk/Trot, and 11 & Under Walk/Trot. In the event of a tie, the award will be decided by most wins, most seconds, and most AQHA points in that class, respectively. The actual value will be determined by the Youth Advisor and the awards budget.

11 & Under Walk/Trot participants who have completed all the eligibility requirements who did not receive a top three award in any qualifying class will receive a participation award.

In addition to individual class awards the following categories will also receive year end awards:

- A. Rookie Youth All Around Champion, All Around Reserve Champion, Third Place, Fourth Place, Fifth Place, Sixth – Tenth Place recognition. All and only points received from designated "Rookie" youth classes will be tabulated for this award (no level one or youth classes to count)
- B. Level One All Around Champion, All Around Reserve Champion, Third Place, Fourth Place, Fifth Place, Sixth through Tenth place recognition. All and only points received from designated "Novice" youth classes will be tabulated for this award (no youth classes to count).
- C. Level one Walk/Trot All Around Reserve Champion & third place.
- D. 13 and Under All Around Champion, Reserve Champion, and Third Place. All points from all youth classes to count. Tabulated on each horse/rider combination.
- E. 14-18 All Around Champion, Reserve, Champion, and Third Place. All points from all youth classes to count. Tabulated on each horse/rider combination
- F. Hi Point Youth Western Horse and High Point Youth Hunt Seat Horse. Western Horse and Hunt Seat Horse High Point Reserve. All points received from designated youth classes will be tabulated. The western classes to count will be: Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Trail, Western Riding, Reining, Ranch Riding, Working Cow, Cutting, Barrels, Poles, and Stakes. The hunt seat classes to count will be: Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle, Jumping, Hunter Hack, and Equitation over Fences.

A WSQHYA Sportsmanship Award will be given annually. This award is determined by the WSQHYA general membership via email by nominations and voting.

An Advisor's Award will be given by the Youth Advisors at their discretion to a youth who demonstrates the objective, purposes, and mission of WSQHYA.

SECTION THREE: WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH WORLD TEAM

Only members of the AQHYA and the WSQHYA in good standing with these associations, all dues and fees having been paid by May 31st of the qualifying year, owning and showing an AQHA registered horse, and satisfying AQHA rules set forth for youth competition, are eligible to compete for a Washington State World Team position. Points to count from postmark date of WSQHA membership and/or AQHA notification (for National qualifiers). Points earned prior to AQHYA and WSQHYA membership shall not count toward a Washington State World Team position. Youth shall be cautioned that an infraction of any AQHA, WSQHA, or WSQHYA rule, whether or not intentional, may result in removal from the state world team, at the discretion of the board of elected officers and youth advisors.

Every member of the Washington State Youth Team must be a legal resident of the State of Washington or a full time student in residence at a public or private educational institution within the State of Washington for the school year in which the exhibitor wishes to show. A student must apply to WSQHYA for acceptance and must provide verification of the student's attendance at such school and verification of residence for the show year prior to acceptance of application. Also, a non-resident WSQHYA member may be eligible for a position on the Washington State Youth Team if the applicable hardship application/waiver is appropriately filed with, and approved by AQHA. In cases of hardships to out of state affiliates, if the May 10 deadline from AQHA is in effect, WSQHYA will hold hardships to determine if the candidate is eligible to state qualify in their chosen events. If on May 2nd, the candidate is unable or ineligible to participate with Washington in their chosen events, we will release the candidate to hardship into their chosen affiliate. All hardship applicants must comply with all the qualifying rules of WSQHYA.

1. Current WSQHYA member.
2. Participate in youth meetings (in person or via conference call)
3. Submit letter of intent.
4. Committee hours.
5. Participate in Youth Worlds Fundraiser.

All national qualifying youth meeting the requirements set forth by the WSQHYA Bylaws and "Standing Rules and Regulations" will receive an invitation to participate with the Washington State Youth Team at the AQHYA World Show. The AQHYA national qualifying points for the Washington State Youth Team are accumulated from May 1st through April 30th.

Washington State qualifying points for the Washington State Youth World Show Team are accumulated from June 1st, through May 31st, Points for the Washington State Youth Team may only be accumulated on weekends and holidays (as defined by a "Standing Rule" from the WSQHA. During the months of July and August, points from all days will count.

CALCULATION OF POINTS: Points will be awarded as determined by the Washington State Quarter Horse Association Bylaws and are acquired pursuant to the straight 9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis plus AQHA points earned (refer to AQHA official handbook of rules and regulations). The number of points received per judge, will be considered a score upon which the highest eight scores received during the state qualifying period will determine the state world qualifying standings.

In addition to all other “Standing Rules” regarding the Washington State Youth World Team, QUALIFICATION FOR A POSITION ON THE WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH WORLD TEAM includes the following:

1. Attend one mandatory World Team Planning Meeting with Parents or Guardians.
2. Earn \$200.00 in cash sponsorships or donate \$200.00 to the WSQHYA World Youth Team to pay for team expenses in Oklahoma. After sponsorships or cash equivalent has been turned in, there will be no refunds. \$100 additional sponsorship money will be required for each additional horse/rider combo.
3. Participate in one specified WSQHYA fundraiser to a \$160 value or contribute \$175 cash donation.
4. While at the AQHYA World Show, join team members in the “Parade of Teams” and pose for a WSQHYA Team picture.
5. As representatives of Washington State and WSQHYA, Team members shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a becoming manner. Stalls (horse, tack, and feed) and aisles must be kept clean during the entire week.
6. Have a completed mandatory WSQHYA World Youth Team “Letter of Intent” on file with the Youth Advisor on/or before March 1st and have all other qualifications completed on/or before the end of the Trophy Circuit.

If the qualification points #2 and #3 cannot be met, a youth may still be eligible by contributing a cash equivalent of \$375.00 by the end of the Trophy Circuit of the qualifying year. Any Washington State qualifying youth unable to meet the WSQHYA State Team Qualifications will forfeit their position to an alternate WSQHYA World Team member.

A Washington State youth who receives a national invitation to compete at the AQHYA Youth World Show is encouraged to participate as a Washington State Team member. If the youth chooses not to or is unable to participate in the Washington State Youth Team qualifications, designation as a WSQHYA Team member will be lost and the individual will not be eligible for a WSQHYA support which may include, but is not limited to, team outfits, participation gifts, stall and tack room charges, stall decorations, team pictures, and activities. Tack room space and stalls will be available to all non-team members at the standard rate within the Washington State designated area.

The WSQHYA will pay for the cooling fan expenses for the World Show Team. All other expenses need to be covered by the \$200 sponsorship fee paid by each team member. The team may vote to pay for additional expenses out of pocket if they choose if the World Show team budget will allow.

The WSQHYA will pay for World Show related expenses not to exceed the World Show budget for that respective year. These expenses may include but are not limited to fans, tack stalls, stall decorations, etc. All other expenses in excess of the budget may be voted on by the team to be an out of pocket expense.

The youth advisor will have expenses paid for the youth worlds after they participate in a minimum of \$600 in fundraising.

SECTION FOUR: WASHINGTON STATE DELEGATES

Each year WSQHHA will elect four delegates to represent Washington State at the annual Youth Excellence Seminar (Y.E.S.) in Amarillo, Texas. These delegates will be able to run for Regional Offices and National Positions within the AQHYA structure. Delegates understand that it is a requirement for youth Delegates to be chaperoned by an adult. If no adult is willing or able to attend, the youth Delegates will not attend the conference. Please read current year YES rules and guidelines on the AQHA website. For YES the members are able to use the WSQHHA designated fundraisers to earn money to pay for YES expenses. If youth member raises a minimum of \$825 all monies raised in excess of the \$125 base fundraiser can be used for YES airfare, hotel and seminar fees with a minimum of \$700 that will be allotted for expenses relating to this event. Advisor or chaperone will have the cost of airfare and chaperones room when split with YES attendees of expenses. If there are more than 6 youth attending then two chaperones will be allowed to attend and allotted for. For horse bowl, horse judging and speech contests at Youth Worlds the members are able to use the WSQHHA designated fundraisers to earn money to pay for expenses.

If youth member raises a minimum of \$825 all monies raised in excess of the \$125 base fundraiser can be used for horse bowl, horse judging and speech airfare, hotel and seminar fees with a minimum of \$700 that will be allotted for expenses relating to this event.

Youth shall be cautioned that an infraction of any AQHA, AQHYA, WSQHA, or WSQHHA rule, whether or not intentional, may result in removal from Delegate position at the discretion of the board of elected officers.

The election process for Washington State Youth Delegates as is follows:

- A. Applicants must be members of WSQHHA and AQHYA in good standing.
- B. A WSQHHA Delegate "Letter of Intent" must be on file with the Youth Advisor by the annual WSQHA convention.
- C. Applicants will give a short speech to the youth membership at the convention highlighting their qualifications.
- D. The youth membership will vote to approve or disapprove Delegate applicants.
- E. The Youth Advisor, in an anonymous format, will choose four Delegates and all Alternates.
- F. The Youth Advisor may select Delegates if no applicants are approved.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH DELEGATES include the following:

- 1. Must be members of WSQHHA and AQHYA in good standing.
- 2. Must be a WSQHHA member for a minimum of one year.
- 3. Attend all WSQHHA membership meetings (2 absences allowed)
- 4. Participate in all WSQHHA fundraiser of \$825.
- 5. Participate in at least one designated WSQHHA community outreach program.
- 6. Successfully complete the election process for a Washington State Youth Delegate.
- 7. Post Seminar: Delegate will prepare a ten-minute presentation detailing their experience to the members of WSQHHA and WSQHA that will be presented at the annual WSQHHA convention.

All travel, hotel, and seminar arrangements will be coordinated with the Youth Advisor.

SECTION FIVE: COMMITTEES

The following committees were developed to promote opportunities for membership, leadership, and involvement. Each committee will be filled as necessary to operate the business of WSQHYA. An Executive Officer will be assigned to oversee and assist each committee. A Youth Advisor or Parent Volunteer will be assigned to each committee to assist as necessary.

The committees will elect a chairman who will serve as the committee leader and report to the Executive Officers. Committee members can serve for a two-year term. The following are the committees and their purpose:

1. **Fundraising:** This committee will discover and implement new and creative fundraising ideas. Track and promote all fundraising projects and encourage membership participation.
2. **Show and Social Committee:** They will plan youth activities, speakers, guests, etc. They will also help plan general meetings at shows. Set up, arrange and coordinate the WSQHYA Youth Booth. Create and implement fun events at shows and non-show gatherings. Help encourage member growth through social activities and outreach.
3. **Newsletter and Marketing Committee:** This committee will be in charge of all correspondence sent to the WSQHYA membership and outside affiliations. They will also assist the Reporter with his/her collection of information on newsworthy items for various publications, newsletters, and the WSQHYA website. They will act as reporters, editors, photographers, news writers, story contributors, and marketing managers under the guidance of the Executive Reporter. They will submit articles, stories, photos to the monthly WSQHA newsletter.
4. **Charity and Community Outreach Committee:** They will plan and implement community and membership programs that will encourage participation and growth. They will create partnerships with local FFA and 4H groups. They will take the lead to attract media coverage and educate the community and membership regarding the American Quarter Horse. They will actively participate with political and community leaders on issues affecting the Quarter Horse industry, etc. Investigate and promote worthwhile charities to be supported by WSQHYA, etc.
5. **AQHYA World Show Committee:** This committee will help the Youth Advisor prepare for the AQHYA World Show. This is to include, but not limited to, schedule, contests, decorations, supplies, gifts, parties, and activities. This committee will report to the Youth Advisor.